

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
December 14, 2025 The Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE and TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

WORDS OF GREETING

*A Time of Praise*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all shall be well.*

**PEOPLE: We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.**

*Leader: We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.*

**PEOPLE: Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of lives in everlasting joy.**

**ALL: Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.**

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

UNISON 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 89 (response one)

# 807

A CELEBRATION OF MEMBERSHIP for Alene Staley

*Act of Confession and Pardon*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Almighty God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can't fulfill our every need. We have searched for peace in shallow places; we have mistaken joy for temporal pleasure. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. God, when we have lost our way, show us yours, we pray. Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding. 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: May we be a people of peace and love, a people who live with great joy as we wait for the coming of the Christ Child.**

*Hearing God's Word*

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 35.1-10 (pg. 663)

SPECIAL MUSIC

EPISTLE READING James 5.7-10 (pg. 231)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 11.2-11 (pg. 11)

SERMON *All Earth is Waiting: The Source of Joy*

\*HYMN *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* # 218

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

#### **A TIME OF PRAYER**

Joys and Concerns and A Time of Silent Prayer

An Advent Prayer (insert)

The Lord's Prayer # 895

Prayer Response *The First Song of Isaiah* # 2030

#### **RECEIVING OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS**

Offertory and \*Doxology # 95

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*CLOSING HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem* # 230

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*WORDS OF BENEDICTION**

*Leader: Advent people, go now in the blessing of God's joy,  
confident that the day we await is close at hand.*

**PEOPLE: We go forth, ready to cooperate with God in  
building the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in  
heaven.**

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

#### **\*POSTLUDE**

#### Today's Worship Leaders

Judy Rathbun, Lay Reader

Verne Smith, Video Production Manager

Debbie Greim, Organist and Music Director

Rev. Elizabeth J. Bachelder Smith, Pastor



### ***The Third Sunday of Advent***

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