

Great Swamp Baptist Church



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

November 18, 2018

Great Swamp Baptist Church

November 18, 2018

Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 AM

Prelude

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Call to Worship

Hymn #644 "Count Your Blessings"

Invocation

Wilbur Daley

Selections of Praise & Worship

"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Offertory

Special Music

The Proclaimers

"Through the Fire"

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction



Greeters

Today: Latrelle Steedly / Krey Lowther
Next Week: Annette Malphrus / Krey Lowther

Nursery Workers

Today: Vicky Roberts / Emma

Next Week: Diane Thames / Chesney



Children's Church Helpers

Today: Olivia Stanley / Angel Cole

Next Week: Evelyn Bradley / Olivia Stanley

DEACON OF THE WEEK :



Today: Wilbur Daley

843-305-0110

Next Week: Mack Pope

843-726-2000



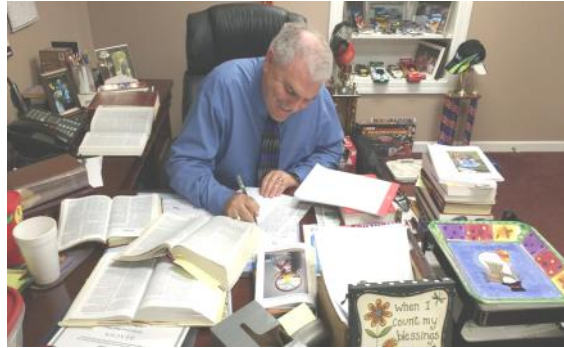
Toll Committee

For the month of November

Latrelle Steedly

Dorthie Armstrong





From Pastor Ralph's Desk:

John's Trip to Heaven (Part V)

(Rev. 4:1-5)

Intro: When John entered Heaven we noted last week that the first thing that he saw was the throne of Heaven. Therefore, we came to understand that the throne in Heaven is central to all other things. So, our first point was the centrality of the throne of Heaven, and since it is central to Heaven it must also be the focus of our lives as well as here on earth.

The second thing that John saw was not just a throne alone but he also saw someone seated on the throne. Of course, there is no doubt as to who that someone is, it is God Almighty. John gives us a description of how God appeared to Him. The description that he used were two different types of stone. They were a diamond and a ruby. With these descriptions we were able to take a look at the Sovereignty who sits on the throne. Those descriptions remind us that God is our complete Sovereign ruler. What a blessed truth this is. It means that God is able to do everything that He has done, is doing and will do.

Today we will move to the next things that John saw when he got to Heaven. He first saw the centrality of the throne in Heaven and secondly the Sovereignty who sits on the throne of Heaven. Today we will begin to notice the identities he saw around the throne in Heaven.

Now typically identities have to do with identifying human beings. However, John first saw something around the throne before he saw a person around the throne. So, today we will take the time to identify what is around the throne in Heaven first.

III. Third, let us notice that John saw certain identities around the throne of Heaven

A. Today we will attempt to identify what is around the throne of Heaven. (vs. 3). Now John tells us that the first thing he sees encircled around the throne of Heaven is a rainbow that had the appearance of our

emerald. Most likely what he means is that this rainbow instead of displaying the usual color of a rainbow it projected the color of green.

So the question is does this rainbow have any significance or symbolism to it? Well, I believe that it very much does. Today we are going to look at the ways that the rainbow is significant and what it symbolizes as we identify it.

1. First, let us identify the rainbow from the shape of it. Unlike earthly rainbows this rainbow was not broken up by the earth's surface. No the verse says that it completely encircled the throne of Heaven. So what does this shape of this indicate? Well to be honest, this is a very easy answer. A circle has no beginning and no ending. It is a clear picture of eternity. It's a clear picture that the reign of our sovereign God has no beginning and it has no ending. The throne in Heaven is the eternal throne.

The longest reigning earthly monarch with verifiable dates was King Louis XIV of France. His reign lasted 72 years and 110 days. The longest unverifiable reigning monarch on earth was an Egyptian emperor by the name of Pepi II. Supposedly his reign lasted for 94 years. However, we must remember that there are no solid records to verify that. Finally the longest reigning president that we've ever had was Franklin D. Roosevelt. He died just shy of three months into his fourth term as president. So, he basically was president for just a little over twelve years. After his presidency, the passed a constitutional amendment in 1951 that prevented a president from serving no more than two terms.

As to go along with this green also has always been the color of eternity. We call certain plants and trees evergreen plants and trees because they stay the color of green all year round.

It is wonderful that the circle of the rainbow in Heaven reminds us of our God and His reign but it is also extremely merciful and gracious of our Heavenly Father to allow our sin ridden world that is perishing day by day to have so much reminder of our eternal God with the color of green being so prevalent in our world. This color allows us to know that though our world and our bodies are perishing through a personal relationship with Christ we too, can experience eternal life as well.

Listen to a few Bible verses about the eternity of our God. "Before the mountains were brought forth, or even you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." (Ps. 90:2). "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable." (Is. 40:28). "But of the Son He says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of the uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.'" (Heb. 1:8).

Therefore, since our God is the eternal God, we have nothing to fear because His kingdom will always be to which all His chosen people the redeemed of the earth belong to. Oh, blessed be our eternal God, Lord, and Savior.

2. Second, we identify the rainbow from the historical understanding of it. On earth, historically we first encounter a rainbow following the worldwide flood of Noah's day. (Gen. 9:13-17). We all know that God promised Noah, his family and all peoples who would once again dwell over the entire earth, that He would never again destroy the world by a world wide flood. So, every time a rainbow appears, we should be reminded that God brings judgment but following His judgment He will also restore and renew with mercy, grace, forgiveness, love and salvation.

This also reminds us that our Lord keeps His covenants with His people. In the remaining chapters of the Book of Revelation, we discover that God is going to pour out His wrath upon the earth like never before. However, the rainbow around the throne reminds us that God will also following that judgment fulfill the covenant that He made with Israel and that is to bring salvation to the entire nation of Israel. He made that covenant thousands of years ago and because again He's the eternal God. He can and will keep that promise no matter how hard Satan will try to prevent it from happening.

3. Third and finally we identify the rainbow from the color of it. Now we've mentioned one aspect of the color which is green and that is like the shape of this rainbow which is a circle. Both stand for eternity.

However, I want us to notice one more thing about the color green. It is a color that creates some great emotion with our lives. It is the color of joyfulness in our lives because once winter comes to our end the first color to come to life is green.

Also it is the color that is most soothing and relaxing to our eyes. We can much easier look upon green for a long period of time because of its soothing effect.

Therefore, this color reminds us that our eternal King upon the throne in Heaven will bring both eternal rest and eternal joy to our lives.

Concl. So, let us forever be grateful that John saw a rainbow of emerald, surrounding completely around the throne. It reminds us that our God is eternal, merciful and gracious. It reminds us that like the rainbow of old. He keeps His covenant with His people and that finally the color itself reminds us that God will bring eternal rest, comfort and joy to His people. Amen, Amen & Amen.

Jesus Love You

Ralph Lee, Jr.



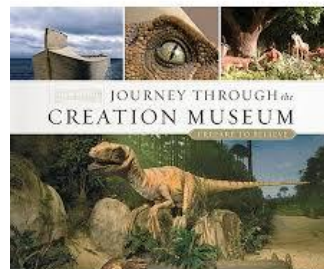
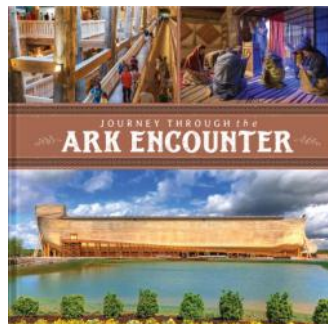
As we pass through this season of Thanksgiving—we at SFCA are grateful for your support to the ministry—through your prayers and financial gifts. As a reminder, financial gifts can be made through the church envelope system—personal checks—or online. Mark you check or church envelope to SFCA Gym Fund and help us pay down our Gym debt as we continue to move forward.

SFCA
CDM Committee



If you would like to place a Poinsettia in the church in Memory of or in Honor of a special person or persons, fill out a form and drop it in the offering plate along with your funds. Plants will be ordered only if the money is turned in with the form. The cost is \$16.00 per plant. They will be placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 2nd. They will be wrapped in green foil with a red bow. There are a limited number of Poinsettias, so orders will be filled on a first come basis. The deadline for placing your order is Monday, November 26th.

Forms are on the Message Board.



**The Ark Encounter and Creation Museum
information on Bulletin Board**

GSBC Prayer Pages November 18, 2018

*Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor
Richard Waitt- Music Director
Deacons*

Church Needs
*Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Dev. Ministries*

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry*

Leadership
*President Donald Trump
United States of America*

Unspoken
*Tim Cramer Family
Mandy Drew*

Bereavement
*Family of
Mary Daley
Eve Calhoun*

Hospitals
Pinky Rushing (CCH)

Spiritual Guidance
*Trip Fogle
Enriqueta Torres
David Peacock
John Woodyly
Mary Lou Torres
Emerald Trujillo*

Special Requests
Robert O'Dell-Job

Surgery / Recovery
*Judy Smith (10/18)
Vanessa Smoak (10/30)
Shirley Malphrus (11/1)
Pat Bryan (11/13)*

Cancer / Treatments
*Mitzi Cramer (11/1)
Jane Chapman (11/1)
Becky Broxton (11/1)
Jeanie Raven (11/1)
Jimmy Mixson (11/1)
Pam Stanley (11/1)*

Nursing Centers
*Elaine Degler-RNC
Doris Blackmon-Morningside
Thelma Ashing-RNC
Maureen Malphrus-RNC
Becky Jones-Anderson*

Called to Ministry
Chris Carter & Family

Other Health Needs

Expecting / Births
*Amanda Bowen
Victoria Keiffer*

*Mark Davis (10/8)
Royce Malphrus (10/18)
Catherine Daley (11/8)
Monique Gagel (11/15)*

*E.L. Ambrose (11/1)
Betty Miles (10/18)
Al Burnsed (10/18)
Cohen Freeman (11/1)
Thorton Butler Family (11/15)*



Pray For Our Military



*Jared Blanton-Fort Benning
Isaac Martin Malphrus Cape May, NJ / Coast Guard
Matthew Mills-Va-US Marines
Jericho Malphrus-Sp. Agent / Air Force / Oklahoma City. OK
Michael Sottile-Deployed
Owen White-Fort Benning*

Please Continue To Remember

*Ricky Cleland
Mike Hodge
Shirley Malphrus
Rose Boyles
Mary Cope
Judy Smith
Jeffrey Stanley
Joyce Sutler
Redden Tuten
Vera Floyd*

*Dot Nettles
Tom Hinely
Olivia Stanley
Lois Bootle
Grace Boyles
Patricia Malphrus
Scott Boyles
Dot Dean
Ellen Langford
Alice Way*

*Gary Way
Christy Gagel
Vera Miles
Mary Daley
Leonard Steedly
Barbara Mills(Knee)
Rodney Malphrus, Sr.
Lanell Smith
Brian Freeman
Dot Tindal
Pam Stanley*



“O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and inscrutable His ways!” Romans 11:33. Are you exploring these attributes of God? It will lead you to Bible Study and Prayer. Take the time.

E.L. Ambrose

Today's Prayer Team


Group II

*Leader-Barbara Mills
Betty Robertson*

**Watchman Prayer Service
Saturdays @ 8:00am**

Prayer Note

*For emergencies
a prayer chain
is available for needs.
You may access
by calling the
church @ 726-3631*



This Weeks Birthdays

November 19th *Mallory Lynch*
 November 20th *Leonard Steedly*
Ricky Maldonado
 November 22nd *Nathaniel Morgan*
 November 24th *Margaret Floyd*

Announcements

Office Closed For Holidays
 November 21-23

Watchman Prayer Group
 Saturday, November 24th @ 8:00 am



Intercessory Prayer

Due to E.L.'s health, as of the end of November, he will no longer be leading the Watchman's prayer group. At the present time, Mack and Timmy are planning to continue the program and we will be making changes in December. We will continue the Sunday morning prayer at 11:00am and will need volunteers to come aboard as prayer warriors as we pray for our pastor, deacons, leaders, etc. for our church family. A sign up sheet will be on the information board. Please be in prayer about this ministry. For more information contact Mack or Timmy.

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Ralph Lee, Jr.....*jehu27@gmail.com*

Music Director: Richard Waitt.....*waittfamily@embarqmail.com*

Sunday School Director: Wallace Malphrus.....*Josie6@embarqmail.com*

Pianist: Michelle Waitt.....*waittfamily@embarqmail.com*

Administrative Assistant: Sybil Reynolds.....*greatswampbc@gmail.com*

School Administrator: Donna Carter.....*dcarter@hargray.com*

Custodian: Ann Malphrus.....*ramalphrus@hargray.com*

Landscaper: Wallace Malphrus.....*Josie6@embarqmail.com*

Finance Director: Timmy Sauls.....*greatswampbc@gmail.com*

Stewardship

Budget Offerings	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
<i>Tithes & General Budget</i>	\$3,268.00	\$4,973.36	-\$1,317.26
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$388.10		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Youth Camp</i>	\$65.00	*****	\$1,265.43
<i>WNS</i>	\$157.00	*****	\$157.00
<i>SMB</i>	\$79.00	*****	\$79.00
<i>Seniors</i>	\$88.00	*****	\$2,358.72
<i>SFCA Insurance</i>	\$9,230.00	*****	\$0.00
<i>OCC</i>	\$135.00	*****	\$1,096.28
<i>Children's Ministry</i>	\$10.00	*****	\$553.20

Gifts

*A gift of \$100.00 was given
to Operation Christmas Child
in Memory of Ada Vaigneur
by Dorothy M. Baughcome*



Celebrating  **175 years of God's Faithfulness**

and the journey will continue until God returns...

Great Swamp Baptist Church
9009 Taboro Rd.
PO Box 446
Ridgeland, SC 29936

Sunday Morning Breakfast 8:30AM
Sunday School 9:45AM
Morning Worship 11:00AM
Evening Worship 6:00PM
Wednesday Night Supper 6:00PM
Wednesday Night Service 7:00PM
Saturday Watchman Prayer 8:00AM

Email: greatswampbc@gmail.com
Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com
Church Office: (843) 726-3631