THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve)

Peace

December 24, 2023 Ten O'clock in the Morning Memorial Baptist Church Buies Creek, North Carolina

arr. Tim Doran

John Ness Beck

The world is as wild as an old wives' tale, and strange the plain things are:
The earth is enough and the air is enough for our wonder and our war;
But our rest is as far as the fire-drake swings
And our peace is put in impossible things
Where clashed and thundered unthinkable wings
Round an incredible star.

~ From "The House of Christmas," by G. K. Chesterton, English writer, philosopher and theologian (1874-1936)

GATHERING

PRELUDE Sing We Now of Christmas
Anne McClain, organ

GREETING and † INVOCATION Meredith Lanier Craddock, Associate Pastor

† HYMN OF PRAISE 100

Angels We Have Heard on High stanzas 1, 2 and 3

Have Heard on High GLORIA

PROCLAIMING

THE ADVENT WREATH

Steve and Cherry DeVane with Emily, Chuck and Robert Reynolds

Scripture: Micah 5: 2-5a

He shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord . . . And this shall be peace.

Candle: Peace

Nativity Figure: Shepherd

Song of Testimony He Shall Feed His Flock

Susan Morrow, soloist

† RESPONSIVE GOSPEL Luke 2: 8-14 (KJV) Mrs. Craddock

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field,

keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not:

for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you:

you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all people.

SERMON Edward Beddingfield, Pastor

Peace in Impossible Things

Song for Reflection Belleau Wood Garth Brooks/Joe Henry

Glenn Jonas, *vocalist*, recorded at "Fireside at Memorial," December 17, 2023

Second Gospel Luke 2: 15-20 Mr. Beddingfield

And it came to pass, as the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us go now even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, that the Lord has made known unto us."

RESPONDING

ANTHEM The Beautiful Impossible Joseph Martin

Joseph Conner, soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and The Lord's Prayer (unison) Brittany Montgomery,

Ministry Intern

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 He Shall Feed His Flock arr. Lyndell Leatherman

SENDING

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 93 CAROL

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield

† BENEDICTION Mr. Beddingfield

Wil Bedailight

POSTLUDE O Come, All Ye Faithful Mary McDonald

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

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

<u>Family and Friends</u>: Family of Victor Das (father of Joseph Das); Mary McClain (mother of Greg McClain); Multiple family members of Charissa English; Joseph and Sarah Conner; Tonya Taylor (sister-in-law of Carrie Royal); Madilyn & Esther Smith; Michael Warren (brother of Donna Haynes); Aaron Bowers (brother of Charissa English)

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.

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

<u>Ushers Today</u>: Cherry DeVane, Chad Godwin, Derek Hogan and

Jeff Pope

 $\underline{Ushers\ Dec.\ 31}$: Brandon Brown, Bob Cisneros, Adam English and Miles West

No Kids' Church today

Kids' Church Dec. 31: (need volunteer)

Nursery today: (need volunteer)
Nursery Dec. 31: (need volunteer)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

[†] *The congregation is invited to stand.*

TODAY, December 24th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

* No Sunday School

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

* No Kids' Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 5:30 p.m.
Lessons and Carols, Candles and Communion

MONDAY, December 25th

Merry Christmas!

Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

TUESDAY, December 26th

Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

WEDNESDAY, December 27th

* No Wednesday Night Activities

DECEMBER 2023

31 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

JANUARY 2024

1 Happy New Year
Church Office Closed for Holiday

3 * No Wednesday Night Activities

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

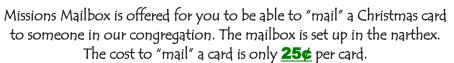




In planning your yearend giving, please be reminded that your contributions must be received in the church office by noon on **December 29, 2023** (or post-marked by December 31, 2023) in order to be reported as a 2023 gift.

Missions Mailbox





All the money raised will go to support a mission project.

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.

CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

Harnett Food Pantry: collecting non-perishable foods and egg cartons
 Needed for December - - Peanut Butter

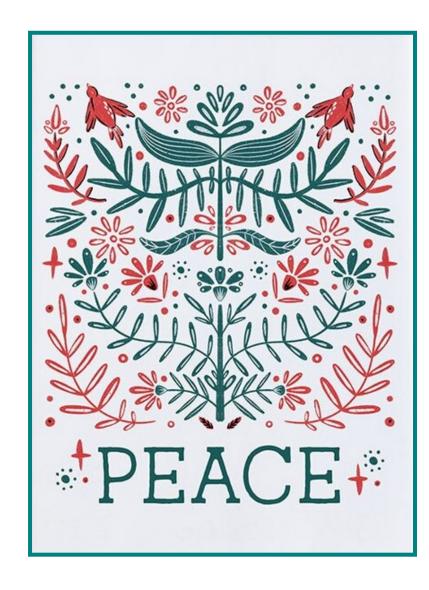
 Monetary donations to MBC are also welcome. Designate contribution as 'Food Pantry.'

Buddy Backpack: collecting "nab crackers"

DOILT

[cheese with cheese or cheese with peanut butter]

Monetary donations to MBC are also welcome. Designate contribution as 'Buddy Backpack.'



Fourth Sunday of Advent Peace

December 24, 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