

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 24, 2021 Kingdomtide 22

“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

The heavens shout out the glories of God.

God’s handiwork is written across the skies.

The music of creation sings throughout the earth.

**Day by day, night by night, in word and song, we declare
the glories of our God.**

For God has called us to this holy place,

And we gather to praise God’s name.

Opening Prayer Lord, as we gather together in your house, 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 “*I have uttered what I did not understand*”

Read Job 42.1-6, 10-17

Prayer of Confession Creator God, you call us to delight in your creation, yet we are too busy to notice the beauty around us. Eternal Word, you place your word within our hearts, yet we fail to listen to your guidance. Spirit of Truth, you call us to act with justice in all that we say and all that we do, yet we often fail to act on our good intentions. Remake us into a community of love – a community that does your will and shares your love in all the world. 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 transforms our lives by the power of love, speaking words of truth to enlighten our spirits and leading us in paths of justice. In Jesus’ holy name, we are forgiven. In Jesus’ holy name, we are forgiven. Thanks be to our God.

Scripture Reading “*he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him...*” Read Hebrews 7.23-28

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 O Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. Hear us as we pray for those we love and for those in need of your presence and your healing. In Jesus’ name, we pray as he has taught us..... **The Lord’s Prayer**

Scripture Reading “*What do you want me to do for you?*”

Read Mark 10.46-52

Meditation The story of the blind man, Bartimaeus. It’s one of my very favorite stories. God brought it to my mind at a time when I needed to know God’s comfort, when I needed Jesus to say to me, “What do you want me to do for you?”

That was Bartimaeus’ request and, given the culture he was in, it’s a miracle, really, that he was able to answer Jesus’ question. Jesus and the disciples had come to Jericho; as they walked out of the city with Jesus, as Mark’s gospel tells us, a large crowd was gathered around them. There was a blind beggar sitting by the roadside as they departed and, when this man learned that it was Jesus who was passing by, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.” When the crowd hushed him, he shouted even louder, determined to be heard.

Can you imagine the reaction of the disciples and the crowd? Here was a beggar – of all people – shouting for Jesus! As if Jesus was going to pay attention to him in all the noise and confusion, let alone do so given who he was. That’s not the way their society worked! So it’s no surprise that the crowd told this poor man to be quiet. The people following Jesus were too busy to listen to this beggar; Jesus might have a pearl of wisdom to share or – dare they expect – he might even want to walk to one of them! What an honor that would be!!

But Jesus had other plans for he DID hear Bartimaeus above the din of the crowd. It was as if his ears tuned right into the one who needed him the most. That’s so like Jesus, isn’t it?

And so Jesus stood still and, to the amazement of those gathered around him, called to Bartimaeus. No way, those experiencing this must have thought. There’s no way that Jesus is calling this beggar, is there? But, indeed he was for Jesus had a very important question to ask this man in need: “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him with love and compassion. As the crowd looked on, seeing how intently Jesus looked at this beggar and how much love he had for him, Bartimaeus said with great courage, “My teacher, let me see again.” And it was so. Jesus proclaimed to him that his faith had made him well.

Oh, if those around Bartimaeus could have seen as clearly as he did, even being blind. Those in crowd had walked right by him, ignoring his needs, forgetting to act like Christ in reaching out to help him. When Jesus asks us what he can do for each of us, as he does each and every day, may we ask him to open our eyes and our hearts to the needs of those around us and so bear witness to the power of Christ for each of us.

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.