

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
December 17, 2023 The Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE AND TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

WORDS OF GREETING

A Time of Praise

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, always; again I say, rejoice!

PEOPLE: We gather to celebrate the coming of the Light.

Leader: We gather to celebrate the Prince of Peace.

**PEOPLE: With praise and worship we continue to prepare
our hearts and lives for the coming of the Christ Child.**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, always; again I say, rejoice!

*OPENING HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1,3,4, & 6) # 234

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *The Duval/Logan Family*
with *Advent Song* (vs 3) # 2090

OPENING PRAYER Ever-present God, we thank you for gathering us together this day. As we worship you, send your Spirit to dwell within us, we pray. Bless us to be your people in this holy season – a people of justice and love, that the world may know your presence and experience your saving grace. With joy and hope, we pray in the name of the One whose coming we await. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 24 (response 1) # 755

Act of Confession and Pardon

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Author of life everlasting, remind us once more, we pray, that your good news carries more than the hope of your blessing in our lives; it carries the expectation that we will amend our ways. It is not enough to praise you with our lips; we must also love you with our actions: by sharing our wealth, by showing mercy to the needy, and by protecting the weak and defenseless. In these things you are praised. Help us to prepare for your Son's birth by embracing the ones he loved. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: God desires that all may live in fullness of life. When our sins are confessed, God comforts us.

PEOPLE: God longs for all people to come to repentance, that they may see the glory of God revealed in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Hearing God's Word

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11 (pg. 691)

CHORAL ANTHEM

EPISTLE READING I Thessalonians 5.13b-24 (pg.205)

GOSPEL READING John 1.6-8, 19-28 (pg.91)

SERMON *Our Wondrous Light: Fierce Joy*

*HYMN *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

218

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 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

230

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF BENEDICTION (on the screen)

SUNG BENEDICTION *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (vs. 3) # 211

*POSTLUDE

Today's Worship Leaders

Jen Farrin, 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.