

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Seventh Sunday of Easter

*Ascension Sunday*

May 21, 2023  
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church  
Buies Creek, North Carolina

A hymn of glory let us sing;  
That over all the earth shall ring!  
For by a new way, never trod,  
Christ rises to the throne of God.

Be now our present joy, O Lord,  
And ever be our sure reward;  
And, as the countless ages flee,  
To You all praise and glory be!

May our affections heav'nward tend,  
And prayers and praises there ascend:  
Where, seated on the Father's throne,  
Christ, reigning over all, we own!

~ "Ascension Hymn," by  
*The Venerable Bede (673-735);*  
*tr. by Elizabeth Charles (ad.)*

## GATHERING

PRELUDE *Horns of Hyfrydol* arr. Penny Rodriguez  
Anne McClain, organ

WELCOME Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*

† CALL TO WORSHIP FOR ASCENSION SUNDAY (*responsively*) Mr. Beddingfield  
Meredith Lanier Craddock, *Associate Pastor*

Psalm 47: 1-2, 5-9

**Organ:** Clap your hands, all you people!

**Pulpit:** *Shout to the Lord with a voice of triumph!*

For the Lord Most High is awesome, and a great ruler over all the earth.

*God has gone up with shouts of acclamation, with a fanfare of trumpets!*

Sing praises to God, sing praises!

*Sing praises to our King, sing praises!*

God reigns over all the earth; sing praises with psalms of joy and thanksgiving!

*God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned in holiness.*

The leaders of the nations are gathered together with the descendants of Abraham;

*The mighty ones of the earth belong to the Lord our God;*

**ALL: And the Lord is raised above them all!**

† INVOCATION *Ad. fr. The Book of Common Prayer,* Mr. Beddingfield  
*Collect for Ascension Day*

Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth and Ruler of all nations,  
whose blessed Son Jesus Christ, after he died and rose again from the grave,  
ascended far above all heavens that he might bring to completion all things:  
Help us to know that, though he is no longer present with us in the flesh,  
he remains as head of his body, the church,  
living within and among all people who own him as Savior and Lord,  
even to the end of the ages, and after that forever more.  
We rejoice in his ascension to the right hand of your glory,  
and we anticipate with joy that day when we will continually dwell with him.  
May the worship and fellowship we know here be for us a foretaste of glory divine,  
for Jesus' sake and in whose name we pray; **Amen.**

† HYMN OF PRAISE 202 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* CORONATION

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE Mrs. Craddock

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

AFFIRMATION OF THE EASTER FAITH (*responsively*) Mr. Beddingfield

Ephesians 1: 15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints.

For this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the very God of all glory,

may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you grow in the knowledge of God.

**In that way, the eyes of our hearts will be enlightened,  
so that we may know what is the hope to which God has called us,  
what are the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints,  
and what is the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us who believe,  
according to the working of that same great power.**

This is the very power that God put to work in Christ, raising him from the dead

and giving him a seat at God's right hand in the heavenly places,

far above all rule and authority and power and dominion,

and above every name that is named,

not only in this age but also in the age to come.

**And God has put all things under his feet,  
making him the head over all things for the church,  
which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.**

## PROCLAIMING

† WORSHIP CHORUS *Above All* LeBlanc/Baloche  
Gracie Jonas, *Leader*

Above all powers above all kings

Above all nature and all created things

Above all wisdom and all the ways of man

You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones

Above all wonders the world has ever known

Above all wealth and treasures of the earth

There's no way to measure what You're worth

Crucified, laid behind a stone  
You lived to die, rejected and alone  
Like a rose trampled on the ground  
You took the fall and thought of me  
Above all

*\* Following the Worship Chorus, children may meet Mrs. Meredith and  
Ms. Brittany at the back of the sanctuary to leave for Kids' Church.*

GOSPEL Luke 24: 44-53 Earl Savage, *Deacon*  
The Ascension

While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them  
and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him,  
and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;  
and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

SERMON *Above All* Mr. Beddingfield

## RESPONDING

ANTHEM *Christ Be the Way* T. Dudley-Smith/Raney  
Christ be the way in whom we walk; this pilgrim path we tread;  
companion, teacher, guide and goal, the guardian of the ransomed soul;  
the first-born from the dead.

Christ be the truth in whom we trust when all seems shifting sand;  
to strengthen faith and comfort grief, to calm the storm of unbelief.  
Christ be the rock on which we stand.

Christ be the life in whom we live, in whom all journeys end;  
the Way, the Truth, the Life indeed; the living Savior sinners need,  
and our unfailing friend.

Christ be the Way, Christ be the Truth, Christ be the Life!

*Today's anthem was written for Memorial's  
50th anniversary celebration, July 15, 2018.*

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 arr. Carol Tornquist  
*You Are My King (Amazing Love)*

## SENDING

† INVITATION and HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 198 KING'S WESTON  
*At the Name of Jesus* WYE VALLEY  
stanzas 1 and 2  
stanzas 4

*Persons not wishing to stay for the election of deacons  
may exit the sanctuary during the singing of the hymn.*

ELECTION OF DEACONS Bob Cisneros, *Chair of the Diaconate*  
*All members of Memorial Baptist Church are eligible to vote for deacons.  
Please raise your hand to receive a ballot distributed by the deacons.  
You may vote for up to four persons.  
Please circle the names of those you wish to vote for.  
Ballots with more than four names selected will be discarded.  
When instructed, pass your completed ballot to the nearest aisle.*

LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield

† BLESSING *Ad. fr. John Claypool* Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE *Mighty Are Thy Works, O Lord* Gary Davidson

**Deacons for May 2023:** Earl Savage and Jac Whatley  
**Deacons for June 2023:** Gail Cogdill and Ron McLamb  
**Ushers Today:** Jeff Pope, Derek Hogan, Ron McLamb and Joshua Taylor  
**Ushers May 28:** Nancy Brady, Bob Cisneros, Barrett Kesling and Miles West  
**Kids' Church Today:** Meredith Craddock and Brittany Montgomery

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given by the McClains to the glory of God, and in honor of the May 21st wedding anniversaries of Alisha and Joseph Das (33rd) and Anne and Greg McClain (40th).*

## TODAY, May 21<sup>st</sup>

### DEACON ELECTION DAY

**Friends Class - Sunday School:** 8:45 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)

**Kids' Church:** 10:15 a.m. (Library)

## WEDNESDAY, May 24<sup>th</sup>

**Children's Choir:** 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)

**Simple Supper - Breakfast for Supper:** 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

**Mission Kids:** 6:30 p.m. (Classroom)

**Youth Activity:** 6:30 p.m. (Library)

**BUSINESS MEETING:** 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

**Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

## MAY 2023

- 28 Friends Class - Sunday School:** 8:45 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)  
**Kids' Church:** 10:15 a.m. (Library)

## 29 Church Office Closed for Holiday

- 31 \* Last Wednesday Night Activities (until Aug./Sept.)**  
**\* No Children's Choir**  
**Simple Supper - Nacho Bar:** 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  
**Mission Kids:** 6:30 p.m. (Classroom)  
**Youth Activity:** 6:30 p.m. (Library)  
**Adult Bible Study - Happy Birthday, Church:** 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  
**\* No Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

## JUNE 2023

- 4 Friends Class - Sunday School:** 8:45 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**

## PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

**Members:** Michael Thompson, Shelby Stancil, David Price, Will and Christine Roberts, Betty Wallace, Jimmy Jung, Linda Smith, Mary Lou Ellen, Pauline Calloway

**Family and Friends:** Family of Carson McDonald (family member of Beverley Howard); Noah Rayon and Savannah Cain (students from Cape Fear Christian Academy); Casey Godfrey (friend of Susan Johnson); Virginia Jonas (mother of Glenn Jonas); Angela Adamah; Family of Ann Vann; Josh, Jillian and Dawson McDonald (family members of Beverley Howard); Amanda Huggins (director of Stokes Childcare Center)

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

**Prayers of Comfort** are extended to the family of Alisha Das in the death of her uncle, Bobby Dennis, on Monday, May 15th.

### Financial Position for the Period 1/1/23 - 4/30/23

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| » Total support, 1/1/2023 - 4/30/2023                   | \$ 137,460        |
| » Total expenditures                                    | \$ (126,664)      |
| » Support exceeded expenditures                         | \$ <b>10,796</b>  |
| » Total 2023 Budget Proposal                            | \$ 413,084        |
| » Percent of year passed                                | 33%               |
| » Support needed to meet budget                         | \$ 135,492        |
| » Undesignated support received as of 4/30/2023         | \$ 126,834        |
| » Budget support shortfall as of 4/30/2023              | \$ <b>(8,658)</b> |
| » Principal due on line of credit for church renovation | \$ 78,774         |



**APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS**

For May, we will be collecting **Toothbrushes** and **Toothpaste**.

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

Here is a list of items we will be collecting in the near future:  
*washcloths, deodorant, brushes, combs, candy (no chocolate), pop-top canned food items (such as ravioli, tuna, beef stew, vegetables, fruit, etc.)*

### CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

- **Clothes Closet:** Next Date TBD
- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting **non-perishable foods** and **egg cartons**  
 Needed for May -- **Canned Sliced Peaches**  
*You may also make a monetary donation to Memorial Baptist Church and put 'Food Pantry' on the memo line.*

#### 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](http://www.memorialbcnc.org)

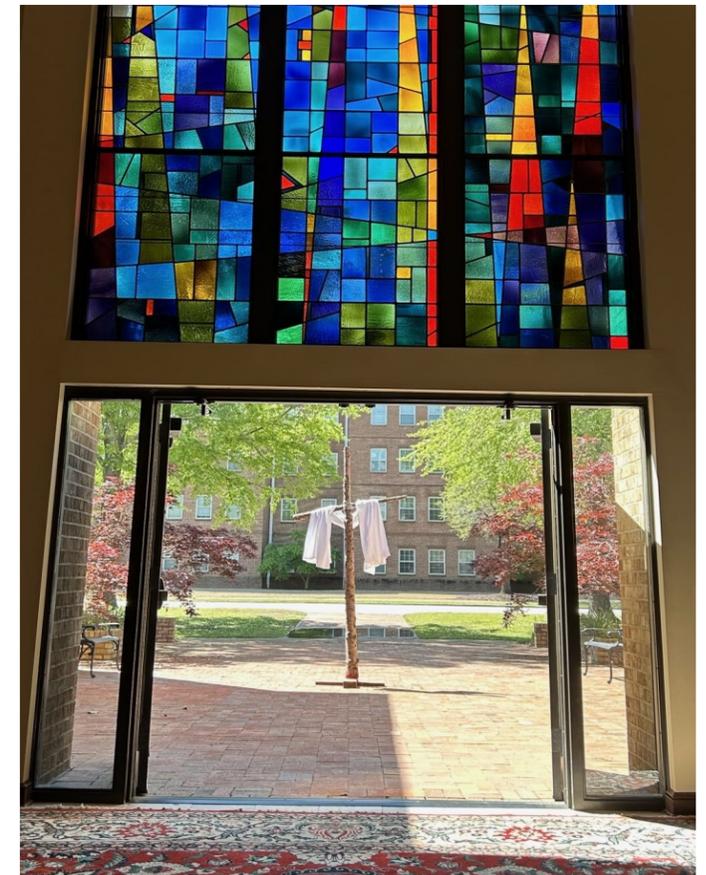
Emails: [edb@memorialbcnc.org](mailto:edb@memorialbcnc.org)

[meredith@memorialbcnc.org](mailto:meredith@memorialbcnc.org)

[ashley@memorialbcnc.org](mailto:ashley@memorialbcnc.org)

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

Other Staff: By Appointment



# MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

*Seventh Sunday of Easter  
 Ascension Sunday*

*May 21, 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