

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

December 24, 2024  
Five-thirty in the Evening

Memorial Baptist Church  
Buies Creek, North Carolina

Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes, the Savior promised long.  
Let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.  
~ Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

### GATHERING AND WAITING

CAROLS IN THE COURTYARD

Duwayne Grimm, *trumpet*

PRELUDE

*Carol Medley*  
Anne McClain, *organ*

traditional

† OPENING SENTENCE Isaiah 9: 2, 6 Meredith Lanier Craddock, *Associate Pastor*  
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 *Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

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.

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

Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*

† BIDDING CAROL 89

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
stanzas 1 and 2

ADESTE FIDELES

ADVENT WREATH

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

Christmas Eve: *Emmanuel*

Trinity Kelly, Lee and Margaret Lanier

Congregational Response (*please sing with choir as directed*)

Of the Father's Love  
Congregational part:

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Litany (*responsively*)

We conclude our Advent journey by lighting the Christ Candle,  
welcoming the one promised in Scripture.

**He is called Emmanuel, God with us.**

We celebrate the HOPE brought to earth by our Wonderful Counselor.

**He is called Emmanuel, God with us.**

We find strength in the LOVE and power of a Mighty God.

**He is called Emmanuel, God with us.**

We REJOICE in the tender mercy of our Everlasting Father.

**He is called Emmanuel, God with us.**

And in the name of the Prince of Peace we sing of PEACE on earth,  
good will to all people.

**He is called Emmanuel, God with us. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

Candle Lighting: The *Christ* Candle

Concluding Prayer

### PROCLAIMING AND REJOICING

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40: 1-5  
Comfort, comfort ye my people.

Richy Castellanos

Carol (*insert*)

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

PSALM 42

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 12: 1-3  
By you shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Gail Cogdill

Carol 105

*Child in the Manger*  
stanzas 1 and 3

BUNESSAN

THE THIRD LESSON

Micah 5: 2-5a  
But you, Bethlehem.

Quino Mills

† Carol 86

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
stanzas 1 and 3

ST. LOUIS

HOLY COMMUNION

Mr. Beddingfield and Mrs. Craddock

Invitation to the Table

Consecration of the Supper

*When directed open first the bread, then the cup,  
by removing the paper cover. Gluten-free elements  
are located in the center of each tray.*

The Bread

Matthew 1: 20-21

The angel said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

The Cup

Matthew 1: 22-23

All this took place to fulfill what was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which means, 'God with us.'"

The Promise

I Corinthians 11: 26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death – and his birth – till he comes again.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1-7

Ellie Rich

And she gave birth to her first-born son.

Carol 101

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*  
stanzas 1 and 2

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-14  
Shepherds abiding in the field.

Ryan Craddock

† Carol 85

*The First Nowell*  
stanzas 1 and 4

THE FIRST NOWELL

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2: 15-20  
Let us go now even unto Bethlehem.

Alisha Das

Carol

*O Holy Night*  
Susan and Hilary Morrow, *duet*

Adam

THE SEVENTH LESSON

John 1: 1-5, 9-14, 16  
In the beginning was the Word.

Mr. Beddingfield

† Carol 87

*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*  
stanzas 1, 3 and 4

ANTIOCH

### REFLECTING AND SENDING

† LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*Candles are battery operated. When directed,  
move the switch at the base of the candle to turn it on.  
After the service concludes in the courtyard, please turn off  
the candle and return it to a basket by the door.*

† RECESSIONAL CAROL

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

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.

† The congregation is invited to stand.

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

### 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*)

**Aldersgate senior living center (Charlotte, NC):** Louise Taylor

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

*Mrs. Diane Jones wrote a poem about Memorial's Christmas Traditions. She and her husband, Earl, made copies of this poem to be distributed to the congregation as a keepsake.*


*If you haven't received a copy and would like one, there are extra copies in baskets on top of the Missions Mailbox in the narthex.*

### December 2024 Calendar

- 25 *Merry Christmas*  
Church Office Closed for Holiday
- 26 Church Office Closed for Holiday
- 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 Calendar

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




## 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 post-marked 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.)





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

### Missions Mailbox

Please check the **Missions Mailbox** to see if you have any Christmas cards left.



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Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm  
Other Staff: By Appointment



# MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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

*December 24, 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.