

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 22, 2026 The Fifth Sunday of Lent

PRELUDE and TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

WORDS OF GREETING

A Time of Praise

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God bids us to celebrate this new day, a day full of new possibilities.

PEOPLE: The Holy Spirit breathes new life within us to renew our connection with God and with one another.

Leader: So, come people of God! Come and hear the teachings of God.

PEOPLE: We come with open hearts and minds, ready to worship the One who gives us wisdom, guidance, and truth.

*OPENING HYMN *O For a Thousand.....* (vs. 1-5) # 57

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES OF LENT

UNISON PRAYER Holy One, we enter your presence to remember and rejoice in your grace so freely given to us. Cover us with your love, we pray, that we may worship you with steadfast faithfulness; strengthen us with your love, that we may pursue justice and live compassionate lives. Guide us with your love, that we may consider all the possibilities you put before us as disciples for Jesus. We pray this in his name. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 130 # 848

Act of Confession and Pardon

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God, our Peace and our Hope, it is easy for us to lose sight of your kingdom and your way for us.

PEOPLE: We hope that love conquers hate, that light shines in our shadows, that life is stronger than death.

Leader: Yet our lips are filled with bitter words, our lives are so often weak, the darkened corners of the world beckon to us.

PEOPLE: Have mercy on us, we pray, and lead us to the still waters of your grace. Restore our hope that we might trust you as we give thanks for your abiding grace.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: With the anointing of the Holy Spirit, with the joy of love, God reaches out to forgive us and make us whole.

PEOPLE: Touch us, Eternal Spirit; heal us, Light of the World, fill our lives with meaning as we receive your forgiveness and grace. Amen.

Hearing God's Word

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 37.1-14 (pg. 806)

SPECIAL MUSIC

EPISTLE READING Romans 8.6-11 (pg.157)

GOSPEL READING John 11.1-45 (pg. 104)

SERMON *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross: Consider the Possibilities*

*HYMN *In the Cross of Christ, I Glory* # 295

Responding To God's Word

A TIME OF PRAYER

Joys and Concerns and Time of Silent Prayer

A Lenten Prayer (insert)

The Lord's Prayer # 895

Prayer Response *Jesus, Remember Me* # 488

RECEIVING OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Offertory and *Doxology # 95

*Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* # 384

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF BENEDICTION

Leader: As you leave this holy place continuing your Lenten journey, lift up your eyes to the Lord.

PEOPLE: The One who sent Jesus Christ as salvation for all the world will never desert us.

Leader: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time on and forevermore.

PEOPLE: We go now in peace with God's blessing.

SUNG BENEDICTION *Grace Alone* (verse one) # 2162

*POSTLUDE

Today's Worship Leaders

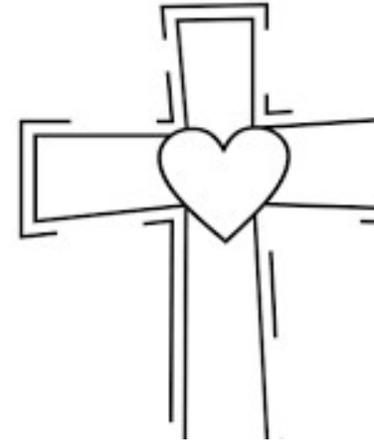
Alene Staley, Lay Reader

Verne Smith, Video Production Manager

Judy Rathbun, Guest Organist

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.