

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024  
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church  
Buies Creek, North Carolina

Hush, all you sounds of war,  
you 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.

No more divided be,  
you families of the earth;  
Old enmity forget,  
old friendships have new birth.  
In the new year of God  
let love and joy increase:  
This day is born in Bethlehem  
the Prince of Peace.

~ William H. Draper (ad.), 1855-1933, English clergyman  
and hymnwriter ("All Creatures of Our God and King").

### GATHERING

PRELUDE

*God Rest Ye Merry* arr. Lani Smith  
Susan Simpson, *guest organist*  
David Johnson, *trumpet*

† OPENING SENTENCE

Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*

Isaiah 9: 2, 6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who  
dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given,  
and the government will be upon his shoulder;  
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

† PROCESSIONAL CAROL 94

*Angels, From the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE  
stanzas 1, 2 and 4

† INVOCATION and WELCOME

Mr. Beddingfield

"The Coming of the Kingdom,"

*The Encyclopedia of Prayer and Praise*, ed. Mark Water,  
Hendrickson, Peabody MA, 2004, p. 188

Eternal God, who lives from forever to forever, yet who was born in a manger,  
and in whose perfect reign no sword is drawn except the sword of righteousness,  
and no strength is known except the strength of love:

As you once walked among us shedding your light and truth, so now we pray you  
To spread abroad mightily your Spirit, until all peoples and ranks,  
all nations and creeds, are gathered under one banner, of the Prince of Peace,  
and as children of the one God and Father of us all.  
This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and dominion  
now and forever; **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*responsively*) Meredith Lanier Craddock, *Associate Pastor*  
Micah 5: 2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel;  
**And his origin is from of old, from ancient days.**  
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God;

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

**And they shall dwell secure;**  
For now he shall be great, even to the ends of the earth;  
**And this shall be peace.**

### WAITING

Of the Father's Love

*A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent*  
Words by Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th c.,  
Tr. John M. Neale & Henry W. Baker  
Music by Joel Raney

FOURTH SUNDAY: *Prince of Peace*

Debbie Appel,  
Heather Giunta and Jon Gehrig

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (*please sing with choir as directed*)

Of the Father's Love  
Congregational part:

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more, Em - man - u - el.  
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LITANY (*responsively*)

During Advent, we wait for the one promised in Scripture.

**And he will be called Prince of Peace.**

We wait for the one who can turn discord into harmony.

**And he will be called Prince of Peace.**

We wait for the one who can replace hate with love, and anger with understanding.

**And he will be called Prince of Peace.**

We wait for the one who can replace division with unity, and war with peace.

**And he will be called Prince of Peace.**

CANDLE LIGHTING: The Candle of *Peace*

CONCLUDING PRAYER

### PROCLAIMING

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 11: 1-4a, 5-9  
And a little child shall lead them.

Mr. Beddingfield  
and Mrs. Craddock

GOSPEL

Luke 2: 8-14  
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude  
of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all."

Mr. Beddingfield

\* *Following the Gospel lesson, children from age 3 through 3rd grade may meet  
Mrs. Meredith at the back of the sanctuary to leave for Kids' Church.  
Parents may pick up their children in the church library after the service.*

ANTHEM

*Westminster Carol*

arr. Carl Nygard

SERMON

*Conflict Resolution*

Mr. Beddingfield

### RESPONDING

† CAROL FOR MEDITATION 120 *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* KINGSFOLD  
stanzas 1, 3 and 4

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

Mr. Beddingfield

*What Child Is This?*  
Mrs. Simpson

arr. John Innes

### SENDING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Mr. Beddingfield

† CAROL OF SENDING 93

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*  
stanzas 1, 3 and 4

CAROL

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY

Mr. Beddingfield

† BENECTION

Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE

*Ding Dong! Merrily on High*  
Mrs. Simpson

arr. Mary McDonald

### PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

**Members:** Isla Brown, Doris Eller, Linda Smith, Carolyn Walker, Betty Wallace

**Family and Friends:** Mary McClain (*mother of Greg McClain*); Rosa Paquette (*friend of Susan Johnson*); Karon Mathews (*friend of Lorrie Pope*); Kelly McLamb (*daughter of Jerry and Betty Wallace*); Lee Lanier (*father of Meredith Craddock*); Tom Patton (*neighbor of Ed Beddingfield*); International teachers and their families

**Aldersgate Senior Living Center (Charlotte, NC):** Louise Taylor

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

**Deacons for December 2024:** Charlotte Riewestahl and Olivia Scarborough  
**Deacons for January 2025:** Lisa Lanier and Tom Spainhour

**Ushers Today:** Cherry DeVane, Chad Godwin, Derek Hogan and Jeff Pope  
**Ushers Dec. 29:** Brandon Brown, Bob Cisneros, Adam English and Miles West

**Kids' Church Today:** Meredith Craddock  
**Kids' Church Dec. 29:** (*need volunteer*)

**Nursery today:** Charlotte Riewestahl  
**Nursery Dec. 29:** Charlotte Riewestahl

TODAY, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Friends Class - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Sarah's Open Door Class - Sunday School:** *No Class Today*  
**Children - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m. (Library)  
**Youth - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m. (Family Life Center)  
**Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
**Kids' Church:** during worship (Library)  
**Fireside at Memorial:** 7 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  
*Please bring Christmas desserts or treats to share afterward.*

TUESDAY, December 24<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Eve Service:** 5:30 p.m.

**Lessons and Carols, Candles and Communion**

WEDNESDAY, December 25<sup>th</sup>

**Merry Christmas**

*Church Office Closed for Holiday*

THURSDAY, December 26<sup>th</sup>

*Church Office Closed for Holiday*

**DECEMBER 2024**

**29 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. (Family Life Center)  
**Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
**Kids' Church:** during worship (Library)

**JANUARY 2025**

**1 Happy New Year**  
*Church Office Closed for Holiday*  
**\* No Wednesday Night Activities**

**5 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. (Family Life Center)  
**Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
**\* No Kids' Church Today**

*The Floral Committee will be taking down Christmas decorations today following the worship service. If you can, please stay and help.*

**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 31, 2024** (or postmarked by December 31, 2024) in order to be reported as a 2024 gift.

**Ways to Donate to MBC:**

- **Offering plates** during the Offertory portion of our service.
  - Mailing a **check** payable to: *Memorial Baptist Church*  
P.O. Box 485  
Buies Creek, NC 27506
  - \*Our website at [www.memorialbcnc.org](http://www.memorialbcnc.org) by clicking the **Donate** tab.
  - \*Scanning the **QR Code** shown here on your mobile device.
- \*(If you want 100% of your donation to benefit MBC, please increase your gift by 3% to help cover the transaction expenses.)*



**Missions Mailbox**

MBC Mission Kids are hosting their annual **Missions Mailbox** through TODAY.



Missions Mailbox is offered for you to be able to "mail" a Christmas card to someone in our congregation. The mailbox is set up in the narthex. The cost to "mail" a card is still only **25¢** each.  
All the money raised will go to support a mission project.

**CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS**

- **Clothes Closet:** Next date TBD
- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting **non-perishable foods**  
*\*(Egg cartons are no longer needed at this time.)\**  
Needed for December -- **Peanut Butter**  
*Monetary donations to MBC are also welcome; designate as 'Food Pantry.'*
- **Buddy Backpack:** collecting **sandwich crackers "nabs"**  
*Monetary donations to MBC are also welcome; designate as 'Buddy Backpack.'*
- **Belts for HCMS:** *Donations of used men's or boys' belts that can be used for students at the school.*

**Memorial Baptist Church**

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[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**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
*December 22, 2024*

*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  
Ashley Nelson, Administrative Assistant  
Wayne Smith, Custodian