

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
December 8, 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: 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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Griffin and Grandparents

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

UNISON PRAYER God of love and renewal, enter the wilderness of our lives, we pray, and call us 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 and joy as our Advent journey continues. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING (with response) # 208

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 peace and hope anew. Thanks be to our God!

Hearing God's Word

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

EPISTLE READING Philippians 1.3-11 (pg. 196)

GOSPEL READING Luke 3.1-6 (pg. 60)

SERMON *The Gift of Peace to Light 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
The Lord's Prayer # 895
Choral Prayer Response

RECEIVING OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Offertory and *Doxology # 95
*Prayer of Dedication

*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.

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

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

*POSTLUDE

Today's Worship Leaders

Judy Rathbun, 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.