

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 10, 2021 Kingdomtide 20

“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

We stand before you, God, with ready arms reaching for you.

We bow before you, God, with humbled hearts seeking you.

We sing before you, God, with glad voices raised to meet you.

We kneel before you, God, with open souls lifted to greet you.

God, in your glory, you have graciously reached for us. We gather this day, reaching for you. Come to us, we pray. Amen.

Opening Prayer God of generous abundance, you give us so much of yourself. For Christ’s grace and love, for the Spirit’s constant presence, and for the gifts you have entrusted to us, we give you thanks and praise. As we worship this day, reveal your gifts in us, we pray. Remind us of your abundance and strengthen our resolve to live as the community of faith you would have us be. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading “I should be acquitted forever by my judge.”

Read Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Prayer of Confession Transcendent God, there is so much of life we simply do not know. In our arrogance, we utter what we do not understand. Rescue us, O Lord, from our afflictions. Restore us, O God, from our wounds. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Son of God, and save us by your unending intercession, we pray. Help us to be the disciples you would have us be in the name of Jesus Christ. 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 offers us these words of assurance: “I will never leave you or forsake you.” God is faithful, even when we are not. Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading “Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Read Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12

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 “But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.” Read Mark 10.17-31

Meditation “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the man who greeted Jesus in our gospel reading this week. By this time in Jesus’ life, his reputation as a wise teacher had begun to spread near and far. A man who had no doubt heard of that reputation ran up to him with this very important question. It’s a fair question, isn’t it? One that we might very well have wondered aloud ourselves. But, on closer examination,

we realize that what this man is really curious about is how to experience the joys of eternal life in the here-and-now.

Jesus' questioner wasn't so very different than we are. We're all conditioned by our environment; we all have histories, circumstances, and experiences that we bring to each day. In addition, parents, teachers, friends, neighbors, co-workers have all contributed to who we are, what we think, and how we live. It all adds up to a full life.....or does it? The man in Mark's story was struggling with that. Like us, he was working to live a good life. He had kept the commandments and was an example of integrity. But, yet, something was missing; despite it all, he didn't feel fulfilled. And that was because there was one thing – one major thing – in his life that had taken complete hold of him – his possessions.

And when Jesus answered his question, it was the very thing that he loved more than anything else that Jesus bid him get rid of. “...go, sell what you own,” Jesus told him, “and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” That was NOT what this rich man wanted to hear. In fact, Mark's gospel tells us that he was shocked and went away grieving because he had many possessions.

The rich man's encounter with Jesus prompts us, I hope, to reflect upon our lives. Do we feel fulfilled? Is there something missing? And, to take the questions one step further, like this man, what gets in our way of truly following Jesus? What is it that we might need to “give away?” Those are thought-provoking questions.....questions we might not readily want to consider, let alone answer ...but, if we are truly serious about our relationship with God and our discipleship for Jesus Christ, these are questions that need our prayerful thought and attention. May God bless our times of reflection in Christ's name.

Words of Benediction May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit abide with us this week. Glory be to our God who leads us forth as disciples who work to transform the world for Jesus Christ.



Kingdomtide

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