

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church
Buies Creek, North Carolina

The angel song still trembles
In Bethle'ms holy air;
The little hills lie sleeping,
The bright stars still shine fair.

But oh, the hearts that since have waked,
The souls that have found rest,
Because small Bethlehem one day
Took heaven to its breast!

Gone is the rustle of the wings
In the watch serene;
The Golden Hour of God is past,
Whose glory has been seen.

~ "After Christmas,"
by Consuelo Valencia,
20th Century Spanish poet

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Come, Let Us Adore Him!* arr. Carolyn Hamlin
Anne McClain, organ

GREETING Meredith Lanier Craddock, Associate Pastor

† INVOCATION Mrs. Craddock

† GATHERING HYMNS
The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy WEST INDIAN CAROL

The virgin Mary had a baby boy, the virgin Mary a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy, and they said that his name was Jesus.

Refrain

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

The Wise Men came where the baby was born,
the Wise Men came where the baby was born,
the Wise Men came where the baby was born,
and they said that his name was Jesus. (Refrain)

HYMN 118 *What Child Is This* GREENSLEEVES
stanzas 1 and 3

CONFESSION OF SIN and ASSURANCE OF GRACE
Brittany Montgomery, Ministry Intern

PROCLAIMING

PSALM OF PRAISE (responsively) Psalm 97 Ms. Montgomery

The Lord reigns! Let the earth be glad, and rejoice from shore to shore.
**Clouds and thick darkness may surround him,
but goodness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**

† The congregation is invited to stand.

Fire goes before the Lord and puts an end to his adversaries;
the lightnings of the Lord light up the world, and the earth sees, and trembles;
the mountains melt like wax before the Lord, the God of all the earth.

**But the heavens proclaim God's goodness and righteousness,
and all the peoples behold the glory of the Lord.**

All who worship images are put to shame, and those who boast in worthless idols;
for you, O God, are most high above the earth, and exalted far above all gods.
It is other gods who bow down to you.

**But God's people hear and are glad, and God's children rejoice,
because your judgments, O God, are true.**

The Lord loves those who hate evil; the Lord preserves the lives of the saints;
the Lord delivers them all from the hand of the wicked.

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for those who are upright in heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, all you righteous ones, and give thanks to God's holy name!

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 61: 10-11 Mrs. Craddock

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, and my soul shall exult in my God.
for the Lord has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
and covered me with a robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is planted in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth
before all the nations.

† WORSHIP SONG *Shout to the Lord* Darlene Zschech
Gracie Jonas, leader

My Jesus, my Saviour, Lord there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength.
Let every breath all that I am never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing.
Power and majesty praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You

GOSPEL Luke 2: 21-40 Ms. Montgomery, Mrs. Craddock,
and Edward Beddingfield, Pastor

v. 21 – Naming the child.
vv. 22-26 – Simeon in the temple.
vv. 27-35 – Simeon's prophecies.
vv. 36-38 – Anna the prophetess.
v. 39-40 – Returning to Galilee.

SERMON *Christmas Sursies* Mr. Beddingfield

RESPONDING

SONG FOR REFLECTION *Arms of Love* Smith/Chapman/Gill
Susan Morrow, vocalist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and The Lord's Prayer (unison) Mr. Beddingfield

**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.**

OFFERTORY *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Douglas Wagner

SENDING

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH *Jesus, the Light of the World* Wesley/Elderkin
(see insert)

LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield

† BENEDICTION Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE *Sing We Now of Christmas* Diane Bish

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Members: Jac Whatley, Susan Cannady, Duwayne Grimm, Ofe (Hoyle) Rockholt,
Catherine King, Frances Lloyd, Kathy Creed, Burgess Marshbanks, Al Upshaw,
Carolyn Walker, Betty Wallace, Jimmy Jung, Pauline Calloway, Linda Smith

Family and Friends: Family of Rev. David Cromer (*friend of Greg and Anne McClain*);
Mary McClain (*mother of Greg McClain*); Joseph and Sarah Conner; Aaron Bowers
(*brother of Charissa English*); Tonya Taylor (*sister-in-law of Carrie Royal*); Madilyn &
Esther Smith; Michael Warren (*brother of Donna Haynes*)

Aldersgate senior living center (Charlotte, NC): Louise Taylor

Emerald Health and Rehab Center (Lillington, NC): Pat Stiller

In order to keep our prayer list current, we will place names on the list for one month. After one month we will remove names from the list. If there is a need for a name to be on the list for a longer period, please notify us and we will be happy to comply.

Deacons for December 2023: Ron McLamb and Joe Turlington
Deacons for January 2024: Theresa Batten and Trinity Kelly

Ushers Today: Brandon Brown, Bob Cisneros, Adam English and
Miles West

Ushers Jan. 7: Randall Johnson, Susan Johnson, Linda Lunney and
Siu-Ki Wong

No Kids' Church today
No Kids' Church Jan. 7

Nursery today: Cherry DeVane
Nursery Jan. 7: (need volunteer)

The rose in the sanctuary this morning is placed to welcome



Evelyn Rose Roberson

born to Dwayne and Kellie Roberson
along with big sister, Elsie,
on December 27, 2023.

She weighed 6 lbs. 7 oz.

Wayne and Beverly Smith are the proud grandparents!

TODAY, December 31st

- Friends Class - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m.
- Sarah's Open Door Class - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m.
- Children - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m. (Library)
- Youth - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- * No Kids' Church**

MONDAY, January 1st

Happy New Year
Church Office Closed for Holiday

WEDNESDAY, January 3rd

*** No Wednesday Night Activities**

JANUARY 2024

- 7 Friends Class - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m.
- Sarah's Open Door Class - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m.
- Children - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m. (Library)
- Youth - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Chancel Choir Cantata-Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- * No Kids' Church**

The Floral Committee will be taking down Christmas decorations today following the worship service. All are welcome to stay and help.

- 8 Deacon's Meeting:** 7:00 p.m.

10 WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES RESUME

- Children's Choir:** 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- Simple Supper - TBD:** 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Mission Kids:** 6:30 p.m. (Classroom)
- Youth Activity:** 6:30 p.m. (Library)
- Adult Bible Study:** 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)



Capital Debt ELIMINATED!

Thanks to many generous donations,
we have received enough contributions
to ELIMINATE our debt!!!

Thank you for your faithful giving to Memorial.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Teachers are still needed for Kids' Church and Nursery.
The sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board.
Your help is **much** needed and appreciated!



There will be NO Kids' Church this Sunday or
next Sunday, January 7, but will resume on January 14.

Kids' Church will be available for children
ages 3 through 3rd grade as of January 14.

Worship packets with activities to aid children with their worship
experience are available in the narthex/foyer.

CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

- **Clothes Closet:** New date TBD
- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting **non-perishable foods and egg cartons**
Needed for December - - **Peanut Butter**
Monetary donations to MBC are also welcome. Designate contribution as 'Food Pantry.'
- **Buddy Backpack:** collecting "nab crackers"
[cheese with cheese or cheese with peanut butter]
Monetary donations to MBC are also welcome. Designate contribution as 'Buddy Backpack.'

Memorial Baptist Church

271 Leslie Campbell Avenue/P.O. Box 485
Buies Creek, NC 27506

Telephone: 910-893-4162 Fax: 910-893-2167

Website: www.memorialbcnc.org

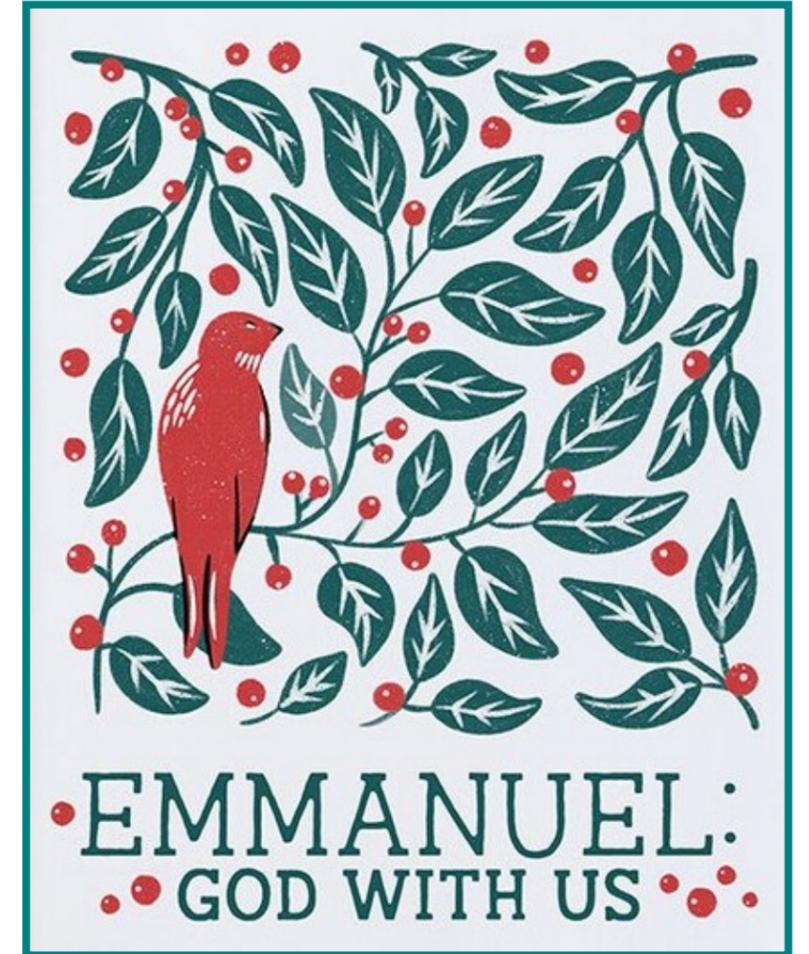
Emails: edb@memorialbcnc.org

meredith@memorialbcnc.org

ashley@memorialbcnc.org

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm

Other Staff: By Appointment



Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

Memorial Baptist Church is an inviting, inclusive, Christ-centered community of faith open to all persons who want to walk with us in following the way of Jesus. If you mourn and need comfort; if you're weary and need rest; if you feel friendless and need friendship; if you need a Savior; if you need love; if you need help; whoever you are and whatever your circumstances, we open the door and in the name of Jesus bid you come.

The Rev. Edward Beddingfield, Pastor
Meredith Lanier Craddock, Associate Pastor
Dr. Phillip and Susan Morrow, Ministers of Music
Anne McClain, Organist
Brittany Montgomery, Ministry Intern
Mariamarta Conrad, Worship Assistant
Ashley Nelson, Administrative Assistant
Wayne Smith, Custodian