

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
November 14, 2021      Kingdomtide 25  
“At Home Worship”

**Call to Worship**

*Come to God's house with your songs and prayers.*

**We lift our voices to God.**

*Come to God's house with your hopes and joys.*

**We bring our thanks and praise.**

*Come to God's house with your needs and concerns.*

**We lay down our burdens before Christ.**

*Come to God's house with your gifts and treasures.*

**We offer our lives to Christ.**

*Come to God's house with all that you have and with all that you are.*

**Let us worship our God this day.**

**Opening Prayer** God of abundant mercy and grace, pour your love and your Spirit upon us, that we may recognize our abundance and give our love and our lives completely and freely to you. We gather to worship you and praise you for you are our God and we, gratefully, are your people. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

**Scripture Reading** *“In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the LORD.”*      Read I Samuel 1.4-20

**Prayer of Confession** Gracious God, when we hold back and give only a bit of ourselves, forgive us; when we let pride and insecurity keep us from trusting your mercy and grace, renew us. Have mercy on us, that you might restore our lives and nourish us as we grow in the love of Christ. Strengthen us to give ourselves fully and completely to Christ's work in 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** In Christ Jesus, our sins are forgiven and our lives are restored. This shows how much our God loves us. Thanks be to God for this glorious grace!

**Scripture Reading** *“Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.”*

Read Hebrews 10.11-25

**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** Almighty God, we come before you with our songs and prayers, to lift our voices to you in thanksgiving. We come before you with our hopes and joys, bringing our thanks and praise. We come before you with our needs and fears, laying down our burdens to Christ. We come before you remembering that you are our God and we, by your grace, are your grateful people. God of abundant love, pour your love and Spirit upon us, we pray, that we may give our love and our lives completely and freely to you. In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together, we say.....

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Scripture Reading** *“Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray.”*      Read Mark 13.1-8

**Litany of Thanksgiving for Our Veterans** (insert)

**Meditation** “These verses will likely sound rather odd, even

peculiar, to the hearers this week. And that's for good reason – they are odd and peculiar!" That's a very succinct description of our gospel reading for this week. But, even for as odd as they are, these words are understandable.

As followers of Jesus, we live with the promise that he WILL come again and, being curious as people tend to be, we'd like to know when. Jesus' disciples were the same. "Tell us, when will these things happen? What signs will show us that things are about to come to an end?" Wouldn't we love to know the answers to those questions. But, the reality is, we can't. God doesn't work that way. Rather, we are called to live as if the end may be today, to live lives of faithfulness to God after the example of Jesus Christ.

So, instead of asking questions to which there is no answer, we'd be better off to ask what we can be doing in the meantime. And to that question, there are plenty of answers. Here is one commentator's reflection:

"We cannot know the future. Jesus simply calls us to follow him. Jesus has called you and me to live as he did, regardless of life's circumstances. When false prophets appear, be close enough to God and Christ to know the difference. When there is war, find ways to make peace. When nations rise against nations, strive for reconciliation over revenge. During earthquakes and other nature disasters, help to heal and rebuild. During times of famine, help feed.

Jesus was right. These signs might be only the beginning of birth pangs, but the call to discipleship is still the same....As you go through life, walk in faith and have courage to stay the course."

May it be so! Amen!

**Words of Benediction** May the Lord of our lives – Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit - bless you and keep you in the week ahead. We go forth as the faithful people of God, as strong disciples for Christ. May God go with us!



## *Kingdomtide*

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