

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 16, 2020 Kingdomtide

“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

God invites us to this time of worship.

We will love the Lord our God, with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength.

God calls us to love one another.

We will love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Come, let us worship the God of abundant love.

Opening Prayer God of life, present and promised, you are the One to whom we call for you are the One who hears, and you are the One who acts. You invite us into new life with your grace, mercy, and love. Lead us all in this time of worship that we may be prepared to live the teachings of Jesus in the world you have created. Bless us and keep us, most holy God. Amen.

Scripture Reading *“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.”* Read Psalm 98

Prayer of Confession Forgive us in your mercy, O God – when we see the world as we want it to be, rather than it really is, much less the way you seek it to be. Forgive us when we forsake a lively faith and ignore your invitation to be agents of change in the world. Renew us with your grace and ground us with your Spirit, that we might be empowered to live, in word and deed, as disciples of Jesus, our Savior. 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 The goodness and mercy of God are

given to us each and every day of our lives. God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love, and leads us to be true disciples for Jesus Christ who work to transform the world in his name. Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading *“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”* Read Romans 11.1-2a,29-32

Remembering our Joys and Concerns in Prayer *We come to worship with many concerns upon our hearts but also joys in our lives. You are invited to share them with God at this time.*

Unison Prayer God of light and love and peace, we praise your name for inviting us to paths of righteousness, where we may come into your presence, forgiven and free. We give you thanks, in the chaos of our lives, for guiding us to this quiet time where we may rest beside the still waters of your grace. We worship you with all that we are, and we bless your name for all that we will be as we continue on our journey of faith – a journey that leads to your Kingdom, where we will dwell with you forever. Hear us now as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us....

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading *“Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David.”*
Read Matthew 15.21-28

Meditation Today's meditation upon the Scripture lessons for this tenth Sunday in the season of Kingdomtide begins with a story told by commentator and blogger, Liz Crumlish. She writes, “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!

Closing Prayer Holy God, fill me with your peace and create within me a heart full of your love and grace. Lift my eyes to you, O Lord, knowing that you who sent Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world, will keep my going out and my coming in forevermore. Amen.



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