

# LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve

“At Home Worship”

*“I bring you good news of great joy for all the people”* Luke 2.10

## Liturgy for Lighting the Advent and Christ Candles

### Call to Worship

*On this holy night, we gather in the comfort of God’s Spirit:  
to stand with the shepherds, amazed at your glory;  
to sing with the angels, rejoicing in your work;  
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;  
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.*

**May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory to God in the highest!**

**Opening Prayer** Almighty God, our journey of Advent has brought us to this great festival of Christmas. As we gather tonight to await the Savior’s birth, may our hearts be opened to the words you share with us in Scripture and music. May we remember how the prophets foretold that God would visit and redeem the waiting people. May we celebrate the promise that the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all peoples into the glory of God’s eternal kingdom. These prayers we offer in the name of the One who taught us to pray.....

### The Lord’s Prayer

**The First Lesson** *“And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*  
**Read Isaiah 9.2, 6-7**

### Time of Silent Reflection

**The Second Lesson** *“And a little child shall lead them.”*  
**Read Isaiah 11.1-2, 6-7,9**

### Time of Silent Reflection

**The Third Lesson** *“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.”*  
**Read Luke 1.26-38**

### Time of Silent Reflection

**The Fourth Lesson** *“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth”* **Read Luke 2.1-7**

### Time of Silent Reflection

**The Fifth Lesson** *“I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.”* **Read Luke 2.8-14**

### Time of Silent Reflection

**The Sixth Lesson** *“So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.”* **Read Luke 2.15-20**

**A Christmas Prayer** Holy God, your name is still called 'Wonderful,' 'Counselor,' 'The Mighty God,' 'The Everlasting Father,' and 'The Prince of Peace.' As your children, we cry out for a new awareness of who you are. We choose by faith to make the 'good news of great joy' a reality in our own lives, so others can see us as lighted trees of life, pointing to you this Christmas. We know one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that you are Lord. And we also know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with you. You are still our Joy. You are still our Peace. You are the holy baby in the manger. You are Lord of lords and King of kings. And we still celebrate you as Lord—this Christmas and always. Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer written by Rebecca Barlow Jordan)

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** (insert)

**Prayer after Receiving the Sacrament** Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery and the special place you have prepared at the communion table for each of us. Grant that, having heard the good news you have for us from your Word on this holy night, we may rejoice in the coming of the Christ Child. May we go into the world in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves for others, in the name of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Words of Benediction**

*Unto us a child is born.*

**Let us rejoice and be glad!**

*A light shines in the darkness.*

**Peace to all on earth.**

*Let all creation rejoice.*

**For a child is born for us!**



*Oh Holy Night*

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