

# MEDITATION

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

John 8:31-36

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

This week we remember and celebrate the freedom we have as American people. Together, we honor and celebrate the women and men who, over the genera-



Josh Tucker  
Pastor  
St. Matthew's  
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tions, have worked and fought so that we may live independently; without constraint or under the control of others. We have in place the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States that define, defend and protect our various freedoms. We are blessed to be free - to speak freely, to go and do independently, and to worship God freely. So, in the spirit of the July 4th holiday, and in the midst of the summer season, I would like to pause and reflect on two questions:

What does freedom look like for us in the world today?

On July 4th we celebrate freedom; we celebrate a democratic government; and we embrace our nation's passions for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We spend time with family and friends. We enjoy the tastiness of a perfectly grilled hamburger. We cool off in the pool or lake. And at nightfall, we make our way outside to take in the beauty of the fireworks. All of these holiday activities remind us of our freedom.

What does freedom look like for us Christians today?

In baptism, God frees us from sin and death and joins us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus

Christ. Isn't that amazing? That, in the case of infant baptisms, the newly baptized are able to receive the gift of freedom from God our Father before they are even able to cognitively realize what freedom means for them. Freedom for us Christians then is best represented in Jesus hanging on the cross for you and for me. For in that loving act, God destroyed the bondage sin, death and the devil had over us and we were set free. We experience that freedom in the waters of baptism and we are reminded of that freedom each day as we remember our baptism.

In God's Word, in the gospel of John, we hear the words of Jesus that he brings the truth and his truth frees us. The truth Jesus brings is grace and forgiveness from God; a message of good news that brings the freedoms of comfort, hope and reconciliation. Because of God in Christ Jesus, we know freedom as Christians - we experience it and we see it represented in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So this holiday season, let us celebrate freedom: the freedom of our national independence and the freedom from sin, death and the devil that only God gives.

## Fellowship & Faith

### Church Service Directory

#### KINGS MOUNTAIN

**Advent Lutheran Church,**  
NALC Member  
KM Senior Center  
909 E. Kings St.

**Anew Beginning Baptist Church**  
415 Dixon School Rd.  
704-473-1372

**Ardent Life Church**  
420 Branch Street  
704-739-7700

**Arise Church**  
Kings Mountain YMCA  
211 Cleveland Ave.

**Bethlehem Baptist Church**  
1017 Bethlehem Road  
704-739-7487

**Boyce Memorial ARP Church**  
Edgemont Drive  
704-739-4917

**Burning Bush House of God**  
310 Long Branch Rd (KM)

**Calvary Way Holiness Church**  
1017 Second Street  
Pastor Clifton Morgan

**Carson Memorial Baptist Church**  
262 Sparrow Springs Road  
704-739-2247

**Central United Methodist Church**  
113 S. Piedmont Avenue  
704-739-2471

**Cherokee St. Baptist Church**  
421 S. Cherokee Street  
704-739-7697

**Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church**  
618 Chestnut Ridge Road  
704-739-4015

**Christian Freedom Southern Baptist Church**  
246 Range Road  
704-739-4152

**Christ The King Catholic Church**  
714 Stone Street  
704-487-7697

**Church at Kings Mountain**  
108 E. Mountain St.  
(KM Women's Club Bldg.)  
704-739-1323

**Cornerstone Church Of God**  
202 Margrace Road  
704-739-3773

**Cornerstone Independent Baptist**  
107 Range Road  
704-737-0477

**Crowders Mountain Baptist**  
125 Mayberry Lane  
704-739-0310

**David Baptist Church**  
2300 David Baptist Church Road  
704-739-4555

**Dixon Presbyterian Church**  
602 Dixon School Road  
dixonpresbyterian.com

**East Gold Street Wesleyan Church**  
701 E. Gold Street  
704-739-3215

**East Kings Mountain Church of God**  
Hwy 161, Bessemer City/KM Hwy.  
704-739-7367

**Eastside Baptist Church**  
308 York Road  
704-739-8055

**Ebenezer Baptist Church**  
1621 County Line Road  
704-739-8331

**El Bethel United Methodist Church**  
122 El-bethel Road  
704-739-9174

**Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church**  
602 Canterbury Road  
704-739-9939

**Faith Ablaze Church**  
1128 S. York Road  
704-739-8496

**Faith Baptist Church**  
1009 Linwood Road  
704-739-8396

**Faith Holiness Church**  
Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd.  
704-739-1997

**Family Worship Center**  
1818 Shelby Road  
704-739-7206

**First Baptist Church**  
605 W. King Street  
704-739-3651

**First Church of the Nazarene**  
121 Countryside Road  
704-734-1143

**First Presbyterian Church**  
111 E. King Street  
704-739-8072

**First Wesleyan Church**  
505 N. Piedmont Avenue  
704-739-4266

**Galilee United Methodist**  
117 Galilee Church Road  
704-739-7011

**Gospel Assembly Church**  
202 S. Railroad Avenue  
704-739-5351

**Good Hope Presbyterian Church**  
105 N. Cansler Street  
704-739-1062

**Grace Fellowship**  
144 West Mountain Street  
704-481-8888

**Grace United Methodist Church**  
830 Church Street  
704-739-6000

**Harvest Baptist Church**  
144 Ware Road  
704-734-0714

**Kings Mountain Baptist Church**  
101 W. Mountain Street  
704-739-2516

**Life of Worship Ministries**  
405 S. Cherokee St.  
704-777-2927



### Featured Church of the Week:

#### First Presbyterian Church

**Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next week.**

**Griffin Drug Center**  
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