

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
December 10, 2023 The Second Sunday of Advent

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 85

# 806

PRELUDE AND TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

WORDS OF GREETING

*A Time of Praise*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness:*

**PEOPLE: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"**

*Leader: A challenge is uttered from on high:*

**PEOPLE: "Make God's paths straight."**

*Leader: For every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain will be made low.*

**PEOPLE: Every crooked path will be made straight, and every rough way will be made smooth.**

**ALL: And all will see the salvation of our God.**

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *The Rioux Family*  
with *Advent Song* (vs 2) # 2090

OPENING PRAYER God of love and renewal, enter the wilderness of our lives, we pray, and call us to prepare once more for the coming of your Son. Fill the valleys of our insecurities with hope and bring low the mountains of our pride. Make straight paths before us and guide our feet in the ways of peace. Bless our time of worship as our Advent journey continues. Amen.

*Act of Confession and Pardon*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Holy One, by the tender mercy of your grace, you shine the light of your love into the shadow of our lives, that those who sit in darkness may find peace and hope. Shine your light on us, O God, for we have heard your call to prepare the way of the Lord. Come to us like a refiner's fire and a fuller's soap, that we may be purified in body and soul and made ready to make your paths straight, that all may see your salvation. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Leader: In Christ, God brings light to our darkness, and life to all who sit in the shadow of death.*

**PEOPLE: In Christ, all who seek the Lord find life anew.  
Thanks be to our God!**

*Hearing God's Word*

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40.1-11a (pg. 667)

CHORAL ANTHEM

EPISTLE READING 2 Peter 3.8-15a (pg.238)

GOSPEL READING Mark 1.1-8 (pg.34)

SERMON *Our Wondrous Light: A Just Peace*

\*HYMN *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

# 240

### ***Responding To God's Word***

#### A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing our Joys and Concerns and Silent Prayer  
An Advent Prayer  
The Lord's Prayer  
Choral Prayer Response

#### RECEIVING OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Offertory  
\*Doxology  
\*Prayer of Dedication

# 95

\*CLOSING HYMN *Away in a Manger*

# 217

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF BENEDICTION (on the screen)

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

\*POSTLUDE

#### Today's Worship Leaders

Liz Doyle, Lay Reader  
Verne Smith, Video Production Manager  
Debbie Greim, Organist and Choir Director  
Rev. Elizabeth J. Bachelder Smith, Pastor

## *Our Wondrous Light*



## The Season of Advent

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