

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
and the Sunday before Valentine's Day

February 12, 2023
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church
Buies Creek, North Carolina

There are times to *relinquish* what we have treasured, and there are times to *receive* what is beyond our control or imagination.
~ Walter Brueggemann, *Materiality as Resistance: Five Elements for Moral Action in the Real World*, Westminster John Knox, Louisville, 2020, p. 58 (ad.)

Love is a rose but you'd better not pick it
Only grows when it's on the vine
Handful of thorns and you know you've missed it
Lose your love when you say the word "mine."
~ "Love Is a Rose," by Neil Young, 1974; recorded by Linda Ronstadt, *Prisoner in Disguise*, 1975

GATHERING

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

PRELUDE *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* Robert J. Hughes
Anne McClain, *Organist*

WELCOME Meredith Lanier Craddock, *Associate Pastor*

† INVOCATION Mrs. Craddock

† GATHERING HYMN *The Summons* KELVINGROVE

(Solo) Will you come and follow Me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let My love be shown, will you let My name be known,
Will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?

(All) Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let Me answer prayer in you and you in Me?

(Men) Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

(Women) Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?

(All) Lord, your summons echoes true when You but call my name.
Let me turn and follow You and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

CALL TO PRAYER (*responsively*) Psalm 119: 1-6, 17-18, 15-16, 31-32 Mrs. Craddock

Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

**Happy are those who keep God's decrees,
who seek the Lord with their whole heart,
who also do no wrong, but walk in the ways of the Lord.**

You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

**Then I shall not be put to shame,
because my eyes are fixed on all your commandments.**

Deal bountifully with your servant, so that I may live and observe your word.

Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

Then I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways;

Then I will delight in your statutes and not forget your word.

I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your ordinances before me.

I cling to your decrees, O Lord; let me not be put to shame.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF GRACE Brittany Montgomery
Supervised Ministry Student

PROCLAIMING

OLD TESTAMENT I Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*
I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.
Choose life, so that you and your descendants may live,
loving the Lord your God, obeying him,
and holding fast to him.

OLD TESTAMENT II Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 Mr. Beddingfield
To everything there is a season,
and a time for every purpose under heaven.

GOSPEL Matthew 16: 24-26 Brandon Brown, *Deacon*
If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
For those who want to save their life will lose it, and
those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

† ANTIPHON Praise Chorus *Step by Step* Beaker
O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you
O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.
I will seek you in the morning and I will learn to walk in your ways
And step by step you'll lead me and I will follow you all of my days.
(Repeat)

Hymn *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* Hindustani Folk Song
I have decided to follow Jesus (3 times)
No turning back, no turning back.
My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus (3 times)
No turning back, no turning back.

* Following the Hymn, children may meet Mrs. Meredith at the back of the sanctuary to leave for Kid's Church.

SERMON *Loosening Our Grip* Mr. Beddingfield

RESPONDING

ANTHEM *Softly and Tenderly* Matthew Culloton

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.

INVITATION TO GIVE and OFFERTORY *I Need Thee Every Hour* Anna Laura Page

SENDING

† HYMN OF INVITATION and SENDING FORTH 288 NORRIS
Where He Leads Me
stanzas 1 and 4, with Refrain

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY 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 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* Douglas E. Wagner

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Members: Al Upshaw, Susan Morrow, David Price, Will and Christine Roberts, Harriet Enzor, Betty Wallace, Jimmy Jung, Carolyn Walker, Linda Smith, Mary Lou Ellen, Pauline Calloway

Family and Friends: Aubrey Adams (*granddaughter of Donna Penny*), Christopher Hoyle (*son of Ofelia Hoyle*), Bethany Bloesch (*great-niece of Ofelia Hoyle*), Brian Worth (*friend of Cindy Avrette*), Lacy Massey (*step-father of Jeff Pope*), Kinsley Griffo

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

Deacons for February 2023: Brandon Brown and Bob Cisneros

Deacons for March 2023: Cherry DeVane and Derek Hogan

Ushers Today: Siu-Ki Wong, Brandon Brown, Beverley Howard and Matthew Sadler

Ushers February 19: Jeff Pope, Derek Hogan, Ron McLamb and Joshua Taylor

Kid's Church Today: Meredith Craddock and Brittany Montgomery

TODAY, February 12th

Friends Class - Sunday School: 8:45 a.m. (In Person & Online)
Sarah's Open Door Class - Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. (In Person & Online)
Children - Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Kids' Church: 10:15 a.m. (Library)
Youth - Sunday School: 6:00 p.m. (Online)

MONDAY, February 13th

Deacon's Meeting (OPEN): 7:00 p.m.
(This is an OPEN meeting for anyone to attend.)

WEDNESDAY, February 15th

Children's Choir: 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
Simple Supper - Ham, Potatoes & Cabbage: 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Mission Kids - Green Leaf BINGO Night: 6:30 p.m.
We will play BINGO with the residents of Green Leaf Care Center.
Any questions? See Cherry DeVane or Adam English
Youth Activity: 6:30 p.m. (Library)
Adult Bible Study - Materiality (Place): 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

FEBRUARY 2023

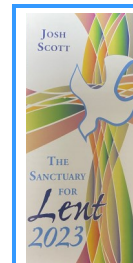
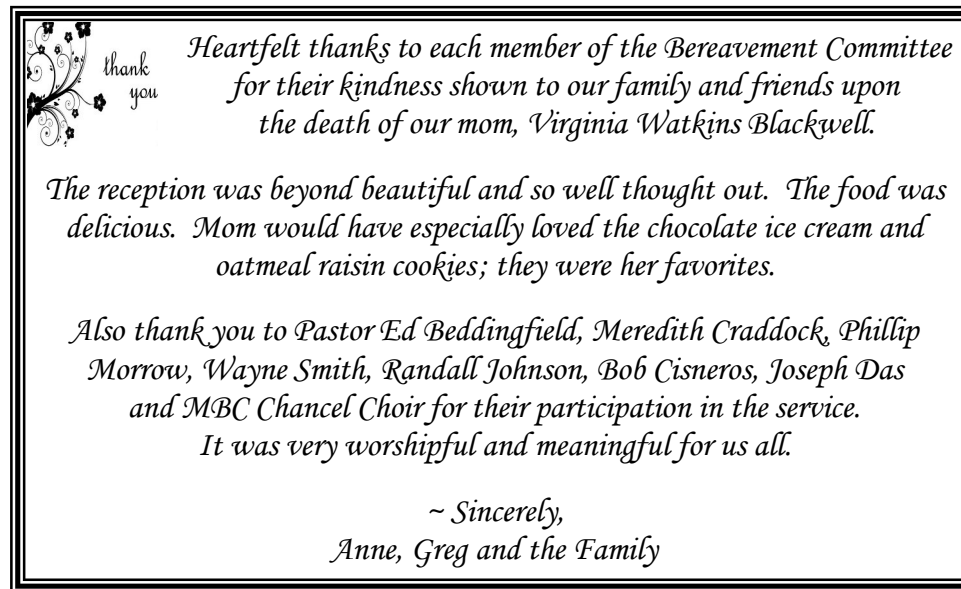
19 Friends Class - Sunday School: 8:45 a.m. (In Person & Online)
Sarah's Open Door Class - Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. (In Person & Online)
Children - Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Kids' Church: 10:15 a.m. (Library)
Youth - Sunday School: 6:00 p.m. (Online)

22 Children's Choir: 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
Simple Supper: 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: 6:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

26 Friends Class - Sunday School: 8:45 a.m. (In Person & Online)
Sarah's Open Door Class - Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. (In Person & Online)
Children - Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Kids' Church: 10:15 a.m. (Library)
Youth - Sunday School: 6:00 p.m. (Online)


MARCH 2023

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



Lent devotional books are available for pickup at the church office or in the narthex next Sunday.



 You may place your offering in the offering plate during the service, or use this QR code to donate using your phone, or click the *Donate* tab on the website. Thank you for giving to Memorial Baptist Church.

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

*Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
and the Sunday before Valentine's Day*

February 12, 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
Mariamarta Conrad, Worship Assistant
Ashley Nelson, Administrative Assistant
Wayne Smith, Custodian