

MEDITATION



Josh Tucker
Pastor
St. Matthew's
Lutheran Church

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 1 John 1:1-4

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I would like to use this space to offer some consistency in the meditation from week to week, taking some time over the next few weeks to study the first letter of John. Biblical scholars are not certain who wrote this letter but many ascribe to the same school of thought as the early church fathers had in their understanding that John, son of Zebedee (Mark 1:19-20) is the author. There is certain consistency in the style of writings from the gospel of John, John's letters and Revelation, all of which are writings most Biblical scholarship attribute to John son of Zebedee. You might also remember him as the same John Jesus calls out of the fishing boat to come and follow him as his disciple. Many also

believe this is the same John that is identified as "the one Jesus loved" and the one whom Jesus commanded to take care of his mother, Mary, at the time of his death. Whomever wrote this letter, two things are evident by these first four verses we will focus on today: 1) the letter was written by someone who was a first account eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus and 2) the author wrote this letter to the believers to encourage them to continue in their faith probably just decades after Jesus' death.

It's interesting how John begins this letter, not with a formal greeting but with more of an ancient one. In the greeting, John wishes for the completeness of joy. To wish for joy among the people was a customary way to greet one another during this time. And so, in his greeting I think he is hoping for joy not only for himself and his followers by sharing this

letter but also joy in the life of the reader as they hear more about the ministry of Jesus. What is the joy John wishes for us to experience? These first four verses recall what they (he and the other disciples) had seen, heard and touched concerning the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. In this opening John is establishing both the credibility and authenticity of his personal experience with Jesus. Because with this and his other letters, John is bringing the joy of Jesus' resurrection to all people; he is extending the Kingdom of God to generations that will come after him; he is continuing on in the mission and ministry Jesus called him to.

May we be so bold in our faith and in our ministry that when we greet people, we do so in the name of Jesus, sharing with one another where we have experienced Jesus at work in our lives recently. Amen.

Sunday concert at First Wesleyan

First Wesleyan Church, 505 N. Piedmont Ave., will host Chesnee White in concert Sunday morning, July 26, at the 11 o'clock service. A love offering will be taken during the service. Everyone is welcome.

El Bethel Breakfast Aug. 1

El Bethel United Methodist Church will serve the traditional country breakfast and offer homemade baked goods for sale on Saturday, Aug. 1, with serving from 6:30-10 a.m. in the church education building. Call 704-739-9174 for take-outs.

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



Kings Mountain Baptist
101 W. Mountain Street, Kings Mountain

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

Gloryland Missionary Baptist Church
101 Benfield Rd.
704-740-7212

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
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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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