

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Sunday after Christmas
and the Last Sunday of the Year

December 29, 2024
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church
Buies Creek, North Carolina

How does the soul grow? Not all in a minute:
Now it may lose ground, now it may win it;
Now it resolves, then again the will faileth;
Now it rejoices, and now it bewaileth;
Now its hopes blossom, then they are blighted;
Now it walks purposefully, now gropes benighted.
Fed by discouragements, taught by disaster,
So it goes forward, now slower, now faster,
Till all pain is past, and all failure made whole,
And it is full grown, and the Lord rules the soul.

~ Susan Coolidge, American children's author (1835-1905)

GATHERING

PRELUDE Anne McClain, *Organist*

WELCOME Meredith Lanier Craddock, *Associate Pastor*

† CALL TO WORSHIP *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Paul Baloche
Mariamarta Conrad, *Leader*

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to see you. *(Repeat)*

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory
Pour out your power and love, as we sing Holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you. *(Repeat)*

I want to see you, I want to see you
I want to see you, I want to see you.

† INVOCATION *Author unknown; ad. by Debra Mooney* Mrs. Craddock

O God of the years, the ages and the moments, our times are in your hand.
Thank you for guarding and guiding us, for saving us and bearing with us,
in the year gone by; and make the year ahead, we pray, a happy one:
Not by shielding us from all sorrow and pain,
but by strengthening us for whatever comes;
Not by making our path easy, but by making us sturdy to walk it;
Not by taking hardships from us, but by standing with us through our fears;
Not by sending eternal sunshine, but by keeping our faces bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making life always pleasant,
but by revealing to us the people and circumstances that need us most,
along with the grace to serve them in your name.
O God, in all things be to us hope, love, joy and peace in the year that lies before us.
In Christ's name we pray, **Amen.**

† CAROL OF PRAISE 118 *What Child Is This* GREENSLEEVES

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR *(unison)* Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*
By Thomas Merton

**My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that
I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you,
and I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always,
though I may seem lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(responsively)* Ms. Conrad and Quino,
with congregation

Psalm 90: 1-6, 9-10, 12, 14-17

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
**Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed
the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust; a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past, or a watch in the night.
**You sweep us away; we are like a dream, or grass that is renewed in the morning.
In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**

All our days pass away under your sight; our years come to an end like a sigh.
The years of our life are threescore and ten, or if we are strong, fourscore.
Yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

So teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom.
Satisfy us in the morning with your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Make us glad as many days as we have been afflicted,
as many years as we have seen evil.

Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.
May the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish firmly all that we do.

† GRADUAL HYMN 74 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

PROCLAIMING

EPISTLE Philippians 3: 7-9, 12-16 Mr. Beddingfield
I do not consider that I have made it my own,
but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and
straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal
for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

SERMON *Frontsliding* Mr. Beddingfield
(A sermon for the New Year)

RESPONDING

TESTIMONY IN SONG *Made for More* Wiggins, Early, Smith
Ms. Conrad, *Soloist* and Baldwin

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.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION and PRAYER Mr. Beddingfield, Mrs. McClain

SENDING

† INVITATION and HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 277 HENDON
Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield

† BENEDICTION Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE Mrs. McClain

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given
to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Mary Jane Marshbanks on her birthday,
by her family.*

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: Brandon Brown, Bob Cisneros, Adam English and Miles West
Ushers Jan. 5: Randall Johnson, Susan Johnson, Linda Lunney and Siu-Ki Wong

No Kids' Church Today
No Kids' Church Jan. 5

Nursery today: Charlotte Riewestahl
Nursery Jan. 5: (need volunteer)

TODAY, December 29th

- 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)

WEDNESDAY, January 1st

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

JANUARY 2025

- 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.
- 8 Children's Choir: 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
 Simple Supper - Chili and Baked Potato: 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
 Mission Kids: 6:30 p.m. (Mission Kids Classroom)
 Youth Activity: 6:30 p.m. (Library)
 Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
 Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- 12 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)
- 13 Deacon's Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
- 15 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. (Mission Kids Classroom)
 Youth Activity: 6:30 p.m. (Library)
 Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
 Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

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 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

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



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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 Buies Creek, NC 27506
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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

Happy New Year

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:
 The Lord make His face shine upon thee,
 and be gracious unto thee:
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee,
 and give thee peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

**MEMORIAL
BAPTIST CHURCH**

The Sunday after Christmas
 and the Last Sunday of the Year
 December 29, 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