

# LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 5, 2021      Kingdomtide 15

“At Home Worship”

## Call to Worship

*Come into God's presence, with gratitude for the past and hope for the future.*

**We are called to love and called to serve.**

*Lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.*

**Let us bear witness to God's new life moving within and among us.**

*God is doing a new thing. Let us rejoice and give thanks..*

**Opening Prayer** God of every thought and reality, the holy, prophetic sustainer of community, we gather here today as your people, children of the Good News. Assure us of your presence once again, that we may trust the mystery of life and growth, as we gather in the name of our Savior, who is Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Scripture Reading**      *“The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.”*  
Read Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23

**Prayer of Confession** God of mercy and justice, you call us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to speak and act with mercy and grace. Instead, we have been judgmental and turned away from the poor and needy. We have failed to be impartial, and have abused our power. Reframe and redirect our actions, Lord, that truth and justice may prevail throughout your creation. Help each one of us, Lord, to be rich in faith, love and generosity. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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** Mercy overrules judgment, love overcomes hatred, and God's embrace reaches out to all people. May we be at peace with ourselves and with others, knowing that God's mercy endures forever.

**Scripture Reading**      *“You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*      Read James 2.1-10, 14-17

**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** Holy Lord, you are the Light of the World. Grant us eyes to see and ears to hear the resurrection joy so many cannot yet believe. Open our hearts to hear the word you proclaim to us and for us today; open our minds to embrace the life you hold before us. Hear us as we pray for those we love and for those in our community, nation, and world. Show us the way of unity that we may live generously as people of light. Reign among us, Almighty God, for we offer these prayers in the holy name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together, saying..... **The Lord's Prayer**

**Scripture Reading**      *“Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.”*      Read Mark 7:24-37

**Meditation**      *(Today's meditation is a repeat of one shared last summer when these same verses were a part of the lectionary for Year A)*      Liz Crumlish, commentator and blogger, shares a personal story: “In my family, there were two maiden aunts; they were the family matriarchs. Whenever anyone was in need, Aunt Isobel and Aunt Lizzie were the ones called on. Eventually both died and we assisted with the task of clearing the home they had shared. It seemed that everywhere we looked in the house, there

were jars and tins and boxes of sugar. Because they had lived through the days of rationing that accompanied WWII, they knew what it was to do without. And so, when times were good, they bought sugar. They would never be short again! These weren't two old, eccentric ladies. They were hard-working ordinary folk – but folk who had known scarcity. They bought into the idea that it might happen again so they set about insuring that they would have plenty.”

The Canaanite woman in the story we hear from Matthew's gospel this week knew about scarcity. And like Isobel and Lizzie, she set out to do whatever it took to overcome it. She was, after all, a Gentile woman of Canaan who approached Jesus, a Jew. She was a woman who approached a group of men in a gender-separated society. But she was in need – in need of healing for her daughter and in need of love and acceptance from this One who was being called the messiah. In the face of her courage, what does she receive? She receives what amounts to a “no” from Jesus himself. From Jesus! God's own Son sent to love us all no matter what! The Canaanite woman must have been dumb-founded.....at least for a moment or two. Then, remembering it was for her own daughter who needed healing, she gathered up her courage and answered him, “Lord, even the dogs (as Jesus had so insensitively referred to her) deserve the crumbs from under the table.” She understands the power of God's grace; she knows that even a crumb from Jesus will change her life forever. And, most of all, she knows that God's love is not scarce and that there will always be enough. I love this strong woman's courage for she embodies one of my most-favored quotes: “I believe that hope cannot help itself when standing in the presence of God.” She couldn't help herself; she wouldn't give up for she knew that God was with her! Her hope would see her through!

**Words of Benediction** Welcomed to this time of worship by God, God sends us forth to serve. Called here to this time of worship by Christ, Christ sends us forth to love. Made whole by the spirit, the Spirit sends us forth to care.



## *Kingdomtide*

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