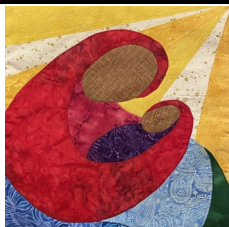


THE WORSHIP OF GOD		
A Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols with Candles and Communion		
December 24, 2023 Five-thirty in the Evening	Memorial Baptist Church Buies Creek, North Carolina	
Hush, all ye sounds of war; ye nations all be still; A voice of heavenly joy steals over vale and hill. O hear the angels sing the captive world’s release: This day is born in Bethlehem the Prince of Peace.		
~ William Henry Draper (1855-1933), Anglican priest and hymnwriter (incl. “All Creatures of Our God and King”)		
GATHERING		
PRELUDE	<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i> Anne McClain, organ	arr. Douglas E. Wagner
CALL TO WORSHIP <i>(responsively)</i>	Meredith Lanier Craddock, <i>Associate Pastor</i> , Psalm 96: 1-4a, 11-13 and Edward Beddingfield, <i>Pastor</i>	
<i>Leader 1:</i> Sing to the Lord a new song; <i>Leader 2:</i> Sing to the Lord, all the earth! <i>People:</i> Sing to the Lord and bless God’s name; tell the Good News of salvation from day to day. Declare the glory of the Lord among all nations; <i>Declare God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.</i> For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; <i>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;</i> Let the world take delight, and all those who live in it. Let the whole creation sing for joy at the presence of the Lord; <i>For the Lord is coming to judge the earth.</i> And God will judge the world with goodness and equity, and all the peoples with truth and grace.		
PROCESSIONAL CAROL	<i>Once in Royal David’s City</i> Amos Royal, soloist	IRBY
<i>(solo)</i> Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed. Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.		
† <i>(all)</i> He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all, And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall. With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.		
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love, For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above. And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.		
† INVOCATION and BIDDING PRAYER	Brittany Montgomery, <i>Ministry Intern</i>	
† BIDDING CAROL 89	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i> stanzas 1 and 3	ADESTE FIDELES

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

CHRIST’S BIRTH FORETOLD		
THE FIRST LESSON	Genesis 3: 8-15 God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.	Debbie Appel
CAROL	<i>The Holly and the Ivy</i> The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.	traditional
<i>Refrain:</i> O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.		
The holly bears a berry as red as any blood And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good.		
THE SECOND LESSON	Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.	Margaret Lanier
CAROL 77	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	HYFRYDOL
THE THIRD LESSON	Micah 5: 2-4 The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.	Jessie Savage
CAROL	<i>O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem</i> Dayna Scarborough, <i>soloist</i> with Kirstyn Scarborough and ensemble Congregation please join on refrain	R. Fisher Boyce
<i>Refrain:</i> O beautiful star of Bethlehem Shine upon us until the glory dawns Give us a lamp to light the way Unto the land of perfect day O beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.		
HOLY COMMUNION		
INVITATION TO THE TABLE	I Corinthians 11: 23-25 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered unto you . . .	Mr. Beddingfield
PRAYER OF CONSECRATION		Mrs. Craddock
COMMUNION	<i>Open first the bread, then the cup, by removing the paper cover.</i> <i>For gluten free, please raise your hand and an usher will bring the elements to you.</i>	
Music for Reflection	<i>What Child Is This?</i>	Austin C. Lovelace
The Bread	Matthew 1: 21 And you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.	Ms. Montgomery
The Cup	Matthew 1: 23 And his name shall be called Emmanuel, which means, God with us.	Mrs. Craddock
The Promise	I Corinthians 11: 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till he comes again.	Mr. Beddingfield

THE BIRTH		
THE FOURTH LESSON	Luke 1: 26-38 The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.	Constance Ramey
SONG OF FAITH	<i>Breath of Heaven</i> Izzy, Hilary and Susan Morrow, <i>vocalists</i>	Amy Grant/Chris Eaton arr. Lloyd Larson
THE FIFTH LESSON	Matthew 1: 18-23 Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.	The Godwin Family
Advent Candle: <i>The Christ Candle</i> Nativity Figure: <i>The Baby Jesus</i>		
† CAROL 103	<i>Away in a Manger</i> stanzas 1 and 2 stanza 3	KIRKPATRICK MUELLER
THE SIXTH LESSON	Luke 2: 8-16 The shepherds go to the manger.	Ms. Montgomery
† CAROL 87	<i>Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come</i> stanzas 1, 3 and 4	ANTIOCH
THE SEVENTH LESSON	John 1: 1-5, 9-14 John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.	Mrs. Craddock
CAROL	<i>Carol of the Children</i> Izzy Morrow, Hilary Morrow, Susan Morrow, Carlie Snyder, <i>vocalists</i>	John Rutter
SENDING		
† LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES	<i>Candles are battery operated. When directed, move the switch at the base of the candle to turn it on.</i> <i>After the service concludes in the courtyard, please turn off the candle and return it to a basket by the door.</i>	
† RECESSIONAL CAROL	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i>	STILLE NACHT
Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.		
Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight! Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.		
Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, Love’s pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.		
Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light. With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our king; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.		
† BENEDICTION and DISMISSAL		Mr. Beddingfield



Mother and Child Parament

The Mother and Child parament was originally designed for the First Baptist Church of Asheville by Alice Lewis. Alice has kindly extended permission to us to share her design. Jac and Kathy Whatley created this version with many of the fabrics used in other paraments during the church year. The Whatleys give this to Memorial Baptist in gratitude to God for their grandsons, Ryder, Brody and Davis.

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Members: 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

Family and Friends: Family of Victor Das (father of Joseph Das); Rev. David Cromer (friend of Greg and Anne McClain); 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,

December 2023 Calendar

- 25 Merry Christmas
Church Office Closed for Holiday
26 Church Office Closed for Holiday
27 * No Wednesday Night Activities
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

Missions Mailbox



Please stop by the Missions Mailbox to pick up your cards.



An offering basket is placed at the exit doors of the sanctuary for tonight's service.

A NOTE ABOUT YEAR END GIVING

In planning your year-end 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.



Memorial Baptist Church
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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



A Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols with Candles and Communion

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