

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
December 1, 2024      The First Sunday of Advent

*"I will turn the darkness before them into light." Isaiah 42.16*

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.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES *Laina and Gwen Rioux*

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

UNISON PRAYER Holy Source of life and hope, as we come together this day, open our ears to hear, open our eyes to see, and open our hearts to love that we may come to know your ways and follow your paths. As we prepare for the coming of the One who calls us to love one another, we give thanks to you, almighty God, the true source of our salvation. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 25 (response two) # 756

*Act of Confession and Pardon*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Loving Creator, you call us to rejoice in your promise of the birth that is to come, but we are afraid. You invite us into a world where justice and righteousness prevail, but we turn away from your truth. We long for an easy path into your promised world, but you tell us that there is no easy way. Forgive us, O God, for setting our hearts on all else but the way of Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Leader: God's mercy and steadfast love endure, strengthening our hearts and overcoming our fears.*

**PEOPLE: May we accept God's forgiveness in the name of the Savior whom we await. Amen.**

*Hearing God's Word*

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 33.14-16 (pg. 738)

CHORAL ANTHEM

EPISTLE READING I Thessalonians 3.9-13 (pg. 204)

GOSPEL READING Luke 21.25-36 (pg. 85)

SERMON *The Gift of Hope to Light the Way*

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

*Responding To God's Word*

A TIME OF PRAYER

Joys and Concerns

An Advent Prayer with Silent 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 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

# 211

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF BENEDICTION

*Leader: Our journey to Bethlehem has begun, 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.*

**PEOPLE: We go forth into the world of God's creation as beacons of light and hope, proclaiming the coming of Jesus Christ.**

\*SUNG BENEDICTION *Come, Thou Long Expected...* (vs 1) # 196

\*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

*Boldly Caring for our  
Community*



*Grounded in God's Love*

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