

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 15, 2021 Kingdomtide 12

“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

Come, drink the living waters.....

the living waters of faith in Christ.

Come, taste the bread of life.....

the grace and love of God.

Come, to the well of wisdom.....

where thirst for righteousness is quenched.

Come, let us worship in spirit and in truth.

Opening Prayer Living God, as we come into your presence, we leave the ways of the world and all of its distractions behind. We seek only to worship you in spirit and in truth, letting nothing come between us. We want only to be enriched by your wisdom, your strength, your ways, and your love. Bless all who have come to seek you, on this, your holy day. Amen.

Scripture Reading “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Read Exodus 17.1-7

Prayer of Confession Gracious God, the gifts of your Spirit give us everything we need to build up your kingdom. Yet, we have not always recognized or valued your gifts. We have acted as if they were ours to use for our own purposes. Forgive our failure of vision and our hardness of heart. May the One who is our example and redeemer turn our hearts of stone into hearts of love and appreciation that we may do your will. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession *Our loving God invites us to share the confessions of our hearts that we may know the comfort and peace of forgiveness.*

Words of Assurance God’s love is big enough to gather the fragments of our broken lives and transform them into abun-

dance. In the name of Christ Jesus, we are forgiven. In the love of God, we are made whole. Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

Read Romans 5.1-11

Remembering our Joys and Concerns in Prayer *Please spend a few moments remembering those who are on our prayer list and the joys and concerns you bring to God today.*

A Time of Prayer

We have drawn near to God in a spirit of prayer.

We give thanks and praise, for God is good. God’s love endures forever! (R)

God hears our prayers, celebrating with us our joys and holding us close in our struggles. (R)

We rest in God’s unfailing love as we pray for one another and those we love. (R)

We offer these prayers in the holy name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together, saying..... **The Lord’s Prayer**

Scripture Reading “...he would have given you living water.”

Read John 4.3-41

Meditation Here’s a little true information about the nameless Samaritan woman in our reading from John’s gospel today who really was one of the first - and certainly unlikely and unexpected - evangelists of Jesus’ day. Did you know that to this day she is revered in many cultures? In southern Mexico, La Samaritana is remembered on the fourth Friday in Lent when specially-flavored water is given to commemorate her gift of water to Jesus. The Orthodox know her as St. Photini, or Svetlana in Russian; her name means “equal to the apostles.” She is honored as an apostle and martyr on the Feast of the Samaritan Woman.

Surely this well-known Biblical character could never have

imagined that her life - the life of “the woman at the well” - the nickname by which the world has known her for so long - would be so gratefully celebrated, especially given her difficult journey and her difficult encounter with the One, she learns, is the Savior of world.

When she first met Jesus she was, of course, haunted by the events of her past. Then add to that the issue of gender and the issue of ethnicity in the culture of Jesus’ day and it all adds up to a challenging life for her. The casual bystander of her day would have been quick to pass judgment upon her but, thankfully, that was not the way God responded to her. To this Samaritan woman God came in the human yet divine presence of Jesus Christ who called her from her sins and made her whole.

This is one of the longest recorded conversations in all of Scripture. One of its most interesting nuances is how quickly this conversation turns from what Jesus requests of her to what he has to offer her. He began by requesting a drink of water from the woman who had come to the well at noontime; this was an unusual time but done so most likely to avoid any interaction with her neighbors. But not too long into the conversation, Jesus is offering her “life-giving water.” “If you only knew.....” Jesus said to her.” But the woman didn’t know the real meaning behind his words. When Jesus talks to her about water that would never make her thirsty again, the woman jumps at the chance to have it. We understand that for, for her, it meant never having to carry water again, never having to risk the chance of running into her neighbors who might question her “sketchy” past. In the end, however, the woman realized the kind of “water” with which Jesus wants to bless her and she is made whole.

She rejoices in her new beginning by courageously running and telling others about this teacher who knew everything about her, and yet, loved her anyway - just the way that Jesus loves each of us. Thanks be to God!

Words of Benediction May the Lord of our lives bless you and keep you as go in peace to serve God and your neighbor. Go forth with faith and courage for the everlasting God of hope and grace goes with us.



Kingdomtide

Lisbon United Methodist Church
welcomes, nurtures, and serves
all people
with the love of Christ.