

**Cornerstone Methodist Church
First Sunday of Advent – December 3, 2023**

“And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.” Psalm 39:7

GATHERING AS A CHURCH

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome and Announcements (p. 4)

Call to Worship

L: The Lord has looked with favor on God's people.

P: Praise to the Lord!

L: A messenger of peace will be sent to us.

P: Thanks be to God!

L: The messenger will place peace in our hearts and our spirits.

P: Come, O Messenger of Peace, we stand in need of your presence. AMEN.

Lighting of The Advent Wreath – Responsive

Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

vs. 1-3 UMH 378 (p. 2)

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, Advent is a time of hope and waiting. For centuries your people waited in hope for the Messiah to come. Speaking through the prophets, you reminded them of your promise to send the Savior. Finally, when the right time came, Jesus the Messiah was born in Bethlehem. We have seen that hope fulfilled in Jesus' birth, in his saving death and triumphant resurrection. Yet now we too wait in hope. During this Advent season, we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, but we also look forward to his Second Advent, his return on the Last Day. Lead us to live in hope and to share that hope with others so that they too may come to worship Jesus as Lord. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

vs. 1 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.

HEARING THE WORD

Time for Youth

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 51:1-5

New Testament Reading

Romans 5:1-5

Hymn of Preparation

“Hail to the Lord's Anointed”

UMH 203 (p. 3)

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:68-79

Message

“The Light of Grace: Zechariah”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn of Response

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

UMH 175 (p. 3)

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.

SENDING FORTH

Closing Song

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

UMH 110 (p. 3)

Benediction

P: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

All: Amen.

Amazing Grace – UMH 378

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed – UMH 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son! Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free; to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong; to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth. Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go, and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend; his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end. The tide of time shall never his covenant remove; his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee – UMH 175

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills the breast; but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show; the love of Jesus, what it is, none but his loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be; Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God – UMH 110

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth; the Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

Worship Opportunities

Praising & Praying @ 9:45 AM
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 9th @ 6 PM

Personal Growth Opportunities

Advent Bible Study – Wednesday, Dec 6th @ 6 PM
(In-Person & Zoom)

Service Opportunities

Long-Term Care Worship – Dec. 17th @ 3:30
Helping Hands @ AG Church – Saturday, Jan 6th

Fellowship Opportunities

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

Serving Our Church Today

Worship Leader-Shawn Jones; Music-Keith Jones;
Liturgist-Tiffany Jones; Message-Doug Staton
Piano-Sonja Sherve & Blayne Jones
Acolyte-Blayne Jones; Lay Leader-Doug Staton
Advent Wreath-Trevor and 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 the church online through:

<https://www.battlemountainunitedmethodist.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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