

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*The Sunday before the Epiphany*

January 4, 2026  
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church  
Buies Creek, North Carolina

High in the heavens a single star  
Of pure, imperishable light;  
Out on the desert strange and far  
Dim riders in the night;  
Above a hilltop a sudden song  
Like trumpets down the sky;  
And all to welcome One so young  
He scarce could lift a cry!

Stars rise and set, that star shines on:  
Songs fail, but one still beats  
Through all the ages come and gone,  
In fields and city streets.  
And we who catch the Christmas gleam,  
Like children on a hill,  
We know, we know it is no dream –  
God lives among us still!

~ Nancy Byrd Turner (1880-1971), American poet and editor.

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

*O Magnify the Lord*  
Anne McClain, organ

arr. Tim Doran

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Siyahamba* traditional South African  
(The congregation will please stand and sing when directed.)

We are marching in the Light of God,  
We are marching in the Light of God. (repeat)  
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,  
We are marching in the Light of God. (repeat)

† INVOCATION

Ad. fr. *The Book of Common Prayer*,  
Collects for the Epiphany and the  
Second Sunday after Christmas Day  
Edward Beddingfield, Pastor

O God of the universe and all its stars, and of the earth and all its peoples:  
By the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth.  
Lead us, we pray, who know you now by faith, into the light of your eternal presence,  
where we will see your glory face to face;  
and grant, we pray, that as on that day we will experience you in all your fullness,  
so may we even now share in the divine life of the One who humbled himself  
to share our humanity: Jesus Christ our Lord,  
in whose name we pray and in whose light we walk. **Amen.**

† HYMN OF PRAISE 117

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

DIX

WELCOME

Mr. Beddingfield

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Mr. Beddingfield

† *Worshippers are invited to stand.*

## PROCLAIMING

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 60: 1-7, 19-20

Joseph Das, reader

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
**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;**  
**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;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

**They shall bring gold and frankincense, and proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you,  
the rams of Nebaioth shall serve you;

**They shall be acceptable on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house.**

Then the sun shall no longer be your light by day,  
nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night;

**But the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.**

Your sun shall no more go down, or your moon withdraw itself;

**For the Lord will be your everlasting light,**  
**and your days of mourning shall be ended.**

REFLECTION IN SONG

*Brightest and Best*

ME Gusta Music, arr. Kathy Mattea

Mariamarta Conrad, vocalist

GOSPEL

Matthew 2: 1-12  
The Wise Men.

Meredith Lanier Craddock, Associate Pastor

SERMON

*All the Wrong People*

Mr. Beddingfield

## RESPONDING

† SONG OF RESPONSE (insert)

*Shine On Us*

SHINE ON US

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Mrs. Craddock

**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

*We Three Kings*  
Mrs. McClain

Mr. Beddingfield  
arr. Tim Doran

## SENDING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Mr. Beddingfield

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 121

MARGARET

*Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY

Mr. Beddingfield

† BENEDICTION

Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE

*Christmas Shines*  
Mrs. McClain

arr. Tim Doran

## 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:** Jerry Barber (*nephew of Jeanne Barker*); 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

*In order to keep our prayer list current, we will place names on the list for one month. After one month we will remove names from the list. If there is a need for a name to be on the list for a longer period, please notify us and we will be happy to comply.*

**Deacons for January 2026:** Carrie Royal and Joe Turlington  
**Deacons for February 2026:** Lisa Lanier and Dave Steegar

**Ushers Today:** Randall Johnson, Susan Johnson, Linda Lunney and Siu-Ki Wong  
**Ushers Jan. 11:** Bob Cisneros, Adam English and Miles West

**No Kids' Church Today**  
**Kids' Church Jan. 11:** (need volunteer)

**Nursery Today:** Carrie Royal  
**Nursery Jan. 11:** Michele Phelps

## TODAY, January 4<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

*The Floral Committee will be taking down Christmas decorations today following the worship service. If you can, please stay and help.*

## WEDNESDAY, January 7<sup>th</sup>

- Children's Choir: 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- Simple Supper - Nacho Bar: 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Elementary and Middle School Students: 6:30 p.m. (Mission Kids Class)
- Youth Activity: 6:30 p.m. (Library)
- Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

## JANUARY 2026

- 11** 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
- 12** Deacon's Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
- 14** Children's Choir: 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)  
Simple Supper - Breakfast: 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  
Elementary and Middle School Students: 6:30 p.m. (Mission Kids Class)  
Youth Activity: 6:30 p.m. (Library)  
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- 18** 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)
- 21** Children's Choir: 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)  
Simple Supper - Pizza and Salad: 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  
Elementary and Middle School Students: 6:30 p.m. (Mission Kids Class)  
Youth Activity: 6:30 p.m. (Library)  
Bible Study: 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.



Dear Church Family,

It has been a privilege to serve here at Memorial. Caring for the church where we worship together has been more than a job; it has been a ministry. Thank you for the gifts, the prayers, the fellowship, and the opportunity to be a part of this family. I look forward to seeing how God continues to bless this church in the years to come.

Blessings,  
Wayne Smith

### Mission Mailbox



Please check the **Mission Mailbox** to see if you have Christmas cards.

### CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting **non-perishable foods** Needed for January -- **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 new or used men's or boys' belts that can be used for students at the school.*

#### Memorial Baptist Church

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ashley@memorialbcnc.org

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

Other Staff: By Appointment



# MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

*The Sunday before the Epiphany  
January 4, 2026*

*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  
Xiomara Felix, Custodian