The Giving of the Bread and Cup

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, given for you. May it preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you.

The Prayer after Communion

Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn — OGRP 171

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" TRURO

*The Blessing of the People

*The Choral Benediction (11:00 AM)

*The Chiming of the Holy Trinity

*The Organ Postlude

Fugue in G Minor (French Noel) Benaut

Advent Greenery

The Advent Greens on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Natalie Robelot Gibson** by her family.

Thank you to the **Communion Sunday School Class** for participating in the Hanging of the Greens service.

If you would like to offer an altar flower arrangement in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Judy Suggs, jusuggs@gmail.com.

Large Print Hymnals

Large print hymnals are available in the center rack of each pew. Additional copies can be found at the sanctuary entrances. Please return these hymnals at the conclusion of the service.

Welcome to Buncombe Street Methodist Church

Worship Services

Traditional Worship	*The Table Worship*
8:45 AM & 11:00 AM	11:00 AM

Clergy

The Reverend
Lonnie Pittman
Senior Pastor

The Reverend
Grover Putnam
Pastor of Congregational Care

The Reverend
Chris Ashley
Pastor of Adult Discipleship

The Reverend
Angie Gage
Pastor of Missions & Evangelism

The Reverend
Janice Holliday
Pastor Emeritus

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200 Buncombe Street | Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 232-7341

Buncombe Street Methodist Church

Vol. 4, No. 48 • First Sunday of Advent • November 29, 2026

The Centering Words

Mary's song is a song of holy reversal. The proud are scattered, the powerful are brought low, the humble are lifted up, and the hungry are filled with good things. In a world that often measures worth by status, wealth, and influence, God's kingdom turns our expectations upside down. As we gather in worship, let us open our hearts to the God who exalts the lowly, remembers His promises, and works through ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary grace. Let Mary's song become our song, magnifying the Lord with gratitude, trust, and hope.

The Greeting

*The Passing of the Peace of Christ

The Chiming of the Hour

The Voluntary

Meditation on "Wondrous Love" Setting, Lau
R. Vance Jenkins, *Director of Music & Principal Organist*

*The Litany of the Greens

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?

With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Savior of the world?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, symbolizing his passion, death, and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving work of God.

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved!

Glory to God in the highest!

**An asterisk noted in the Order of Worship indicates a time to stand. Please stand as you are able.*

*The Hymn of Procession — OGRP 162

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

*The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*The Gloria Patri

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.

The Lighting of the Hope Candle

Jim and Lynn Hopple (8:45 AM)
Harold and Robbie Boman (11:00 AM)

Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope. It reminds us that God's promises are true and that Christ's light will overcome every shadow. Please join us in the following prayer:

God of hope, as we light this candle, fill us with expectation and trust in Your coming kingdom. May Your light guide us through the darkness. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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.

*The Offertory Hymn — OGRP 167

"Who Is This Whose Silent Advent" BEACH SPRING

*The Offertory Prayer

God of mercy and might, as Mary offered her life in faithful obedience, we offer these gifts and ourselves to Your service. Use what we bring to lift up the humble, feed the hungry, and bear witness to Your kingdom where justice, mercy, and grace abound. Receive our offering with joy, and magnify Your love through us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Anthem at the Offertory

"Ave, Ave" Lau

Lane Lytle, *Bass and Furman Choral Scholar* (8:45 AM)
BSMC Chancel Choir (11:00 AM)

*The Doxology — OGRP 682 OLD 100TH

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all
creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*The Lesson from the Holy Gospel — Luke 1:39–56

The Sermon

The Advent Advantage: "The Advantage of Perspective"
The Reverend Grover Putnam, *Associate Pastor*

*The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**
**universal

The Invitation to Communion

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who truly love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, who dwell in charity with their neighbors, and intend to live a holy life. Draw near with faith and take this holy sacrament to your comfort, making your humble confession to Almighty God. Let us pray.

The Confession

Almighty and most merciful God, we confess and lament that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. Because the remembrance of our sin is more than we can bear, have mercy on us and forgive us. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, pardon us of all that is past and grant that we may ever serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(time of silent confession)

The Pardon

In his great mercy, our Almighty God and heavenly Father has promised forgiveness of sins to all who repent and with true faith turn to him. May he have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and good to give him thanks and praise.

It is right and our joy to give thanks to you in all places and at all times, Almighty Father. You are the source of all truth, life, and love. You made us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When in our sinfulness we turned away from you and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God and called us to new life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore, we praise you with the angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, forever singing this hymn to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayer of Consecration

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate this memorial of our redemption, O Father, receiving these gifts of bread and wine with thanksgiving for the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for us the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ and one as your church, that Christ may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ and gather us together with all your saints in the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face. We ask this through your Son, who with you and the Holy Spirit in your holy church be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.