

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 15, 2020 Kingdomtide

“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord. Call on God’s holy name.

Sing praises to our God. Tell of God’s wonderful works.

The Holy One promises to be present to us always.

With joy and gladness, we enter God’s house.

Shout to the Lord. Proclaim the miracles that bless God’s people with life.

Give thanks to our God. Call on God’s holy name.

Opening Prayer Awesome God, we join with all creation in proclaiming your glory. All around us are examples of your power and majesty; all around us are examples of your abiding love and grace. We pray this day for the strength and courage to enter faithfully into your covenant that we may open our hearts, our souls, and our lives in grateful praise; bless us, O God, as we make good use of the gifts and talents you bestow upon us. Most especially, we thank you for the gift of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading *“...surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God.”* Read Isaiah 49.1-7

Prayer of Confession Merciful God, you know the fears and failures that prevent us from living as children of your light. When we hide from your call in our lives, forgive us and strengthen us to move forward in courage and faith. When we misuse the talents that you give us, when we ignore your teachings, forgive us and awaken our spirits to the light of your truth. Encourage us, gracious God, to be children of hope and love, that we may encourage one another in the use of our gifts to

share your grace. In trust we pray, 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 We are all children of God’s light. Clothed in faith and love, we are God’s own children, covered with the hope of salvation in Christ Jesus. We are forgiven and reconciled to God! Amen!

Scripture Reading *“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”*
Read I Thessalonians 5.1-11

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 Almighty God, you have called us by name and continually pour down blessings upon us from your bounty. You have given us food to eat, homes to live in, clothing to wear, and family and friends with which to share. You have also bestowed upon us talents and gifts to be used to your glory. For all this, we give you thanks, O God. Hear our prayers for those we love. May we be blessed by the grace you offer us in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.....

The Lord’s Prayer

Scripture Reading *“Well done, good and trustworthy servant.”*
Read Matthew 25.14-30

Meditation Do you ever wish that you had a talent for something that you just don’t have? I have always wished that I had been given the gift of painting; I would love to be a

watercolor artist – especially here in our state where I could paint beautiful scenes of the ocean and the rocky coast. But, alas, being a watercolor artist is definitely not one of my talents. However, I can and do admire the work of those who have been given that talent and use it well.

No doubt Jesus’ parable of the talents has been a familiar one to us for some time. But have you ever noticed that the three persons to whom the talents were given didn’t squabble with each other about who had more and who had less? They don’t complain; they just make good use of what they have – well, except for that the person given only one talent. While we admire the person with five talents and the person with two talents, we wonder what was up with the person with one. Burying it in the ground seems kind of odd to us but that was the custom in Jesus’ day in order to keep one’s money safe.

God doesn’t want us to play it safe. As was the expectation in Jesus’ parable, we are called to use the gifts and talents that we have in order to bring about God’s Kingdom. And we are called to use those gifts as individuals and as a church and, when we all work together, God is glorified and we truly live as disciples for Jesus Christ, as this commentator reminds us: “We would be wise to recognize that we each are unique and have differing types and levels of talents and gifts to offer for the work of Christ. We can always find someone who can do something better than we can; we can also always find someone who cannot do it as well. Be thankful for the talents you have, and seek to develop them with God’s help.”

In this month of giving thanks, what talents are you thanking God for? And, more importantly, are you using them to God’s glory and for the sake of God’s Kingdom?

Words of Benediction Go forth into God’s world to be instruments of Jesus’ love and peace. Go forth into God’s world to live out the Spirit’s gifts of wisdom and understanding. Go forth seeking justice and loving kindness and walking humbly the One who calls us by name.



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