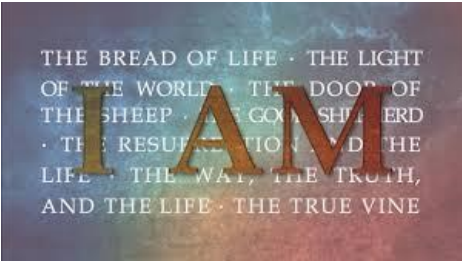
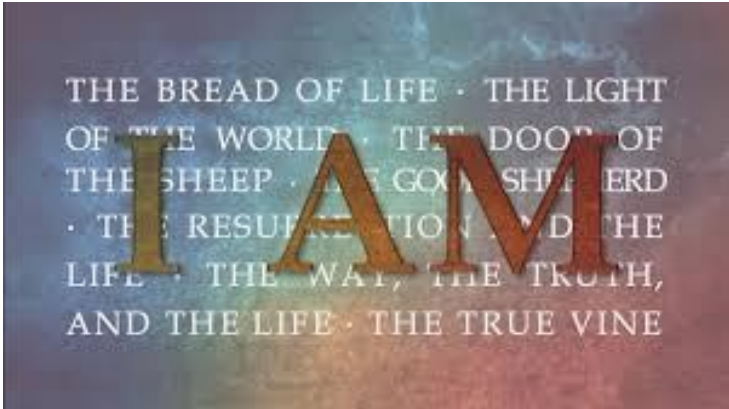


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 Other Staff: By Appointment



THE BREAD OF LIFE
A Service for Ash Wednesday

First in a Series: *Who Is Jesus? The "I Am" Statements in the Gospel of John*
 Wednesday Nights in Lent
 February 22 – April 6, 2023

Who Is Jesus? The "I Am" Statements in the Gospel of John

Wednesday Nights During Lent
 February 22-April 6, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Beginning this week (Ash Wednesday) with
The Bread of Life (John 6:35)

And after that:

- | | | |
|----------|--|------------|
| March 2 | <i>The Light of the World</i> | John 8:12 |
| March 8 | <i>The Door of the Sheep</i> | John 10:7 |
| March 15 | <i>The Good Shepherd</i> | John 10:11 |
| March 22 | <i>The Resurrection and the Life</i> | John 11:25 |
| March 29 | <i>The Way, the Truth and the Life</i> | John 14:6 |
| April 6 | <i>The True Vine</i> | John 15:1 |

Maundy Thursday service with communion and "Lord of the Dance," A Lenten Meditation by Joel Raney, presented by the Chancel Choir

February 22, 2023
 Six-thirty O'clock, in the Sanctuary

Memorial Baptist Church
 Buies Creek, North Carolina

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."
 ~ John 6: 35

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| PRELUDE | Anne McClain, <i>Organ</i> |
| WELCOME and INVOCATION | Meredith Lanier Craddock, <i>Associate Pastor</i> |
| † CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively) | Brittany Montgomery, <i>Supervised Ministry Student</i> |

Leader: Friends and neighbors, in the middle of our busy week, we come to observe Ash Wednesday together as a faith community. We come to follow Jesus, God's Beloved Child, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, in whom we see God's image most clearly. O God, we come.

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

**All: We are ashes, crying out.
We come, broken and in need.
We come, trusting and open-hearted,
We come, forgiven and welcome.
We come to be honest, to confess, to be ourselves.
We come to be received, to be blessed, to be anointed;
in the name and the mercy of Christ, we come.**
(ad. by Mrs. Craddock)

† GATHERING HYMN

ST. FLAVIAN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us, O Christ, to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

And through these days of penitence, and through your passion-tide,
Forevermore, in life and death, O Christ, with us abide.

Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,
An Easter of unending joy we may at last attain!

NEW TESTAMENT

John 6: 25-40
The Bread of Life Discourse.

Mrs. Craddock

MEDITATION

The Bread of Life

Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND MORTALITY

Genesis 3: 17-19
Dust thou art, and to dust thou shalt return.

Mr. Beddingfield

SILENT CONFESSION

MEDITATION IN SONG

I Stand Amazed in the Presence
Susan Morrow, *Soprano*

Jan Sanborn

ASSURANCE OF GRACE AND PARDON

Scripture (*responsively*) Isaiah 55: 1-3, 6-7

Mrs. Craddock

Listen! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters,
and you that have no money, come! Buy, and eat!

Come and buy wine and milk without money, and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

**Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.**

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live!

**Seek the Lord while the Lord may be found;
call upon the Lord while the Lord is near.**

Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
**And let them return to the Lord, who will have mercy upon them,
and to our God, who will abundantly pardon.**

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Mr. Beddingfield and Mrs. Craddock

*Please come forward by way of the side aisles if you would receive
the imposition of ashes in the sign of the cross upon your forehead,
and return to your seat by way of the center aisle.*

*Words of imposition: Dust thou art, and to dust thou shalt return.
Response: Amen.*

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 330

NEW BRITAIN

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound
stanzas 1, 3 and 4

† BENEDICTION

Mrs. Craddock

Blessings, like God's love, are not one-way experiences.
As you have been blessed with the mark of God's love,
you are now called to go out from this place and bless others.
May the God who created you create opportunities of serving others.
May the Christ who teaches you teach you during Lent how to love all.
And may the Spirit of Gentleness be your companion
along this Lenten journey. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Mrs. McClain