

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church
Buies Creek, North Carolina

Abraham “called on the name of the Lord” (Gen. 12:8). Luther’s well-known comment is that “whatever your heart clings to and relies upon is properly your God.” Calling on God’s name encompasses the whole of life. On the one hand, to call on the name is the fullness of *praise* (“Call on God’s name . . . sing praises to the Lord,” Psalm 105: 1-2). On the other hand, it is passionate *petition* by those in need (“I suffered distress and anguish; then I called on the name of the Lord,” Psalm 116: 3-4). These two examples reflect the parameters of life and faith: praise and petition, well-being and distress. And in each, there is a turning to Yahweh and to no other.

~ Walter Brueggemann, *Genesis*, INTERPRETATION: A BIBLE COMMENTARY FOR TEACHING AND PREACHING, John Knox Press, Atlanta, 1982, pp. 124-125.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Voluntary on AH, HOLY JESUS* David Lasky
Anne McClain, Organist

WELCOME and † INVOCATION Meredith Lanier Craddock, Associate Pastor

† HYMNS OF PRAISE (in alternation)
34 *The God of Abraham Praise* LEONI
stanzas 1 and 3
323 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* RESTORATION
stanzas 1, 3 and 4

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER Derek Hogan

SEEKING THE LORD

LENTEN CALL TO PRAYER (responsively) Psalm 105: 1-11, 42, 45 Mrs. Craddock

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name, make known God’s deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to the Lord; tell of all God’s wonderful works.

Glory in God’s holy name; let the hearts of all who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord; seek the glory and strength of the Lord continually.

Remember the wonderful works the Lord has done, the miracles and judgments God has uttered, all you offspring of God’s servant Abraham and children of Jacob, God’s chosen ones!

The Lord is our God, whose judgments are in all the earth.

The Lord is mindful of the covenant forever, of the word that was commanded for a thousand generations.

And this is the covenant that the Lord made with Abraham, and swore as a promise to Isaac, and confirmed as a statute to Jacob, and made as an everlasting covenant to Israel, saying,

“To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.”

The Lord has remembered that holy promise made to Abraham, God’s servant. Therefore we keep God’s statutes and observe God’s laws. Praise the Lord!

† The congregation is invited to stand.

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF GRACE fr. Psalm 116: 2-7 Mrs. Craddock

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of death laid hold on me; I suffered anguish and distress. Then I called on the name of the Lord.
Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.
When I was brought low, God saved me.
And because God has inclined his ear to me,
I will call on the Lord as long as I live.
Thanks be to God. **Amen**

ANTHEM *As the Deer* Lloyd Larson

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength and shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you.

You’re my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a King.
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.

* Following the Anthem, children from age 3 through 3rd grade may meet Mrs. Alice and Mrs. Lalia at the back of the sanctuary to leave for Kids’ Church. Parents may pick up their children in the church library after the service.

PROCLAIMING

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 12: 1-9 Tony Cartledge
(with reference to Genesis 15: 1-21)
The covenant with Abraham.

SERMON *The Birth of the Blessing* Dr. Cartledge

RESPONDING

† SONG OF RESPONSE *I Will Call Upon the Lord* M. O’Shields
Charissa English Leader

I will call upon the Lord (I will call upon the Lord)
who is worthy to be praised (who is worthy to be praised);
So shall I be saved from my enemies (So shall I be saved from my enemies)
I will call upon the Lord.

The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock;
And let the God of my salvation be exalted.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and The Lord’s Prayer (unison) Dr. Cartledge

**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 *What Wondrous Love Is This?* Mrs. Craddock
arr. Craig Courtney
Mrs. McClain

SENDING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP Mrs. Craddock

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 465 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* SOJOURNER

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mrs. Craddock

† BENEDICTION Mrs. Craddock

POSTLUDE *Psalm of Glory* Lani Smith
Mrs. McClain

We welcome to our pulpit today Dr. Tony Cartledge. Tony has taught Old Testament, writing, preaching, archaeology, and ministry courses at Campbell Divinity School since 2007. Prior to that he was Editor of the *Biblical Recorder* and pastor of five churches.
In addition to other degrees, Tony earned his PhD from Duke University. He has published numerous articles and more than a dozen books, has written Sunday School lessons for *Nurturing Faith Journal and Bible Studies*, and has just completed a major undertaking, a 12-volume Lectionary-based commentary.
Tony has held several positions in the Baptist World Alliance. He plans to retire after the current school year and is working on a novel. He and his wife, Susan, live in Cary. Perhaps his greatest claim to fame, at least in our community of faith, is that he performed the wedding for Meredith and Ryan Craddock, a testimony to the esteem in which he is held by his students.

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Members: Shea Cunningham, Doris Eller, Carolyn Walker, Linda Smith, Betty Wallace

Family and Friends: Lee Lanier (father of Meredith Craddock); Teresa Roberts; Frances Davis (great-aunt of Mariamarta Conrad); Debbie Johnson (friend of Cindy Avrette); Paul Stiller (father of Susan Morrow); Kelly McLamb (daughter of Jerry & Betty Wallace); International teachers & families

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

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

Deacons for March 2025: Trinity Kelly and Dave Steegar
Deacons for April 2025: Steve DeVane and Tammy Scarborough
Ushers Today: Cherry DeVane, Chad Godwin, Derek Hogan and Jeff Pope
Ushers Mar. 30: Randall Johnson, Ron McLamb, Scotty Scarborough and Lee Turlington
Kids’ Church Today: Alice Thomas & Lalia Turlington
Kids’ Church Mar. 30: (need volunteer)
Nursery today: Charlotte Riewestahl
Nursery Mar. 30: (need volunteer)

TODAY, March 23rd

- 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, March 26th

- Children's Choir:** 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- MISSION COMMITTEE FUNDRAISER DINNER - Chili & Baked Potato:** 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)

MARCH 2025

- 30 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)

APRIL 2025

- 2 Children's Choir:** 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- Simple Supper - Roast Pork and Vegetables:** 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Mission Kids:** 6:30 p.m. (Mission Kids Classroom)
Led by Dr. Adam English's Christian Theology class
- Bible Study:** 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Led by Dr. Adam English's Christian Theology class
- Youth Activity:** 6:30 p.m. (Library)
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- 5 CLOTHES CLOSET:** 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (Family Life Center)
Anyone willing to help ahead of time, please contact the church office.

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
 Emails: edb@memorialbcnc.org
 meredith@memorialbcnc.org
 ashley@memorialbcnc.org
 Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm
 Other Staff: By Appointment

Financial Position as of 2/28/25

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| » Total support | \$ 74,270 |
| » Total expenditures | \$ (65,057) |
| » Support exceeds expenditures | \$ 9,213 |
| » Total 2025 Budget Proposal | \$ 418,220 |
| » Percent of year passed | 16% |
| » Support needed to meet budget | \$ 67,603 |
| » Undesignated support received as of 2/28/25 | \$ 72,171 |
| » Operating expenses offset received from Stokes Day Care | \$ 2,550 |
| » Support exceeds budgeted needs as of 2/28/25 | \$ 7,118 |

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.)*



Wednesday April 2 and April 9



Campbell University students from Dr. Adam English's *Introduction to Theology* class will lead both the adult group (*Beatitudes & Sermon on the Mount*) & the children's group (*Beatitudes & Fruits of the Spirit*). Please welcome and get to know these students as we encourage one another in the faith.

CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS

During the month of March there will be a member of the Library Committee available after Sunday worship services and on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to help you find and check out books.



For March, we are collecting:
Shampoo, Body Wash and Soap
(men & women or gender neutral)

Place items in the plastic tote in the hallway.

We also welcome monetary donations to go toward the purchase of backpacks and Bibles. Designate your donation as *'Backpacks.'*

CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

- **Clothes Closet:** April 5, 2025
- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting **non-perishable foods**
(Egg cartons are not needed at this time.)
Needed for March -- **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

Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 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