

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 25, 2020 Kingdomtide

“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

O God, you have been our dwelling place in every generation.

From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth has shape and form, you were there.

For a thousand years in your sight are like a watch in the night.

Let us worship the everlasting God, the God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Opening Prayer God of love and grace, as you swing wide the gate of welcome this day, strengthen us to receive your love and mercy. Speak to us through your teachings, that we may devote ourselves to your guidance and live in your life-giving word. Send us forth in the power of your Spirit to witness to your love in all the world. In the beloved name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading “Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses” Read Deuteronomy 34.1-12

Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on us, O God.

Grant us your love and grace, we pray. (R)

You know the storms of our lives, the clouds of our sin, the gloom of our sorrow. (R)

Return to us now, O God, and gather us in, we pray. (R)

We are gathered in worship to remember our need for grace.

We are called to pray, not for appearance or show, but for a renewed spirit and a heart of love. Let us pray silently:

for grace where we are in need of love.....

for forgiveness where we have sinned.....

for renewal where our spirits are dying.....

for restoration where we are disconnected from the vine of life.....

Words of Assurance God is grace and mercy, forgiveness and love. God’s anger is slow, but God’s love is swifter than arrows and deeper than the sea. Love and forgiveness are ours this day. Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading “we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel”
Read I Thessalonians 2.1-8

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.*

Prayer Once again we come before you in a spirit of prayer, O God, who was, who is, and who is to come. Help us draw strength from your abiding presence in these hectic times; help us find comfort in your never-ending love. Hear the thoughts and prayers of our hearts and our lives as we turn to you. Answer us according to your divine will and remind us, O God, that we can do all things through your Son, Jesus Christ, who invites us to pray together, saying..... **The Lord’s Prayer**

Scripture Reading “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart....” Read Matthew 22.15-22

Meditation Longer ago than any of us care to remember, Art Linkletter had a television show called “Kids Say the Darndest Things.” And they do! If we are parents, then we can attest to our child or children saying something as they grew up that was 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.

In another attempt to trick him into saying something that they could hold against him, the Pharisees asked Jesus 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 the Pharisees. 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, actually, 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! Now perhaps that way of living won’t be a reality until we are in God’s Kingdom but, in the meantime, you and I are called to live out Jesus’ 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 Go forth with the confidence that the Lord will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time on and forevermore. Go in peace with God’s blessing.



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