

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 9, 2020 Kingdomtide

“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

Call upon God's holy name.

For in calling, we are saved.

Listen for the wind of the Spirit.

For in listening, we will hear the Spirit who brings new life.

Hope in the promises of Christ.

We call, we listen, and we hope as Christ comes to us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Prayer Gracious and loving God, you meet us where we are. As we gather in this holy place, may our hearts be open to your voice, may our eyes be open to see your glory, and may our minds be open to receive the Word you have for each of us today. We find ourselves in many places, but we are unified as one heart in the body of Christ, our Risen Savior. Amen.

Scripture Reading “Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.” Read Psalm 85

A Prayer of Confession Lord, we confess that we have not always practiced what we have preached. We are often guilty of talking the talk but not walking the walk. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be sure that our words and our actions are reflections of our faith in you. Help us to be consistent in the way we live so that others might see Christ in us. 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 Hear the good news: The Lord hears us when we confess our sins, and when we cry aloud to be forgiven. “The Lord is generous to all who call on the Lord. Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Scripture Reading “For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved”

Read Romans 10.5-13

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 in this time of silence.*

Unison Prayer 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. O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Read Matthew 14.13-21

Meditation It wasn't easy being a disciple of Jesus. The lives of his twelve closest friends had been pretty topsy-turvy in the readings of Matthew's gospel we've heard recently. They had been hearing Jesus' parables as well as his unspoken challenge to find themselves and their faithfulness within his stories. They had tried to find a few moments of peace for their grief after hearing of the death of their friend, John the Baptist, but a great

crowd followed them to hear Jesus' every word and the disciples were concerned for their well-being. Jesus expected them to feed the crowd but, with only five loaves and two fish, they really weren't sure how to do so. Finally and miraculously, the people are fed, the healings are done and Jesus' friends find themselves overtired and overwhelmed. It's definitely time to rest. But as Jesus went off to find solace for himself and the disciples get into a boat to go to the other side of the lake, the wind and the waves begin to batter the boat. No rest for the weary, as the saying goes. In the midst of this chaos, Jesus comes to them, walking on the water. Thinking it is a ghost, they are terrified until they hear Jesus' words of love and comfort, "Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid."

But then the story takes a turn when, Peter being Peter, requests that Jesus commands him to walk on the water to him. Peter does fine – at the beginning – but when he notices the strong winds, he begins to sink. Then, Jesus being Jesus, saves him and asks, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" So often when we hear Jesus say these words we immediately consider them criticism. But what if, in this instance, they are something different? We can't hear Jesus' intonation when we read the words but what if he was joking with Peter? Maybe he was saying, "Peter! Why did you stop, man? You got this!" Maybe Jesus was giving his beloved disciple a pep talk – one that he knew the other disciples were hearing as well and one that we ourselves can use every now and again. If Peter had kept his eyes focused entirely on Jesus and had tuned out all the noise around him, he more than likely would have been successful in reaching Jesus. As Jesus' stories always do, that is the lesson this one teaches us: keep our eyes focused on Jesus, follow after his example, and do wonderful acts of love and compassion for the Kingdom of God. So, let's get out of the boat and accomplish great things as disciples for Christ!

Closing Benediction May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the hope of the Holy Spirit be with you today and every day.



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