

# MEDITATION



Josh Tucker  
Pastor  
St. Matthew's  
Lutheran Church

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the

Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?  
**Joel 2:12-14**

Grace to you and peace from

God our Father, Jesus Christ the Son of God and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Return. It's something that God commands us to do here through the prophet Joel, but it's also a word that is on the lips of many during this time of year as many people anticipate and hope for a tax return. And those who are fortunate enough to get a tax return might ask themselves what are they going to do with their tax return money? Some blow through it on material things they've been wanting for a long time and others go on extravagant vacations; some payoff debt while others purchase a new car; some add on to their home and others put it into savings. But the question remains, "What should you do with your return?"

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Mark's gospel Jesus proclaimed, "the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near; repent (return) and believe in the good news." And so, to return in the Biblical sense means to repent. The Greek word for repent, metanoia, literally means to make a full 180° turn from the sinful way we are going so that we may return back to God and his ways of righteousness.

Returning, repentance is a central theme in season of Lent in which we currently find ourselves in the church year. It's clear in this text from Joel and in many other places in Scripture that God calls us to a life of returning and repentance. That is, that we are to acknowledge our sinful ways and seek God's reconciliation and

forgiveness. But if we think of the command to return in the same way as our culture begs us to think of the notion of returning, I might ask you "What should you do with your return?"

What should we do with the command from God to return? Should we go out and blow through it or should we take it seriously in this season of Lent? As it is made clear in the prophet's writing we are called to return to the Lord with all our hearts, through sacrifices and even during the trials and tribulations we find ourselves in; we are called to return and give fully of our hearts, not our material possessions, to God. And when we do we see how God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.

## Breakfast at Patterson Grove

Patterson Grove Baptist Church, 301 Oak Grove Road, will have breakfast Saturday, March 7, from 6:30-10 a.m. The menu is biscuits and gravy, eggs, bacon, sausage, country ham, grits, coffee and juice. The public is invited to the benefit with proceeds going to help establish and support a new missionary family.

## Concert Sunday at Westover

"Heart to Heart" will present a concert Sunday, March 8, at 6 p.m. at Westover Baptist Church, 114 Westover Drive. Everyone welcome.

## Fellowship & Faith

# Church Service Directory

### KINGS MOUNTAIN

Advent Lutheran Church,  
NALC Member  
Life Enrichment Center  
701 E. Gold 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

Kings Mtn. Dream Center  
1128 York Road  
704-739-8496  
Tim & Angie Goates, Pastors  
www.kmdreamcenter.com



## East Gold Street Wesleyan 701 E Gold St, Kings Mountain

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.

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