

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Easter Sunday

Last in a Worship Series,
The Seven Last Words of Christ:
“Into thy hands I commit my spirit.”

March 31, 2024
Ten O’clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church
Buies Creek, North Carolina

The story, it seemed, was over. With a final word entrusting his soul to the Lord, he surrendered to pain and to mortality, and died. In the same way that Jesus commended his spirit to God, giving all according to the will of the Father, Christians are called to commend ourselves to him.

The philosopher William James put it well, saying, “We and God have business with each other; and in opening ourselves to God’s influence our deepest destiny is fulfilled.”

~ *Historian and author Jon Meacham (ad.), The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus on the Cross, Convergent Books (Random House), New York, 2020, p. 95.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Fanfares on EASTER HYMN* Robert Lau
Anne McClain, *organ*

† PROCLAMATION OF THE RESURRECTION Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*
Mark 16: 1-8
And very early on the first day of the week,
when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

† EASTER GREETING (*responsively*) Based on Luke 24: 34 Mr. Beddingfield
Minister: Christ is risen!
People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN 159 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

† INVOCATION and WELCOME Mr. Beddingfield
Ad. fr. The Book of Common Prayer,
Collect for Easter Day

Almighty and eternal God,
who for our redemption gave up your only-begotten Son to death on the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
Grant that we, with all throughout the world, in all times and places,
who celebrate with joy this Day of Resurrection,
may ourselves be raised from the death of sin by your own life-giving Spirit
and rescued from the death of the body when our days on this earth are accomplished;
that we may evermore live with you, and walk in your ways,
and worship you in joy and hope.
This we pray in Jesus’ name, **Amen.**

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

PROCLAIMING

EPISTLE READING (*responsively*) Brittany Montgomery, *Ministry Intern*
I Corinthians 15: 1-11 (*ad.*)

Now I would remind you, sisters and brothers,
of the gospel that I proclaimed to you, which you then received,
in which also you stand, and through which you are being saved –
**Provided that you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you,
unless you have come to believe it in vain.**

For I handed on to you as of primary importance what I had first received:
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried,
and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures;
and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the twelve.

**Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time,
most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.**

Then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles.

And last of all, as to one born almost too late, he appeared also to me.

For I am the least of the apostles, unfit even to be called an apostle,
because I persecuted the church of God.

**But by the grace of God I am what I am,
and God’s grace toward me has not been in vain.**

On the contrary, I worked harder than any of the others –
though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Therefore it doesn’t matter who worked harder, I or they;

What matters is, we proclaim it, and you have come to believe it.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CELEBRATION Ms. Montgomery

ANTHEM *A Triumphant Alleluia* Joseph Martin

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heav’n and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
he who on the cross a victim for the world’s salvation bled.
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Come and lift your hearts on high.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let your anthems fill the sky.
Alleluia to the Father, Alleluia, to the Son,
Alleluia to the Spirit, praise the blessed Three in One!

This is the day that God has made for song. Rejoice in life and sing with spirits strong.
Bring worthy praise to whom all praise belongs. Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Sing alleluia!

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King, Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven’s blissful shore his goodness we’ll adore,
Singing forevermore, Alleluia! Amen!

PSALTER READING Meredith Lanier Craddock, *Associate Pastor*

Psalms 31: 1-5, 23-24
Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

GOSPEL Luke 23: 44-49 Mr. Beddingfield

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,
“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

SERMON *An Unfaltering Trust* Mr. Beddingfield

RESPONDING

† RESURRECTION TESTIMONY *Mighty to Save* Morgan/Fielding
Spencer P. Phillips, *leader*

Everyone needs compassion, love that’s never failing – let mercy fall on me
Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior – the hope of nations

Chorus:

Savior, he can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save, he is mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation

He rose and conquered the grave, Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as you find me, all my fears and failures – fill my life again

I give my life to follow, everything I believe in – now I surrender

(Chorus)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*) Mrs. Craddock

**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 INVITATION Mr. Beddingfield

OFFERTORY *He Lives* ACKLEY
Mrs. McClain

SENDING

INVITATION TO FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP Mr. Beddingfield

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 407 *Because He Lives* RESURRECTION
stanzas 1 and 3

LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield

† BENEDICTION Mr. Beddingfield

† CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 533 *He Lives* ACKLEY

POSTLUDE *Postlude on JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY* arr. Phil Lehenbauer
Mrs. McClain

*The Easter flowers are given by Grandma Pat and the Morrrows
to the glory of God and in honor of the engagement of their
grandson/nephew, Ethan Yeshaya, to Bridget Schumann.*

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Members: Doris Eller (*Roper Hospital, Room 4001, 316 Calhoun St. Charleston, SC*); Lorrie Pope, Burgess Marshbanks, Linda Smith, Joe Turlington, Ofe Rockholt, Catherine King, Carolyn Walker, Betty Wallace, Jimmy Jung, Pauline Calloway

Family and Friends: Michael Warren (*brother of Donna Haynes*); Gabe and Bailey (*foster children of Will and Christine Roberts*); Nate, Creed and Selwyn Leonard (*friends of Johnnie Jackson*); Steve Hammond (*godfather of Charlotte Riewestahl*); Angie Ward (*grandmother of Liz Stone*); Carol Barefoot (*sister of Linda Lunney*); Rachel Ennis (*coworker of Charissa English*); Terry Barker (*daughter-in-law of Jeanne Barker*); Joyce Harrelson (*mother of Tammy Scarborough*); Mary McClain (*mother of Greg McClain*); Aaron Bowers (*brother of Charissa English*); Tonya Taylor (*sister-in-law of Carrie Royal*)

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

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

TODAY, March 31st - *Easter Sunday*



Easter Sunrise Service: 7:00 a.m. (Buies Creek Cemetery)

Easter Sunrise Breakfast—immediately following Sunrise Service
(Fellowship Hall)

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)

* **No Sunday School Today**

* **No Kids' Church Today**

MONDAY, April 1st

Church Office Closed for Easter Holiday

WEDNESDAY, April 3rd

* **No Wednesday Night Activities**

APRIL 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)
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
* **No Kids' Church**
- 8** Deacon's Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
- 10** Children's Choir: 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
Simple Supper - Hotdogs: 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Mission Kids: 6:30 p.m. (Classroom)
Youth Activity: 6:30 p.m. (Library)
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- 11** American Red Cross Blood Drive: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Parking Lot)

Deacons for March 2024: Cherry DeVane and Randall Johnson

Deacons for April 2024: Lisa Lanier and Jac Whatley

Ushers Today: Beverley Howard, Ron McLamb, Scotty Scarborough and Lee Turlington

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

NO Kids' Church Today

Nursery today: Michele Phelps

NO Kids' Church April 7

Nursery April 7: (need volunteer)



Blood Drive at Memorial Baptist Church

Thursday, April 11, 2024

1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sign up today at:

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS



For March, we are collecting full-sized containers of **Shampoo** and **Body Wash** as well as **Soap**.

Place items in the plastic tote in the hallway.

We also welcome monetary donations to go toward the purchase of backpacks and Bibles. Designate your donation as '*Backpacks.*'

CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

- **Clothes Closet:** April 27, 2024
- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting **non-perishable foods** and **egg cartons**
Needed for March & April - - **Boxed Mac & Cheese**
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.'
- **Belts for HCMS:** *Donations of used men's or boys belts that can be used for students.*

Check the bulletin board for other announcements.

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

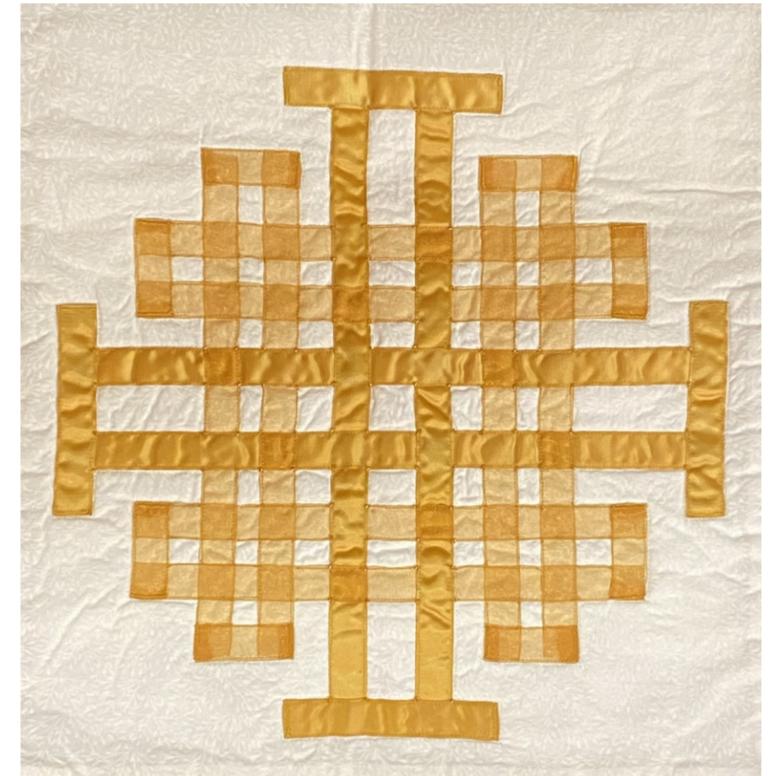
Emails: edb@memorialbcnc.org

meredith@memorialbcnc.org

ashley@memorialbcnc.org

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

Other Staff: By Appointment



MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

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
Ashley Nelson, Administrative Assistant
Wayne Smith, Custodian