

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*Third Sunday of Advent*

## Something Old, Something New

A Journey through Advent and Epiphany based on the Gospel of Matthew and the Prophet Isaiah

December 14, 2025  
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church  
Buies Creek, North Carolina

## GATHERING

PRELUDE *Join the Triumph of the Skies* Douglas Wagner  
Anne McClain, *organist*

CALL TO WORSHIP Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*, and  
Meredith Lanier Craddock, *Associate Pastor*  
Based on a poem by English playwright Laurence Hausman (1865-1959);  
Isaiah 9: 2 and 6; and the hymn, "We've a Story to Tell," (1896),  
by H. Ernest Nichol.

Light looked down and beheld Darkness: / "That is where I will go," said Light.  
Peace looked down and beheld Conflict: / "That is where I will go," said Peace.  
Love looked down and beheld Hatred: / "That is where I will go," said Love.  
So came Light, and shone: / *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*  
So came Peace, and gave rest: / *His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,*  
*the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*  
So came Love, and brought life: / *And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,*  
*the kingdom of love and light.*

† PROCESSIONAL CAROL 76 VENI EMMANUEL  
*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

† INVOCATION Mrs. Craddock

## WAITING

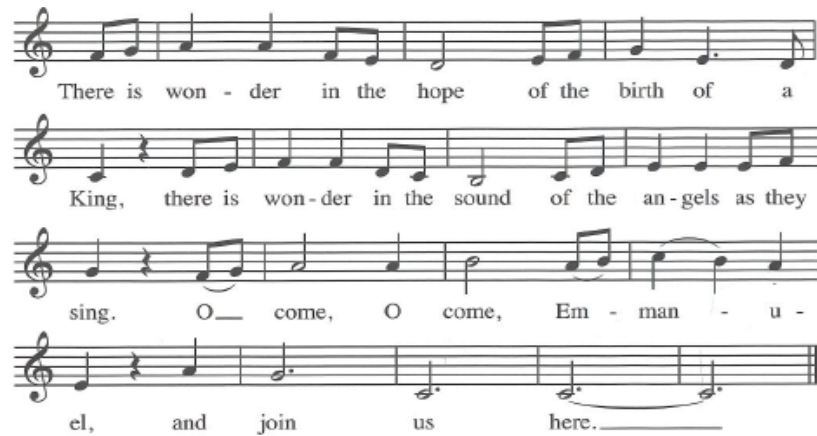
CHORAL MEDITATION *The Wonder of Christmas* Joel Raney  
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent  
Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF MARY AND JOSEPH'S CANDLE: *Love* David and Betty Lynne Johnson  
Kerry and Sue Johnson

Isaiah 7: 14  
"A virgin shall conceive and bear a son."

Luke 1: 39 and 46-56  
The Magnificat: "My soul magnifies the Lord."

## † CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



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## PROCLAIMING

GOSPEL Matthew 1: 18-25 Mrs. Craddock  
An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,  
"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,  
for the child conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."

REFLECTION IN SONG *The Cherry Tree Carol* Medieval English  
Susan Morrow, Mariamarta Conrad, arr. Peter, Paul & Mary  
and Ed Beddingfield

SERMON *In the Middle of the Night* Mr. Beddingfield

## RESPONDING

ANTHEM *In The Bleak Midwinter* arr. Joel Raney

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long, long ago.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill!  
The Virgin's tender arms enfolding,  
warm and safe the child are holding.  
Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill!

What can I give him, poor as I am.  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.  
What can I give him? Give him my heart.

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 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Mr. Beddingfield  
Mrs. McClain arr. David Lanz  
Kerry Johnson, *piano*

## SENDING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP Mr. Beddingfield

† HYMN OF SENDING 93 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL  
Stanzas 1, 2 and 4

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield

† BENEDICTION Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE *Postlude on ANTIOCH* Gerald Peterson  
Mrs. McClain

## PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

**Members:** Joyce Sills, David & Trula Gray, Hilary Morrow, Susan Cannady, Kay Hedgepeth, Betty Wallace, Kathryn King & Maxie Gleaton (*husband of Kathryn King*), Doris Eller, Linda Smith

**Family and Friends:** Harriet Whiteman; Roberta Blackwell (*sister of Anne McClain*); Emily Caldwell (*niece of Theresa Batten*); International teachers & families

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

**Prayers of Comfort** are extended to the family of Michael Cogdill who died Wednesday, December 10th.

**Prayers of Comfort** are also extended to the family of Greg McClain in the death of his aunt, Derrell Sears, on Friday, December 12th.

**Deacons for December 2025:** Dayna Scarborough and Tom Spainhour  
**Deacons for January 2026:** Carrie Royal and Joe Turlington

**Ushers Today:** Bob Cisneros, Adam English and Miles West  
**Ushers Dec. 21:** Randall Johnson, Ron McLamb, Scotty Scarborough and Lee Turlington


*No Kids' Church During Advent*

**Nursery Today:** Carrie Royal  
**Nursery Dec. 21:** (*need volunteer*)

The rose in the sanctuary this morning is placed to welcome

**Ada Weslee Stone**

born to Jeroen and Liz Stone  
on December 2, 2025.  
She weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz.



**TODAY, December 14<sup>th</sup> - Third Sunday of Advent**

- 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 During Advent**

Reception for Wayne Smith: immediately following service  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 12:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)  
Buies Creek Christmas Parade: 4 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

- No Children's Choir
- No Simple Supper
- Churchwide Caroling: Meet at the church at 5:30 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

**DECEMBER 2025**

**21 Fourth Sunday of Advent**


- 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)
- Chancel Choir Cantata: 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
"Let the Whole World Sing"  
with the Choir and Chamber Ensemble
- No Kids' Church During Advent
- Fireside at Memorial: 7 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

**24 Christmas Eve Service: 5:30 p.m.**  
Lessons and Carols, Candles and Communion

**Fireside at Memorial**

Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Here's your chance to showcase your talents . . .  
playing an instrument, singing, dancing, juggling, comedy, etc.  
To contribute your own unique talent, see Phillip Morrow today.  
Please bring Christmas desserts or treats to share afterward.



**Financial Position as of 11/30/25**

» Total support	\$ 419,138
» Total expenditures	\$ (433,122)
» Total expenditures exceed total support	\$ (13,984)
» Total 2025 Budget Proposal	\$ 418,220
» Percent of year passed	92%
» Undesignated support needed to meet budget	\$ 382,700
» Undesignated support received as of 11/30/25	\$ 331,828
» Operating expenses offset received from Stokes Day Care	\$ 10,200
» Shortfall undesignated giving compared to budget	\$ (40,672)

**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.



In planning year-end giving, please be reminded that all contributions need to be received in the church office by noon on **December 31, 2025** (or post-marked by December 31, 2025) in order to be reported as a 2025 gift.

**Mission Mailbox**

MBC Mission Kids are hosting their annual **Mission Mailbox** through Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mission Mailbox is offered for you to "mail" a Christmas card to someone in our congregation. The mailbox will be set up in the narthex. The cost to "mail" a card is **25¢** per card.

All the money raised will go to support a mission project.



**CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS**

- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting non-perishable foods  
Needed for December - - **Canned Fruit** (any kind)  
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 new or used men's or boys' belts that can be used for students at the school.

**Memorial Baptist Church**  
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Website: [www.memorialbcnc.org](http://www.memorialbcnc.org)  
edb@memorialbcnc.org  
Emails: meredith@memorialbcnc.org  
ashley@memorialbcnc.org  
Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm  
Other Staff: By Appointment



**MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 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