

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Second Sunday of Advent: LOVE

December 5, 2021
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church
Buies Creek, North Carolina

He comes, the pris'ners to release,
In sin's fierce bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

~ Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), *English Nonconformist*
(Congregational) minister, educator and hymnwriter (ad.)

GATHERING

Thank you for wearing a mask (the CDC and State health authorities recommend masks to be worn inside regardless of vaccination status). Masks and hand sanitizer are available from an usher if you need them. Pews are marked for social distancing guidelines, or if you prefer an usher can assist you with seating.

WELCOMING MUSIC

GREETING Meredith Lanier, *Associate Pastor*

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*) Malachi 3: 1-4 Ms. Lanier

Look! says the Lord: I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly appear in the temple.

**This messenger of the covenant in whom you delight –
yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.
But who can endure the day of his coming?
And who can stand when he appears?**

For he is like a refiner's fire and fuller's soap;
he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,
and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver,
until they present good and righteous offerings before the Lord.

**Then the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord
as they were in the days of old and in the former years.**

INVOCATION *Ad. fr. The Book of Common Prayer* Ms. Lanier

Purify our hearts and lives, Almighty God, both by your daily visitation and also during these high and holy seasons of the year. May the worship we offer you not be show or pretense, but the good and righteous offerings of people forgiven and devoted. Then may your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, find the way prepared, the crooked made straight, the rough made smooth, and room within our hearts to receive him; in Whose holy name we pray, **Amen.**

PRELUDE *Prelude on GLORIA* arr. Jason D. Payne
Anne McClain, organ

WAITING

THE SERVICE OF ADVENT Wes, Laura, Ellie and Nate Rich
Rebecca and Michael Thompson

The Advent Wreath: *John the Baptist's Candle*
From Luke 3: 1-18

Decorating the Chrismon Tree
Shell in a Star, Dove in a Circle (2)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and EXPECTANCY Mr. Thompson

PROCLAIMING

† HYMN OF ADVENT 79 *Blessed Be the God of Israel* FOREST GREEN
stanzas 1, 2 and 3 only

GOSPEL (*responsively*) Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*
Luke 2: 67-80 (The *Benedictus*)

Then John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

**"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for God has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.**

God has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as spoken through the mouth of the holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for God has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.**

Thus God has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath sworn to our ancestor Abraham, to grant that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for God has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to God's people by the forgiveness of their sins. Then, by the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet in the way of peace.

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for God has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them."**

And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

SERMON *A King, a Pilgrim, a Prophet,
a Herald, and a Savior* Mr. Beddingfield
(First in an Advent series:
"The Soundtrack of Christmas")

RESPONDING

SONG OF REFLECTION *I Wonder as I Wander* traditional Appalachian
Mariamarta Conrad, vocalist

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING and The Lord's Prayer (*unison*) Mr. Beddingfield

INVITATION and MUSIC FOR REFLECTION
Those wishing to respond to the invitation may meet the pastor at the front of the sanctuary during the Music for Reflection.

SENDING

LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY and OFFERTORY INVITATION Mr. Beddingfield

BENEDICTION *Ad. fr. John Claypool* Mr. Beddingfield

Go now into God's world as those who are called to be God's people, remembering as you go that by God's goodness you were born into this life, by God's grace you have been kept to this very hour, and by God's love, fully revealed in Jesus Christ, you are being redeemed, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. Jason W. Krug

Worshippers may depart the sanctuary without direction by an usher. Please proceed through the foyer to the courtyard for visiting. Thank you for remaining masked until you are outside.

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

WAYS TO DONATE TO MBC:

- (1) **Offering plates** are on the tables in the foyer as you leave.
- (2) You may also use your phone and click the **QR code below**; OR
- (3) **To give online** use the "Donate" tab on our webpage, <https://memorialbcnc.org>.
(If you want 100% of your donation to benefit MBC, please increase your gift by 3% to help cover the transaction expenses.)

Thank you for your cooperation!



PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Members: David Price (*chemotherapy this week*), Carolyn Walker, Ofelia Hoyle, Bob and Jeanne Barker, Linda Smith, Mary Lou Ellen, Pauline Calloway

Family and Friends: Family of Carroll Marsalis (*father of Melody Price*), Davis DeWhatley (*grandson of Jac and Kathy Whatley—surgery this week*), Alberta Wells (*friend of Susan Johnson*), Jimmy Jones (*friend of Susan Johnson*), Bob Appel, Linda Enzor-Manson (*sister of Harriet Enzor*), Andrew and Josh Manson (*nephews of Harriet Enzor*), Laura Yarbrough and family, David Whiteman, Tricia Green, Roberta Blackwell (*sister of Anne McClain*)

Arbor Landing at Ocean Isle (Shallotte): Pat Stiller

Oak Hill Assisted Living Center (Angier): Ester Howard and Frances McQuade

TODAY, December 5th

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Friends Class - Sunday School: 8:45 a.m. (Zoom)
Sarah's Open Door Class - Sunday School: 9 a.m. (Classroom/Zoom)
Indoor Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
MBC Kid's Church: 10:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall/Playground)
Youth - Sunday School: 11:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Buies Creek Christmas Parade: 3:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, December 8th

Children's Choir: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Zoom)
A Theologian Looks at the "The Night Before Christmas"
- with Adam English: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

DECEMBER

12 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Friends Class - Sunday School: 8:45 a.m. (Zoom)
Sarah's Open Door Class - Sunday School: 9 a.m. (Classroom/Zoom)
Indoor Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
MBC Kid's Church: 10:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall/Playground)
Youth - Sunday School: 11:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Advent Dinners

15 * No Children's Choir

Church-wide Caroling: Time TBA
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

19 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Friends Class - Sunday School: 8:45 a.m. (Zoom)
Sarah's Open Door Class - Sunday School: 9 a.m. (Classroom/Zoom)
Indoor Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
MBC Kid's Church: 10:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall/Playground)
Gingerbread House Decorating for Children and Youth: (Fellowship Hall)
immediately following worship service

22 * No Wednesday Night Activities

Deacons for December: Gail Cogdill and Tom Spainhour

Deacons for January: Theresa Batten and Laura Rich

Ushers Today: Al Hardison, Randall Johnson, Susan Johnson and Linda Lunney

Ushers for Dec. 12: Siu-Ki Wong, Brandon Brown, Beverley Howard and Matthew Sadler

Kid's Church Teacher Today: Cindy Avrette & Meredith Lanier

Financial Picture as of October 31, 2021

» Total support	\$ 282,381
» Total expenditures	\$ (297,192)
» Expenditures exceed support	\$ (14,811)
» Principal due on line of credit for church renovation	\$ 115,202

Buies Creek Christmas Parade

TODAY - 3:00 p.m.

MBC youth will have an entry in the Buies Creek Christmas Parade this year!
Elva Scarborough has offered to let us bring our chairs and blankets and sit in front of Scarborough Photography to watch the parade.

If you would like to contribute and help with parade expenses, see Mark (Cornbread) West. (If you wish to write a check, please make it payable to Mark.)



We would like to be able to offer nursery services for guests and visitors. We also need volunteers to teach our children during the Kid's Church time.

We can't do any of this without your help.

If you would be willing to help in either area, please tell the church office.
(All volunteers are required to wear a mask.)

CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

- **Clothes Closet:** Date TBA
- **Buddy Backpack:** collecting individuals cereal boxes
You may also make a monetary donation to Memorial Baptist Church and put 'Buddy Backpack' on the memo line.
- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting non-perishable foods and egg cartons
You may make a monetary donation to Memorial Baptist Church and put 'Food Pantry' on the memo line.
- **HCMS Hygiene Kits**

Memorial Baptist Church

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Website: www.memorialbcnc.org

email: ashley@memorialbcnc.org

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm
Other Staff: By Appointment



MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent: LOVE

December 5, 2021

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, Associate Pastor
Dr. Phillip and Susan Morrow, Ministers of Music
Anne McClain, Organist
Mariamarta Conrad, Worship Assistant
Ashley Nelson, Administrative Assistant
Wayne Smith, Custodian