

**Cornerstone Methodist Church**  
**First Sunday of Advent – December 1, 2024**

*Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” John 6:35*

**GATHERING AS A CHURCH**

**Prelude**

**Lighting of the Candles**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord asks us, “Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?” Sadly, we turn away from God’s will to things that can never satisfy us.

**People: We have often turned away from God’s Word and will for our lives. We sometimes try to satisfy our needs by following the temptations of the devil, the world around us and our own sinful desires.**

Leader: God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son into the world to be our Savior and, for his sake, forgives our sins. God tells us, “Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live”.

**All: Jesus, Bread of heaven, feed us now and forever!**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle**

**Advent Hymn**

*“The Advent of Our King”*

tune of UMH 732 (p. 3)

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, with mighty acts of power, you set your people free from slavery in Egypt and led them through the wilderness to the promised land. Even though they complained against you, you graciously fed them with manna, bread from heaven. In grace and mercy, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to set us free from our slavery to sin. Jesus is the true and living Bread from heaven, who came to give himself for the life of the world. In him, we have forgiveness and hope. By faith, we feed on this heavenly Bread through the study of your Word and through the gift of Jesus’ body and blood in his Holy Supper. Bread of Heaven, feed us now and forever! Amen.

**Time of Silence**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Sung Response**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: World without end. Amen. Amen.

## HEARING THE WORD

Time for Youth

Pastor Gary

**Offering of Tithes and Gifts**

**Doxology / Prayer of Dedication**

### Joys, Risks, and Concerns

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**Old Testament Reading**

Exodus 16:9-18

**Hymn of Preparation**     *"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

UMH 196 (p. 3)

**Gospel Reading**

John 6:27-35

**Message**

*"The Word Made Flesh – Bread of Life"*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Communion Hymn**     *"Break Thou the Bread of Life"*

UMH 599 (p. 3)

**Holy Communion Invitation**

### Prayer of Confession and Pardon

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, and we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ***(All pray in silence.)***

**Pastor:** Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People:** In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**All:** Glory to God. Amen.

**Taking the Bread & Cup / Giving the Bread & Cup**

### Prayer after Receiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SENDING FORTH

**Closing Hymn**

*"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"*

UMH 127 (p. 3)

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle**

Reader 1: The name of the city of David, the little town of Bethlehem, means "House of Bread."

Reader 2: It was the birthplace for Jesus our Savior, who called himself the Bread of Life.

Reader 1: We light the first candle on our Advent wreath, the candle of hope.

Reader 2: Remembering the hope we have in Jesus, the Living Bread from heaven.

Reader 1: Jesus came to offer himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, giving us the hope of eternal life.

**People: Lord Jesus, Bread of heaven, feed us now and forever.**

### **The Advent of Our King – to the tune of UMH 732**

The advent of our King, our prayers must now employ, and we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son, incarnate deigns to be, Himself a servant's form puts on to set his servants free.

O Zion's daughter rise, to meet your lowly King, nor let your faithless heart despise the peace He comes to bring.

All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free, with Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.

### **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus – UMH 196**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

### **Break Thou the Bread of Life – UMH 599**

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea; beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord; my spirit pants for thee, O Living Word!

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me, as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee; then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall; and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

### **Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah – UMH 127**

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

### **Worship Opportunities**

Praising & Praying @ 9:45 AM  
Family Sunday School @ 10 AM – Worship @ 11 AM  
Drive-Up/Outdoor on FM radio 107.5  
Online Worship on Christian World Media & Facebook  
Contemporary Worship – Saturday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM  
Christmas Eve Candlelight – Tuesday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM

### **Personal Growth Opportunities**

“The Word Made Flesh” Advent Bible Study Wednesday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM

### **Service Opportunities**

Long-Term Care Worship – Sun, Dec 15<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30 PM  
Helping Hands Donation Day – Sunday, Dec 29<sup>th</sup>

### **Fellowship Opportunities**

Visit each other in-person, or call/text  
No-Host Breakfast Saturdays @ 8 AM at The Owl Club

### **Upcoming Church Meetings**

Admin Council – Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM

### **Serving Our Church Today**

Worship Leader-Shawn Jones; Music-Keith Jones;  
Liturgist-Doug Staton; Message-Gary Robbins;  
Piano-Sonja Sherve & Blayne Jones;  
Acolyte-Blayne Jones; Lay Leader-Doug Staton;  
Advent Readers-Keith Jones & Blayne Jones

### **Prayer List and Chain**

Contact Verona Dohms at 635-2742 or Shawn Jones at 635-2335 to have your needs, concerns, or joys placed on our Prayer List or Prayer Chain.

### **Tithes and Offerings**

You may give to our church online thru our website:

<https://www.cornerstonemethodistchurchbattlemountain.org/> and click on the “Give to our church” button or at: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=6593200>

### **Our Pastors’ Contact Information**

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