

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 21, 2025  
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church  
Buies Creek, North Carolina

There is almost unanimous agreement that the book of Amos is the earliest of the prophetic books. The “unacceptable message” first announced in Amos has no predecessors that we can identify. For this reason the book is one of the most important turning points in the history of the religion of Israel.

But during the many intervening centuries, Amos has been one of the *least* influential books. Both Jewish and Christian interpreters typically sought messages of comfort and hope in the Old Testament, and there is little of that to be found in Amos. The central message of the book, “The end has come upon my people Israel” (8:2), is not something many theologians or preachers have known how to use.

~ Donald E. Gowan (ad.), professor of Old Testament, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, “The Book of Amos,” in *The New Interpreter’s Bible*, Vol. VII (Abingdon Press: Nashville, TN, 1996), 339-340.

### GATHERING

PRELUDE *Jesus Loves Me/Jesus Loves the Little Children* arr. Jason Payne  
Anne McClain, Organ

WELCOME Mariamarta Conrad

† CONGREGATION INTROIT *From the Rising of the Sun* Worship Song  
Ms. Conrad, Leader

From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same  
The name of the Lord shall be praised. (*Repeat*)

Praise ye the Lord, Praise ye the Lord.

From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same  
The name of the Lord shall be praised.

† PSALTER READING (*responsively*) Edward Beddingfield, Pastor  
Psalm 113: 1-8, 9b

Praise the Lord!

**Praise, O servants of the Lord: praise the name of the Lord!**

Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time on and forevermore.

**From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same,  
the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

The Lord is high above all nations;

**The glory of the Lord is high above the heavens.**

Who is like the Lord God, who is seated on high?

**Who is like the Lord God, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?**

The Lord raises the poor from the dust;

**The Lord lifts the needy from the ash heap.**

Praise, O servants of the Lord: praise the name of the Lord!

**Praise the Lord!**

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

† INVOCATION Ad. fr. The Book of Common Prayer,  
Collects for Proper 24 and 25 Mr. Beddingfield

Almighty and everlasting God,  
in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations:  
Prosper among us your works of mercy,  
and increase in us the gifts of faith, hope and love;  
so that, as we hope to receive all that you promise,  
we also will learn to love all that you command.  
This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

† HYMN OF PRAISE 27 *All Creatures of Our God and King* LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
Stanzas 1, 2, 3 & 4

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF GRACE Meredith Lanier Craddock,  
*Associate Pastor*

### PROCLAIMING

NEW TESTAMENT Acts 4: 32-37 Mrs. Craddock  
There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned  
lands or houses sold them and brought what was sold and laid it at  
the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

ANTHEM *Lord, I Know I Been Changed* arr. Larry Shackley

Lord, I know I been changed. Lord, I know I been changed.  
Lord, I know I been changed. Angels in heaven done signed my name.

If you don’t believe that I have been redeemed,  
Just follow me down to that ol’ Jordan stream.

I went to the river and the water was cold.  
It chilled my body but not my soul.

*\* Following the Anthem, children from age 4 through 2nd 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.*

OLD TESTAMENT Amos 8: 1-8a, 9-10 Mr. Beddingfield  
Hear this, you who trample upon the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land:  
The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob,  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

SERMON *An Unacceptable Message* Mr. Beddingfield

### RESPONDING

† SONG OF RESPONSE *Jesus, Friend of Sinners* Mark Hall, Matthew West  
Ms. Conrad, solo arr. Casting Crowns

*Congregation please stand and sing when directed.*

Oh, Jesus, friend of sinners  
Open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers  
Let our hearts be led by mercy  
Help us reach with open hearts and open doors  
Oh, Jesus, friend of sinners  
Break our hearts for what breaks yours.

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 *Assurance* Mr. Beddingfield  
Mrs. McClain arr. J.B. Taylor

### SENDING

INVITATION TO FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP Mr. Beddingfield

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 396 *When the Church of Jesus* KING’S WESTON

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield

† BENEDICTION Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE *Prelude and Fugue on LET ALL THE WORLD  
IN EVERY CORNER SING, MY GOD AND KING* Eugenio Gall  
Mrs. McClain

### PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

**Members:** Sean Cunningham, Kay Hedgepeth, Betty Wallace, Hilary Morrow, Kathryn King & Maxie Gleaton (*husband of Kathryn King*), Theresa Batten, Jeanne Barker, Michael Cogdill, Earl Savage, Doris Eller, Linda Smith

**Family and Friends:** Family of Doug McKnight; Michelle Brugger (*niece of Lalia Turlington*); Johnny Rowe (*brother-in-law of Joyce Sills*); Mike Hodgins (*brother-in-law of Tricia Scarboro*); Family of Sue Pattillo (*grandmother of Skyler Pattillo*); Shane & Stephanie Pattillo (*parents of Skyler Pattillo*); Tammy McNeil (*friend of Jeanne Barker*); Roberta Blackwell (*sister of Anne McClain*); Kelly McLamb (*daughter of Jerry & Betty Wallace*); International teachers & families

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

**Deacons for September 2025:** Steve DeVane and Olivia Scarborough  
**Deacons for October 2025:** Sonya Godwin and Randall Johnson

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

**Ushers Sept. 28:** Cherry DeVane, Chad Godwin, Derek Hogan and Jeff Pope

**Kids’ Church Today:** Meredith Craddock

**Kids’ Church Sept. 28:** Meredith Craddock

**Nursery Today:** Carrie Royal

**Nursery Sept. 28:** Charlotte Riewestahl

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Katie Morgan  
on what would have been her 100th birthday, September 22nd,  
by Mary Morgan, Margaret Morgan Holmes and Rupert Tart.

**TODAY, September 21<sup>st</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)
- Kids' Church:** during worship (Library)

**WEDNESDAY, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

- Children's Choir:** 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- MEMORIAL IN ACTION COMMITTEE FUNDRAISER DINNER - Indian Fusion:**  
Indian cuisine prepared by Joseph Das: 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  
Proceeds will benefit the Appalachian Backpack ministry.
- Mission Kids:** 6:30 p.m. (Classroom)
- Youth Activity:** 6:30 p.m. (Library)
- Adult Bible Study:** 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

**SATURDAY, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Graveside Service for Doug McKnight:** 2:00 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

- 28 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)



The Global Missions change boxes may be placed in the appropriate baskets in the church foyer when they are full.



**CUSTODIAN POSITION**

Wayne Smith plans to retire at the end of the year. As much as we hate to see him leave, we wish him happiness in his retirement.

We, the Personnel Committee, are now actively pursuing the best person to replace Wayne. If you know of a good quality candidate, please make the Personnel Committee aware.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

- Ron McLamb, Chair
- Cindy Avrette
- Mike Cogdill
- Wanda Hardison
- Glenn Jonas
- Tom Spainhour
- Joe Turlington

**Financial Position as of 8/31/25**

» Total support	\$ 327,967
» Total expenditures	\$ (347,896)
» Total expenditures exceed total support	\$ (19,929)
» Total 2025 Budget Proposal	\$ 418,220
» Percent of year passed	67%
» Undesignated support needed to meet budget	\$ 278,431
» Undesignated support received as of 8/31/25	\$ 246,443
» Operating expenses offset received from Stokes Day Care	\$ 5,100
» Shortfall undesignated giving compared to budget	\$ (26,888)

**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.



**APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS**

For September, we are collecting **POP-TOP Canned Food Items \*** such as Vienna sausage, ravioli, beef stew, tuna, vegetables, fruit, etc. *(no plastic containers)*

**\* [3 canned food items are required for each backpack] \***

**AND**

**INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY**  
*(no chocolate or candy with nuts)*

*\* Please make sure all expiration dates are after December 2025. \**

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**

- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting **non-perishable foods**  
*\*(Egg cartons are not needed at this time.)\**  
Needed for September -- **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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edb@memorialbcnc.org  
Emails: [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



"The Prophet Amos," Gustave Doré, in *The Bible*, colorized from an 1865 engraving.

**MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 21, 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