

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
December 3, 2023 The First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE AND TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

WORDS OF GREETING

*A Time of Praise*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: People of faith, prepare for the coming reign of God.*

**PEOPLE: As we gather to pray and sing and listen, a spirit of anticipation and hope fills us.**

*Leader: The days are surely coming, says our God, when justice and righteousness will prevail.*

**PEOPLE: May our worship illuminate our hearts and minds, freeing us to respond joyfully to God's call in the days to come.**

\*OPENING HYMN *Hail To the Lord's Anointed* # 203

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *The Shaw Family*  
with *Advent Song* (vs 1) # 2090

OPENING PRAYER God of expectation, fill us with hope this day. Create in us an expectation of goodness and grace. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may perceive your presence in the world and rejoice at the blessings and hope all around us. All this we pray in the name of the Light of the World, the One whose coming we await. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 80 (response 2) # 801

*Act of Confession and Pardon*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: As we begin this season of Advent, we acknowledge that we do wait, gracious God, but seldom do so patiently and not always with joyous anticipation. Forgive us when we expect the worst; forgive us when we live with rancor, rather than kindness and love. Restore us with the gift of your grace and fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit that we may grow into a people of peace and love. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Leader: Rise in joy and hope for God will lift you up and fill you with good things.*

**PEOPLE: We rise in joy and hope, for God's mercy is true, and in Christ we are forgiven and redeemed. Glory to God in the highest.**

*Hearing God's Word*

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64.1-9 (pg. 694)

CHORAL ANTHEM

EPISTLE READING I Corinthians 1.3-9 (pg. 165)

GOSPEL READING Mark 13.24-37 (pg. 50)

SERMON *Our Wondrous Light: A Surprising Hope*

\*HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* # 213

## *Responding To God's Word*

### A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

An Advent Prayer (see insert) (silent prayer)

The Lord's Prayer

Choral Prayer Response

### RECEIVING OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

\*Doxology

# 95

\*Prayer of Dedication

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (insert)

CLOSING HYMN *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* # 196

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF BENEDICTION (on the screen)

SUNG BENEDICTION *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (vs. 1) # 211

\*POSTLUDE

### Today's Worship Leaders

Ava Koumou-nete , Lay Reader  
Verne Smith, Video Production Manager  
Debbie Greim, Organist and Choir Director  
Rev. Elizabeth J. Bachelder Smith, Pastor

## *Our Wondrous Light*



## *Our Surprising Hope*

## The Season of Advent

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