

*Christmas  
Candlelight  
Service*

DECEMBER 23, 2018



GREAT SWAMP BAPTIST CHURCH

# Great Swamp Baptist Church

December 23, 2018

Sunday Morning Worship  
11:00 AM

## **Prelude**

## **The Welcome**

Announcements

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

## **Call to Worship**

*Hymn #93 "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"*

## **Invocation**

*Wilbur Daley*

## **Selections of Praise & Worship**

*"Adore"*

## **We Pray for Special Needs**

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

Offertory

Offertory Special

*GSBC Praise Band*

*"O Holy Night"*

Special Music

## **Lord's Supper**

## **Message**

*Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

## **Invitation**

## **Benediction**

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## Greeters

*Today: Mike Mingledorff / Krey Lowther*  
*Next Week: Latrelle Steedly / Krey Lowther*

## Nursery Workers

*Today: Vandy Amason / Natalie*

*Next Week: Cassandra Bradley / Evelyn*



## Children's Church Helpers

*Today: Angel Cole/ Olivia Stanley*

*Next Week: Evelyn Bradley / Olivia Stanley*

## DEACON OF THE WEEK :



*Today: Wilbur Daley*

843-305-0110

*Next Week: Mack Pope*

843-726-2000

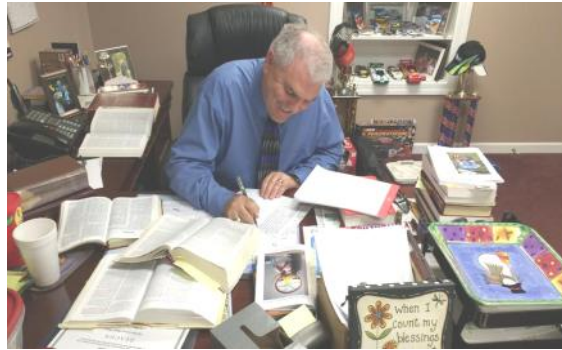


## Toll Committee

*For the month of December*

*Gail Malphrus*

*Anita Blanton*



*From Pastor Ralph's Desk:*

## **John's Trip to Heaven (Part IX)**

*(Rev. 4:1-11)*

*Intro: We often use the phrase, "What's Happening, man". Well, when the apostle John was taken up to Heaven, he was able to see what was happening around the throne of Heaven and report it back to us. We've already investigated one of the things that was happening around God's throne and we looked at how that happening points to God Himself. Last week the first thing that we examined that was happening around the throne of Heaven revealed to us the power and plan of God.*

*How were we made aware of the power and plan of God by what's happening around the throne of Heaven? Well, it was by the powerful storm that was coming directly out from the throne of Heaven. The powerful bolts of lightning and loud clashes of thunder both let us know that our God is all powerful and His plan is in the end times to bring destruction like lightning can to the devil and all his crowd that refuse to turn to Christ.*

*Today we will look at more of the happenings around the throne and what those things reveal about our God.*

**IV. B. Second, Let us notice that what's happening around the throne of Heaven reveals the perfection of God. (vs. 5).** *The second thing that John saw happening around the throne was seven lamps blazing. He then let's us know that these blazing lamps were the seven spirits of God.*

*Now, we've already established the fact that the seven spirits of God is most likely a reference to the Holy Spirit Himself. The reason being is because the number seven is the number of perfection and completion. Also, the Holy Spirit has a sevenfold ministry. Then these two facts seem to clearly point out that the seven spirits are the one true Holy Spirit of God.*

*Now, this points out to the perfection of God because the apostle John has seen at the throne, the entire triune God. He has seen the Father and the Son and now the Holy Spirit.*

*We can be confident that on the throne of Heaven is God in His fullness, completion and perfection. So, because John saw God in all of His*

fullness, he and us as well, can be totally assured that God will be able to do all that He plans on doing.

Also, the fact that the Holy Spirit was blazing at the same time that John also saw the tremendous storm coming out from the throne, gives us a clear indication that the entire Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, are in total unity about what is going to take place in the end times. His blazing is like the lightning bolts are destructive force and that is what God will be doing much of during the period of the tribulation. So, our blessed Godhead is totally perfect because they are united in presence and united in purpose.

Oh, dear Child of God, what mercy and grace that the perfect, complete, united Triune God in all of His fullness as Father, Son and Holy Spirit has reached down to a totally imperfect human race and offered eternal salvation that will one day bring us into that world of total and complete perfection through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen and Amen.

**C. Third, let us notice that what's happening around the throne of Heaven reveals the peace of God. (vs. 6).** John sees something before the throne and the only thing that it is doing is giving an appearance, and the appearance is that of a sea of glass that is clear as crystal. Now the question is what does this sea mean or represent? Well everybody I read had for the most part completely different points of view.

Now most did agree that it added to the brilliance of Heaven and the throne of our God. For on His throne God indeed outshines everything else. Most also agreed that the fact that it was crystal clear indicates the all seeing ability of our God. He is every watching what is happening here on earth both His people and their lives and He is watching the ungodly as well. Therefore because He sees all, He will be able to act perfectly right in whatever He chooses to do here on earth for He sees therefore He knows. What blessings for the Child of God that He's watching but let it ever be reminder that He not only is watching for our concerns but also to see if we are faithful and may He see that in us. However, may it cause the ungodly to be fearful to the point to repent and trust Christ.

However, I want to share what I believe God help me to see something that none of the people I read saw. What I saw in this sea is that it represents the peace of God. It represents the peace that He has with Himself and with His power and His purpose. You see in the apostle John's day the sea was primarily

*Viewed as an extremely tumultuous and dangerous place. It is a stormy place and it is filled with all kinds of dangerous creatures. For these reasons in John's day they did not consider the ocean a peaceful place but rather a place that could and did put a stop to a lot of things getting accomplished.*

*However, in Heaven what did appear to be an ocean or a sea was much more peaceful and calm in appearance than what was usually seen on earth. It let's us know that nothing is going to stop God from doing His will on the earth now or ever particularly what He's going to do in the last day. No rough seas, no large waves, nor wind or rain will prevent God from accomplishing His work. He is totally at peace with His ability to get it all done in spite of anything anymore tries to throw at Him. Thus this sea represents that. Therefore, we can be at peace regardless of the storms and rough seas of life because our God is peace and His peace gives us that blessed assurance. Amen and Amen.*

**D. Fourth, let us notice that what's happening around the throne of Heaven reveals the peculiarities of God. (vs. 6-8).**

*By the peculiarities I am referring to God's many different characteristics. These four living creatures reveals a different angle or aspect of the person of God. The scholar John Walvoord shows it in a very clear and easily understanding way. He said, "In a similar way the four creatures' depictions are respectively a lion, a calf, a man, and an eagle, which are considered different aspects of divine majesty. All of these are supreme in their respective categories. The lion is the king of beasts and represents majesty and omnipotence. The calf or ox, representing the most important of domestic animals, signifies patience and continuous labor. Man is the greatest of all god's creatures, especially in intelligence and rational power. The eagle is greatest among birds and is symbolic of sovereignty and supremacy." these creatures let us know that in everyway God is supreme in everyway and yet our supreme God in all of His glory has love, grace and mercy for us. However, we must not forget that the day is coming when our sovereign and supreme god is going to wrap things up to put an end to sin, rebellion and pride and set up His glorious kingdom.*

*Concl. So, in conclusion are you going to respond to God's time of grace and mercy which is now available through Christ our Lord or are you going to allow yourself to experience the wrath of God and miss out on spending eternity in His eternal kingdom? I pray you will put your trust in Christ and reign forever with our eternal King who sits forever on the throne of Heaven.*

*Jesus Love You  
Ralph Lee, Jr.*



*December 26th Ron Degler  
Carol Davis*

*December 28th Sophia Sineath*



*The church office will be closed on Monday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 25th for Christmas Holidays. The office regular church hours will resume on Wednesday, December 26th.*

## GSBC Prayer Pages December 23, 2018

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

### **Leadership**

*President Donald Trump  
United States of America*

### **Hospitals**

*Pam Stanley (MUSC)*

### **Surgery / Recovery**

*Judy Smith (10/18)  
Shirley Malphrus (11/1)  
Pat Bryan (11/13)  
Mike Mingledorff (12/7)*

### **Nursing Centers**

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

### **Special Requests**

*Robert O'Dell-Job*

### **Church Needs**

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

### **Unspoken**

*Tim Cramer Family  
Mandy Drew  
Olivia & Juan Garcia*

### **Spiritual Guidance**

*Trip Fogle  
Enriqueta Torres  
David Peacock  
John Woodly  
Mary Lou Torres  
Emerald Trujillo*

### **Cancer / Treatments**

*Mitzi Cramer (12/1)  
Jane Chapman (12/1)  
Becky Broxton (12/1)  
Jeanie Raven (12/1)  
Jimmy Mixson (12/1)  
Pam Stanley (12/1)  
Heidi Crosby (12/26)  
Bill Martin (12/30)*

### **Called to Ministry**

*Chris Carter & Family*

### **Ministries**

*Outreach Ministry  
Lottie Moon Offering*

### **Bereavement**

*Family of  
Clarice Van Curen*

### **Other Health Needs**

*E.L. Ambrose (12/1)  
Betty Miles (11/29)  
Royce Malphrus (11/29)  
Monique Gagel (11/15)  
Gary Way (11/28)  
Bobby Mohn (11/28)  
Ann Blocker (11/30)  
Lyman Malphrus (12/4)  
Pinkie Rushing (12/4)*

### **Expecting / Births**

*Amanda Bowen  
Victoria Keiffer*

### **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  
Barbara Mills(Knee)  
Rodney Malphrus, Sr.  
Lanell Smith  
Brian Freeman  
Dot Tindal  
Pam Stanley*





## **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 Bragg  
Tristan Blanton-San Diego/ Navy Seals*



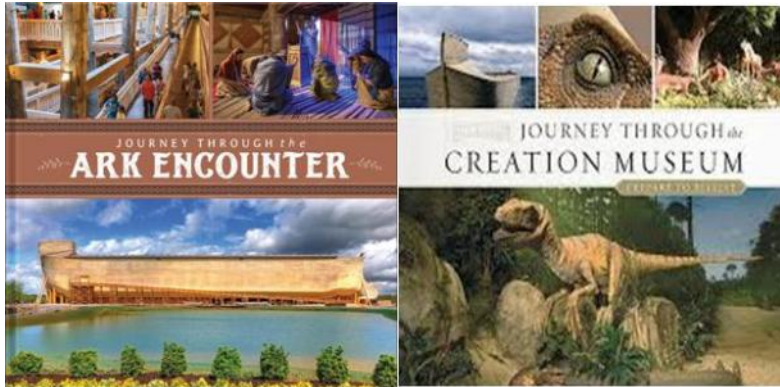
## **Intercessory Prayer Today's Prayer Team**

*Mack Pope, Jr.  
Kevin Malphrus*

*For Prayer Needs  
You may access by calling the church at  
843-726-3631*



*The Quilting Club will resume  
meetings in January.*



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



*A gift of \$50.00 was given to the Operation Christmas  
Child Fund in Memory of Mary Daley by Irwin & Pat Malphrus.*

*A gift of \$30.00 was given to the General Fund in Memory of  
Leonard Steedly by Martin Thomas III.*

*A gift of \$50.00 was given to the General Fund in Memory of  
Leonard Steedly by Gary M. Coward.*

*A gift of \$315.25 was given to the Lottie Moon Offering in Honor of  
Chris & Stephanie Carter by Step of Faith Christian Academy.*



## Church Staff

Pastor: **Rev. Ralph Lee, Jr.** .....jehu27@gmail.com  
 Music Director: **Richard Waitt** .....waittfamily83@gmail.com  
 Sunday School Director: **Wallace Malphrus** .....Josie6@embarqmail.com  
 Pianist: **Michelle Waitt** ..... waittfamily83@gmail.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 + / -
Tithes & General Budget	\$5,023.00	\$4,973.36	+\$273.61
Online Offerings	\$223.97		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
Lottie Moon Offering	\$345.25	*****	\$950.25
SMB	\$91.00	*****	\$91.00
WNS	\$171.00	*****	\$171.00
Kitchen Supplies	\$60.00	*****	\$467.72
OCC	\$50.00	*****	\$146.28



Operation Christmas Child 2019 will start collecting shoeboxes, wrapping paper, and small to medium size stuffed animals in January. After Christmas sales will be a great time to find deals on items.

Great Swamp Baptist Church goal for 2019 is 400 boxes. Thank you for all your help.

Dorthie Armstrong

**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

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Church Office: (843) 726-3631