

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
December 4, 2022 The Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE and TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

WORDS OF GREETING

*A Time of Praise*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

PEOPLE: Christ comes like a refiner's fire, burning away the impurities within.

*Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

PEOPLE: Christ comes like fuller's soap, cleansing our sin and purifying our hearts.

ALL: We worship and praise our Lord, Emmanuel - God with us.

\*OPENING HYMN *Angels from the Realms of Glory* # 220

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE with *Advent Song* (vs 2)

UNISON PRAYER God of mystery, you enter the wilderness of our lives, calling us to prepare for Christ's coming. Fill the valleys of our hearts, we pray. Make straight the paths of our feet, that we may follow in your ways. As we prepare once more for the advent of your Son, keep us in full fellowship with you and with one another. May our lives bear a harvest of righteousness as we worship you this day and every day. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 72 (response one) # 795

*Act of Confession and Pardon*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Merciful God, how quick we are to recognize our neighbors' need to amend their ways; how easily we spot the speck in their eye, ignoring the log in our own. Come to us, we pray, like a refiner's fire and fuller's soap, that we may be purified in body and soul. Polish us like fine gold and silver, that our ways may be pleasing to you, full of compassion and love for all we meet. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Leader: Through Jesus, God's tender mercy dawns from on high, bringing light to our darkness.*

PEOPLE: May we accept God's forgiveness in the name of the Savior, whose coming we await. Amen.

*Hearing God's Word*

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 11.1-10 (pg. 640)

CHORAL ANTHEM

EPISTLE READING Romans 15.4-13 (pg. 163)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 3.1-12 (pg. 2)

SERMON *God Is With Us: Prepare the Way*

\*HYMN *Hark ! The Herald Angels Sing* # 240

## *Responding To God's Word*

### A TIME OF PRAYER

Joys and Concerns and Time of Silent Prayer  
An Advent Prayer (insert)  
The Lord's Prayer # 895  
Choral Prayer Response

### RECEIVING OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Offertory and \*Doxology # 95  
\*Prayer of Dedication

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (insert)

\*CLOSING HYMN *Away in a Manger* # 217

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*WORDS OF BENEDICTION

*Leader: Our journey to Bethlehem continues in this holy season of Advent, and soon God's glory will be fully revealed.*

**PEOPLE: We watch, we wait, and we anticipate Christ's coming into our lives.**

*Leader: May the light of God's glory shine brightly in your lives and bring you great joy in the days ahead.*

**PEOPLE: We go forth into the world of God's creation as bearers of joy, proclaiming the coming of Jesus Christ.**

*Leader: Go with God's blessing in this holy season.*

\*SUNG BENEDICTION *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (vs. 2) # 211

#### \*POSTLUDE

#### Today's Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Don Wile  
Video Production Manager: Verne Smith

Debbie Greim, Organist and Choir Director  
Rev. Elizabeth J. Bachelder Smith, Pastor



## *The Second Sunday of Advent*

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