

Welcome!

We are grateful that you joined us today and would love to keep in touch. After worship, please join us downstairs for refreshments provided by Arbor Dale's Kindness Group.

Prayer of Preparation

King of glory, you are God.

You are powerful. You rule the entire world.

We praise you because you are so great. But you became a baby. You were tiny and weak.

You were just like us.

We praise you because you came, and we look forward to when you will come again. In your name we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Refreshments for next Sunday: Goodness Group. Contact Karen Rominger 828-962-7732.

Thank you for your donations to Feeding Avery Families! You donated **over 420 lbs** of food. Wow!

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHURCH OFFICE:

PO BOX 235, Banner Elk NC 28604
arbordalechurch@gmail.com
www.arbordalechurch.org

PASTOR TEE GATEWOOD:

828-783-8262 adpc.tee@gmail.com

* CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

All: *And also with you.*

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

All: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

All: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Leader: *Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.*

All: *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.*

"We Will Feast in the House of Zion" words and music written by Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore © 2015 Integrity Worship Music. CCLI License #11214042

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<https://www.arbordalechurch.org/sermons>**



GREETING

Leader: *The Lord be with You.*

All: *And also with you.*

PRELUDE

Glass Fractured

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 2:2-5

Leader: *In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say,*

All: *"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."*

Leader: *For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

All: *O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!*

* **HYMN OF PRAISE** #244 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader 1: *Jesus said, "I am the light of the world;
the one who follows me will not walk in
darkness but have the light of life."*

All: *We light this candle as a sign of the coming
light of Christ.*

Reader 2: *The people who walked in darkness have
seen a great light; those who lived in a land
of deep darkness— on them light has shined.
(Isaiah 9:2)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

*Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us Repent and turn
again to the Lord as we confess our sins to God.*

* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O promised Christ: We are a world at war.

Our peace depends on your coming.

We are a sinful people.

Our pardon depends on your coming.

*We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping
promises; our only hope of doing God's will
is that you should come and help us do it.*

*Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits
for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

* **ASSURANCE OF PARDON** ~ based on Psalm 85:9-13

*Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear
him, that his glory may dwell in our land.*

*Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.*

*Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.*

*The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.*

*Righteousness will go before him and will make a
path for his steps. In Christ, God's salvation is at
hand, and righteousness has come.*

All: *Thanks be to God.*

* **PASSING THE PEACE**

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION** *We Will Feast in the
House of Zion*

Refrain: *We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things,
we will say together
We will feast and weep no more*

*We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord, our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up*

Refrain

*In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh, how long?
Oh, God of Jacob, be my strength*

Refrain

*Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom*

Refrain

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON *Waiting ~ Luke 1:1-25*

* **COMMUNION HYMN** #243 *Emmanuel*

* **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**
See back panel

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

* **HYMN OF SENDING** *Come Then, Lord Jesus*

*The Church has waited long Her absent Lord to see
And still in loneliness she waits
A friendless stranger she
Age after age has gone, Sun after sun has set
And still, in weeds of widowhood,
She weeps a mourner yet*

Chorus: *Come then, Lord Jesus, come
Come then, Lord Jesus
Come then, Lord Jesus, come, come, come.*

*The serpent's brood increase,
The powers of hell grow bold
The conflicts thicken, faith is low,
And love is waxing cold
How long, O Lord our God, Holy and true and good
Wilt thou not judge Thy suffering Church,
Her sighs and tears and blood?*

*We long to hear thy voice, To see Thee face to face
To share Thy crown and glory then,
As now we share thy grace
Should not the loving bride,
The absent Bridegroom mourn?
Should she not wear the weeds of grief,
Until her Lord return?*

*The whole creation groans,
And wait to hear that voice
That shall restore her comeliness,
And make her wastes rejoice
Come, Lord, and wipe away,
The curse, the sin, the stain
And make this blighted world of ours,
Thine own fair world again*

* **BENEDICTION**