

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church
Buies Creek, North Carolina

Circumcision, as a religious symbol, give important concrete visibility to a theological affirmation. What is said and thought must also be *done*, not only for dramatic and educational effect, but because “belonging” is in fact accomplished in this act. Belonging to this strange community and trusting in a scandalous promise requires a mark of distinction. Circumcision for the Israelites, like baptism for Christians, announces that they belong only to this community, and only to this God.

~ Walter Brueggemann, *Genesis, INTERPRETATION: A BIBLE COMMENTARY FOR TEACHING AND PREACHING*, John Knox Press, Atlanta, 1982, p. 155 (ad.).

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* Marilyn Thompson
Anne McClain, Organist

WELCOME and † INVOCATION Edward Beddingfield, Pastor
Ad. fr. The Book of Common Prayer.

Almighty and merciful God,
you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and wandering affections of sinners.
Grant us your grace to learn to love what you command, to desire what you promise,
and to see reflected in the symbols and practices of our faith those things
that bind us to you.
Among the swift and varied changes of the world, all that competes for our
attention and loyalty and distracts us from the One to whom we belong,
help us to affix our eyes where true joy and peace and salvation may be found.
This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who is our highest joy,
and our deepest peace, and our surest salvation. **Amen.**

† HYMN OF PRAISE 594 *Lift High the Cross* CRUCIFER

SEEKING THE LORD

LENTEN CALL TO PRAYER Jeremiah 29: 11-14 Meredith Lanier Craddock,
Associate Pastor

plans for welfare and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope.
When you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.
When you search for me, you will find me;
if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord.
And I will restore your fortunes, and gather you from all the nations
and all the places where I have scattered you, says the Lord;
and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you away into exile.

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF GRACE II Corinthians 5: 17 Mrs. Craddock
Whoever is in Christ is a new creation;
the old is passed away, and look! The new has come.

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

PROCLAIMING

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 17: 1-14 Mrs. Craddock
God said to him: As for me, this is my covenant with you:
you shall become the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
God said to Abraham: As for you, this is my covenant,
which you shall keep; every male among you shall be circumcised.

† WORSHIP SONG *Cornerstone* Morgan/Davis
Mariamarta Conrad, Leader

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness seems to hide his face I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.

(Chorus) Christ alone, cornerstone, weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm he is Lord, Lord of all.

When Christ shall come with trumpets sound oh, may I still in him be found.
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

(Chorus)

* Following the Worship Song, 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.

NEW TESTAMENT Ephesians 2: 11-19 Mr. Beddingfield
Christ has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances . . .
reconciling us all to God in one body through the cross.

SERMON *Marked for Life* Mr. Beddingfield

RESPONDING

ANTHEM *At the Cross* Mary McDonald

Alas, and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred head for such a sinner as I?
Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in,
when Christ, the mighty Maker died, died for human creatures' sin.

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
it was there by faith I received my sight, at the cross.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
here, Lord, I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do.

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 *Meditation on VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS*
Mrs. McClain

Mr. Beddingfield
Douglas E. Wagner

SENDING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP Mr. Beddingfield

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 144 O WALY WALY
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield

† BENEDICTION Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE *Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing* Todd Kendall
Mrs. McClain

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given
to the glory of God and in celebration of
the birthdays of Jack and Joe Turlington.*

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

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

Family and Friends: Teresa Roberts; Rob Gilchrist; Lee Lanier (*father of Meredith Craddock*); 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

Prayers of Comfort are extended to the family of Carolyn Walker who died Friday, March 28th.

Deacons for March 2025: Trinity Kelly and Dave Steegar
Deacons for April 2025: Steve DeVane and Tammy Scarborough

Ushers Today: Randall Johnson, Ron McLamb, Scotty Scarborough and Lee Turlington

Ushers Apr. 6: Randall Johnson, Susan Johnson, Linda Lunney and Siu-Ki Wong

Kids' Church Today: Meredith Craddock
Kids' Church Apr. 6: (need volunteer)

Nursery today: Carrie Royal
Nursery Apr. 6: (need volunteer)

TODAY, March 30th

- 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)

MONDAY, March 31st

- Growth Endowment Committee Meeting:** 6:00 p.m. (Library)

WEDNESDAY, April 2nd

- 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)

SATURDAY, April 5th

- 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.


APRIL 2025

- 6 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 will be available due to no communion**

- 9 Children's Choir:** 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- Simple Supper - Breakfast:** 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)
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13 PALM SUNDAY 

THIS SATURDAY, April 5th
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Family Life Center



Volunteers are needed. Please contact the church office if you can help.

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.)*



CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS

Thanks to all who contributed money or purchased books for the church library!! You are invited to check out books any time. Please use the designated roster by the library door. If you need assistance, see Beverley, Lisa, Donna or Lalia.

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.



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

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meredith@memorialbcnc.org

ashley@memorialbcnc.org

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm

Other Staff: By Appointment



MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 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