

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 31, 2021 Kingdomtide 23

“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

*O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known
God's deeds among the peoples.*

Sing to the Lord, sing praises to God.

*Tell all people God's wonderful works. Glorify God's holy name
and let your hearts rejoice.*

Let us gather to praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we find ourselves in this moment and place on holy ground, for you are in our midst. Help us turn away from all that distracts us and center our attention on you. Enable us once more to hear your call above the noisiness of our lives. We come this day to worship and are overwhelmed by the beauty of your presence. Be who you will be for us, that we might once again become your holy people through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in glory everlasting. Amen.

Scripture Reading *“Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge.”* Read Ruth 1.1-18

Prayer of Confession Compassionate One, you set before us the ways of life and death, giving us the very keys to eternal life, yet we turn away. The cost seems too high. We would show you perfect love, if we didn't have to give up our riches. We would offer you perfect devotion, if we didn't have to alter our selfish ways. We would present to you our very lives, if we could only do so in comfort. Left to ourselves, we are lost and alone. Forgive us our reluctance to believe that with you, all things are possible, with you, we find our way home. 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 In the name of Christ, who calls us to discipleship, we are forgiven and loved by the God of steadfast love and enduring mercies. Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading *“.....worship the living God.”*
Read Hebrews 9.11-14

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 Gracious and merciful God, source of our life and well-being, we worship you. In your presence is truth; in your presence is hope. Grant us your grace, we pray, that we might cling to you, love you, and abide in you. Hear us as we pray for those who are in need of your healing touch; pour out your Spirit upon us all as we hear and live out Jesus' commandment to love one another as you love each of us. In Christ's holy name, we pray as he has taught us..... **The Lord's Prayer**

Scripture Reading *“...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.”* Read Mark 12.28-34

Meditation One of my favorite remembrances of my younger son, Aaron, was as a little boy telling me that, when he grew up, he would take me to “Texas in a taxi.” I think he liked the alliteration of those words far more than he understood their meaning! If you are a parent, I'm sure you have stories of the many things your child or children said as they grew up that were either hilariously funny or extremely embarrassing or perhaps

somewhere in between! Here's one child's cute response to the question, "What is love?" from Danny, age 7: "Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy – and then takes a sip before giving it to him to make sure it tastes okay." We could each share many responses to that basic question – some funny and some deeply emotional and heart-felt. Jesus liked to talk about love; indeed, Jesus lived out what love looks like and feels like.

This week's reading in Mark's gospel can also be found in Matthew and Luke's gospels as well, understandably so for words as important as these. Jesus is asked which commandment in the law was the greatest. In picturing this interaction, I visualize Jesus not hesitating for even a moment before answering that question: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This, Jesus told them, is the greatest commandment, fulfilling all the laws of Israel – and there were over six hundred of them! And then Jesus quickly added, "And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus' response was not just in answer to one question asked by one of the scribes of his day. Jesus' response was a guide for how ALL of life is to be approached and lived out. In the face of all that confronts us or as we seek to celebrate the goodness of life or, anywhere on that spectrum, we are called to one task: to love. This one commandment summarizes the entire Bible!

So, what if we took Jesus' words to heart? What if we all lived our lives from the perspective of the greatest commandments? My, what a vastly different world it would be! And you and I as Jesus' disciples are called to live out his words in our own lives so that we make even a small bit of positive difference in our hurting world. May Jesus' words fill our hearts in the days ahead so that we put them into action in Jesus' 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.