

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
November 22, 2020 Christ the King Sunday
“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

Let us give thanks for all of God’s mercies:

God’s goodness has created us,

God’s bounty has sustained us,

God’s patience has borne with us,

God’s love has redeemed us.

**For all of God’s blessings, we worship this morning with
thanksgiving and praise.**

Opening Prayer Most gracious God, you crown the year with your goodness. We praise you that you have ever fulfilled your promises that seedtime and harvest shall not cease. We bless you for the order and constancy of nature, for the beauty of the earth and sky and sea and for the providence that year by year supplies our need. With our thanksgiving for these blessings, accept our praise, O God, for we gather to worship you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading *“I, the Lord, will be their God.”*
Read Ezekiel 34.11-16, 23-24

Prayer of Confession

*Lord, your selfless generosity provides all that the world needs,
yet we often keep your gifts for ourselves.*

**Forgive us when we are thankless and indifferent to the
needs of others.**

*We forget how deeply you care for us, and we’re blind to the
abundance that surrounds us.*

**Restore us, renew us, O God, and fill our hearts again with
your love that we may be truly grateful.**

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 God sustains us and gives us the things that we need. The Lord is near; God is present with us. The indescribable peace of the Spirit enfolds us. All that is good, true, pure, noble, gracious, loveable, and praiseworthy – this is what does God does for us. Thanks be to God our Creator.

Scripture Reading *“I do not cease to give thanks for you as
I remember you in my prayers.”* Read Ephesians 1:15-23

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 Gracious Lord, creator of all, giver of life, we praise you! We worship you today in humility and gratitude. Surrounded by your love and care, we live and breathe, laugh and cry, we labor and rest. You satisfy our hunger with the bread of life; you satisfy our thirst with living water. With joy and thanksgiving, we celebrate your amazing bounty you have bestowed upon us. With care and concern, we pray for those we love and those in need, for you are a good and gracious God of life and 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 *“Just as you did it to one of the least of
these.....”* Read Matthew 25.31-46

Meditation Have you ever noticed how the days and weeks between Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas grow shorter with each passing year? Perhaps that is because the Halloween candy is whisked off the shelves on November 1st and the

Christmas candy immediately replaces it. My very favorite holiday of the year gets lost in our consumerism. I love Thanksgiving! It is the one time of the entire year when we deliberately pause to consider our blessings and give our God thanks. Each day should be like that but, at the very least, we remember to be grateful at Thanksgiving.

As followers of Christ, we know that God calls us to share those many blessings with others. Jesus' words in this last reading from Matthew's gospel for this year spell that calling out: *"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."* He reminds us that it is our material blessings in the form of food and drink and clothing that we share with others but also our compassion and caring as well. And sharing with others, Jesus underscores, is just like sharing with him: *".....just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

Jesus' parables and words of teaching today – as they have for the past couple of weeks – focus on the Kingdom of God; this is a perfect segue to the season of Advent with its two-fold focus of waiting for Christmas and our celebration of Jesus' birth and also our watching for that time when Christ comes again to usher in the Kingdom of God. As we wait, we are called to share God's love and grace, mercy and hope with others. At this wonderful time of giving thanks, may you pause to remember the goodness that God has bestowed upon you and then consider how you will use those gifts to bless others, as you seek to serve Christ. May we remember one another as the apostle Paul remembered the Ephesians, *"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers."* Amen.

Words of Benediction May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit be with you today and every day. Amen.



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