

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

## Sunday before Epiphany

January 5, 2025  
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church  
Buies Creek, North Carolina

Who were the Wise Men in the long ago?  
Not Herod, fearful lest he lose his throne;  
Not Pharisees, too proud to claim their own;  
Not priests and scribes, whose province was to know;  
Not money-changers, running to and fro –  
But three who traveled, weary and alone,  
With dauntless faith, because before them shone  
The star that led them to a manger low.

~ B. Y. Williams, American poet

### GATHERING

PRELUDE *O Magnify the Lord* arr. Tim Doran  
Anne McClain, organist

WELCOME Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*

† CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*) Meredith Lanier Craddock, *Associate Pastor*  
Psalm 34: 1-3

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
**God's praise shall continually be in my mouth!**  
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
**Let all who are humble hear it and be glad.**  
Come, magnify the Lord with me!  
**And let us exalt God's name together.**

† CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *O Magnify the Lord* Tunney  
Spencer Powell Phillips, *leader*

O magnify, O magnify the Lord with me  
And let us exalt his name together  
O magnify the Lord, O magnify the Lord  
And may his name be lifted high forever!

O worship him, O worship Christ the Lord with me  
And let us exalt his name forever  
O worship Christ the Lord, O worship Christ the Lord  
And may his name be lifted high forever!

King of Kings and Lord of Lords  
And may his name be lifted high forever!

† INVOCATION Mrs. Craddock

† HYMN OF PRAISE 111 *Sing We Now of Christmas* FRENCH CAROL

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE II Corinthians 5: 17 Mr. Beddingfield  
Whoever is in Christ is a new creation;  
the old is passed away, and look! the new is come.

### PROCLAIMING

OLD TESTAMENT (*responsively, pulpit and organ sides*) Mr. Beddingfield  
Isaiah 60: 1-6 and Mrs. Craddock

(PULPIT SIDE) Arise, shine, for your light has come;  
(ORGAN SIDE) *and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*  
For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;  
*but the Lord will arise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you.*

Nations shall come to your light,  
*and kings to the brightness of your dawning.*  
Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you:  
*Your sons shall come from far away,*  
*and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.*

Then you shall see and be radiant;  
*your heart shall thrill and rejoice,*  
Because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
*and the wealth of nations shall come to you.*

A multitude of camels shall cover you:  
*young camels from Midian and Ephah, and those from Sheba also.*  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
*and shall proclaim the year of the Lord.*

GOSPEL Matthew 2: 1-12 Lisa Lanier, *Deacon*  
The Wise Men: *And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.*

ANTHEM *Carols of the Quest* arr. Joseph Martin

EPISTLE Ephesians 3: 1-3a, 5-11 Mr. Beddingfield  
The Mystery of Christ: *That is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*

SERMON *The Road Less Traveled* Mr. Beddingfield

### RESPONDING

VOCAL WITNESS *Here I Am to Worship* Tim Hughes  
Mrs. Phillips, *leader*

Light of the world You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes and let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You

*Chorus* So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
And you're altogether lovely, altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came to the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor *Chorus*

And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross

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 Mr. Beddingfield  
*Follow the Brightest Star* David Paxton  
Mrs. McClain

### SENDING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP Mr. Beddingfield

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH (*insert*) WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT  
*Jesus, the Light of the World*

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield

† BENEDICTION Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE *All Heaven Rejoices* Christina Becket  
Mrs. McClain

### PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

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

**Family and Friends:** Jeff Claus (*friend of Ofe Rockholt*); Mary McClain (*mother of Greg McClain*); Karon Mathews (*friend of Lorrie Pope*); Kelly McLamb (*daughter of Jerry and Betty Wallace*); Lee Lanier (*father of Meredith Craddock*); International teachers and their families

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

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

**Prayers of Comfort** are extended to the family of Greg McClain in the death of his uncle (*and Mary's brother*), Ray Hawkins, on Tuesday, December 31st.

**Deacons for January 2025:** Lisa Lanier and Tom Spainhour  
**Deacons for February 2025:** Dayna Scarborough and Joe Turlington

**Ushers Today:** Randall Johnson, Susan Johnson, Linda Lunney and Siu-Ki Wong  
**Ushers Jan. 12:** Brandon Brown, Bob Cisneros, Adam English and Miles West

**No Kids' Church Today**  
**Kids' Church Jan. 12:** (*need volunteer*)

**Nursery today:** Charlotte Riewestahl  
**Nursery Jan. 12:** (*need volunteer*)

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

**TODAY, January 5<sup>th</sup>**

- 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.*

**WEDNESDAY, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

- 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)

**JANUARY 2025**

- 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.
- 14** Mission Committee Meeting: 6:30 p.m. (Library)
- 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)
- 19** 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)
- 22** Children's Choir: 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)  
Simple Supper - Pizza and Salad: 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  
Mission Kids: 6:30 p.m. (Mission Kids Classroom)  
Youth Activity: 6:30 p.m. (Library)  
**CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING:** 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

**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**

Please stop by the table in the hall to pick up Christmas cards. Mission Kids will count all money collected then will decide what mission project they will do.



**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 January -- **Sliced Pineapple**  
*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**

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**

*Sunday before Epiphany*  
*January 5, 2025*

*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