



***Great Swamp Baptist Church
December 22, 2019***

Great Swamp Baptist Church

December 22, 2019

Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 AM

Prelude

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Call to Worship

Hymn # 87

“Joy To The World”

Invocation

Bjo Mills

Selections of Praise and Worship

“Do You Hear What I Hear”

Olivia Stanley

“Adore”

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

Offertory

Offertory Special

Taylor Roberts

“Noel”

Lighting of the Candles

Hymn # 91

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

The Ordinance of the Lord’s Supper

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction

Regular Services Tonight @ 6:00pm.

NO Services on Wednesday Evening this week.



Greeters

Today: Dorthie Armstrong / Krey Lowther
Next Week: Fred Stanley / Krey Lowther

Nursery Workers

Today: Latrelle Steedly / Kim Malphrus

Next Week: Vicky roberts / Emma



Children's Church Helpers

Today: Olivia Stanley / Evelyn Bradley

Next Week: Angel Cole / Emma Mingledorff

DEACON OF THE WEEK :



Today: Bjo Mills

843-726-4344

Next Week: Michael Daley

843-505-0998



Toll Committee

For the month of December

Gail Malphrus

Anita Blanton



From Pastor Ralph's Desk:

The Announcement of the Coming Birth of Jesus

(Luke 1:26-38)

Intro: The period between the Old and New Testaments is a span of time that lasted for four hundred years. During this four hundred year period of time, God did not speak to the nation of Israel at all.

However, at the end of the four hundred year span of time, God suddenly began to speak to the nation once again. He opens up from His long period of silence with two great announcements. The first of those announcements came to a priest by the name of Zechariah. God announced to him that his wife who had been barren for all of their marriage and was now beyond child bearing years, was going to get pregnant and give birth to a son. They were to call this son John, and he would be the forerunner to the soon coming Messiah.

The second announcement was the glorious announcement, which the angel Gabriel gave to the virgin Mary concerning the coming birth of Jesus. She would be the instrument God would use to bring about the incarnation of Christ into the world.

Oh, let us rejoice that when God chose to break His silence, He did so by announcing two announcements of glorious news that would result in eternal salvation for a lost world. So, let us take a little time today to examine the angel's announcement of the coming birth of Jesus.

I. First, let us notice who made the announcement. (vs. 26).

Well, of course, we already know that it was the angel Gabriel who brought the announcement. So, what does this indicate that he was chosen as the vessel to reveal this good news of great joy? First, it indicated that the message was not originated with the angel Gabriel. For the Word of God teaches us that the angels are messengers. Their only job is to carry out what they are told to say and do. This is exactly what the angel Gabriel was doing. Our verse tells us that it was God who sent the angel to Mary. So, this great announcement originated with God. The first mission headquarters was not Jerusalem or Richmond, Virginia. Rather it was the very throne of God. Just as God sent Gabriel to make this glorious announcement so He is still sending messengers out to make the announcement. However, He no longer is using angels to do so but rather His people. He's called all Believers to be missionaries and has sent us out to carry the good news.

Second, the use of the angel Gabriel was to indicate that the message that he was sent to share was a message of good news and not judgment. For every time we read in the Bible about the angel Gabriel, he is delivering messages of mercy. Let us go for we have been sent and what we have been sent to do is to deliver the message of mercy and grace as Gabriel did.

II. Second, let us notice the place of the announcement. (vs. 26).

Our verse tells us that God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth. Now, this seems to be the most unlikely of places for such a holy and glorious message to be delivered. It seems more appropriate that God would have delivered the message to a more sacred and holy place like Jerusalem.

Nazareth had an extremely low reputation. Most people would go out of their way to avoid traveling through the town. We get a glimpse of just how bad an area it was when we see that the people of the town sought to kill Jesus when He came back there to preach during His three years of ministry.

Now, we realize that the most obvious answer is because that is where Mary and Joseph lived, and of course, this is true. However, I also believe that God chose this town so that He would show the very reason why Jesus was coming into the world. So, that He could save those who are of the lowest of the low. As Jesus said that He came not to reach those that are well but those who are sick and Nazareth symbolized those who were sick. By coming to Nazareth, God has shown that any of us can be saved if we respond to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

III. Third, let us notice the person who received the announcement.

Clearly, I doubt that anyone doesn't know who received the message. But maybe what some may not understand is why Mary? There are three things I would like for us to consider about Mary and her usage in the Christmas Story.

First, let me point out that Mary received the message from Gabriel who was sent by God because she was able to fulfill the prophecies. There are at least three prophecies Mary was able to fulfill concerning the birth of Jesus. First, God had promised Abraham that through his seed He would bless all people of the earth. Well, Mary is a descendant of Abraham.

The next prophecy Mary is able to fulfill is the prophecy and promise that God made to King David. God had promised King David that he would always have an heir that would rule over God's Kingdom forever. Well, Mary and Joseph were a part of the tribe of Judah which King David came out of. Therefore humanly speaking, Jesus was a descendant of King David.

The third prophecy Mary was able to fulfill was the one that the prophet Isaiah made. He prophesied that the Messiah would be born of a virgin and Mary was a virgin. So Mary was an obvious choice because she was able to fulfill the prophecies of His coming.

The next reason God used Mary was because she was highly favored. The word favored means that same as the word grace. Mary is the recipient of this grace. In the strangest sense she is the recipient of this grace because she is highly favored. God showed His grace to her in a most powerful sense. In other words, Mary basically could say only by the grace of God was I chosen, and for no other reason.

This is a perfect example of how amazing our God is. Because of His own gracious spirit, He graciously chose Mary. This example is exactly what He did in sending His Son into the world. It wasn't because we deserve it. Rather, it is because He is gracious.

Some scholars also believe that God was gracious to favor her because He knew the kind of person she was. She appeared in every way to be humble, spiritual, prayerful and willing. I believe that all those attributes were extremely valuable. However, even with all those things had God not been gracious, He still would not have chosen her.

The third thing I wanted to mention about Mary was that she was terrified. I mean who wouldn't have been terrified.

She most likely was a very young lady, somewhere between her mid to late teens. When suddenly an angel appears to her and says that God has highly favored her, she has got to be thinking, I am just a young, poor girl from a hick town, what in the world does God want of me?

However, before the angel gives her the message that she will give birth to Jesus, he first tells her that she not only is highly favored but also that the Lord was with her.

So, what God did through the angel before He broke the news of her upcoming pregnancy. He let her know that He was with her. Therefore, she could be assured that whatever news she was about to receive, and whatever was about to happen to her, God was with her in it. He would be there guiding her through the whole event making possible all that was to and in fact did happen.

You and I don't know what tomorrow holds but we do know that for the people of God the One who holds tomorrow is also holding us. So, let us plow on because God will. He is with us. Amen and praise the Lord.

IV. Fourth, let us notice the person of the announcement.

In other words, what is or should I say, who is the announcement really about? Of course, that answer is Jesus Christ Himself. Mary's pregnancy is all about the Son that she will give birth to.

There are five things we are told in the announcement about the person of the announcement. First, we are told that the person of the announcement was clothing themselves in human flesh. He told Mary that she would be with child and give birth to a son and that she was to give Him the name of Jesus. These three things let us know Mary was literally giving birth to a real human being. He was a child, a Son and had a name.

Jesus had always existed in a Spiritual form but at His coming into the world, He took upon Himself human flesh, and became a man. He wrapped His deity up in flesh and dwelt among us.

Paul Harvey tells the story of a non-religious man who didn't attend church. When his family went to the church Christmas program he refused to go with them because he just couldn't buy into this incarnation stuff of God coming into our world,

However, while the family was away at church, he heard a few small birds outside having a difficult time because it was so cold. The man had a large barn in his yard so he tried everything he could to get them into his large barn.

However, everything he tried failed. Then he had a thought, if only I could for a short bit become one of them, I could lead them into the barn. Then it hit him. That's exactly what the incarnation is all about. In order to show us the way and give us the way, He stepped into our world and became one of us. So, at that moment the man hurried on to the church service understanding now why Christ had to take upon human flesh.

The second thing these verses tell us about the person of the announcement was that He was to be named Jesus. He was to be named Jesus because of the meaning of the name. The Greek word for Jesus means Jehovah saves, or God saves. The child was to be given this name because He would fulfill the meaning of the name. Many of us have names that mean something but we don't actually define the meaning in the way we live our lives. However, Jesus did in the fullest sense of the word. He was called Jehovah saved because He was and is Jehovah and He did save and He is saving. Oh, thank God that He was given the name Jesus and that He fleshed the name out providing eternal salvation for all who would believe.

The third thing that we learn about the person of the announcement is that, "He will be great." not that He possibly might be great, or that He has a good chance of being great. No, He will be great and great beyond measure He was. The word great here means to be distinguishable above all others. Indeed, He was and is and will evermore be distinguishable above all others. Paul tells us that His name is the greatest name above all others." therefore God has exalted Him to the highest place and gives Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:9-11). Is He that great to you and me? Our prayer should be that we will forever see and know and declare His greatness.

The fourth thing that these verses tell us about the person of the announcement was that, "He would be called the Son of the most High." Mary was giving birth to a son and she was to give Him the name Jesus which was a human name at the time. This was His human side. However, He was more than just a human. He was also the eternal Son of God. In Matthew's Christmas story, we are told that Jesus would also be called Immanuel which means God with us. You see people recognized Him to be the Son of Mary, a human being, walking in our midst. However, they also recognized Him to be more than just Jesus, the son of Mary, a mere human being. They also, because of His miracles and signs, recognized Him to be the Son of the Most High. When Jesus asked the disciples who He was, Peter replied, "Thou art the Christ the Son of the Living God." (Matt. 16:16). Jesus is unique. For He is fully man and He is fully God. He was the God-man dwelling on earth, and no one will ever be the person that He was and is. Oh, let us worship Him who is the Son of the Most High.

The fifth thing the verses tell us about the person of the announcement is that He will reign over an Eternal Kingdom. The child in the manger is no longer a child. He sits on the Throne of Glory. Victoriously, He conquered all and everything that sought to prevent His rule over us. Since there are no more foes, He reigns supreme and since He is the Son of the Most High, He has always been supreme. So, if you want to be a part of the eternal, victorious kingdom, then you must flee to Jesus Christ the King of kings and the Lord of lords and He will bring you into His Eternal Kingdom.

Jesus Loves You

Ralph Lee, Jr.



*“For even the
Son of Man
did not come to be
served, but to serve,
and to give his life
as a ransom for many.”*

Mark 10:45

Wednesday Nights @ 7:00 pm

*Do you know a young girl
in the 1st through the 6th grades?
We want to invite them to our
Servant's Heart Clubhouse
to learn about the
blessing of serving others.*

Any Questions call
Diane Thames @ 843-321-0806
or
Carol Davis @ 226-0258

Women's Bible Study

Thursday , January 9th @ 6:00 pm

In the MPB

Come out and Join us.

Contact Carol Davis for more info



Announcements

*Tuesday, December 24th
Prayer Breakfast
9:00 am*



Christmas Card Mailbox

is now open in the Foyer

The Servant's Heart Club and the Youth Sunday School Class has opened the Christmas Card Mailbox in the Foyer.

They will deliver your in-house Christmas Cards for 25-cent each.

The proceeds are going toward the Youth Annex renovations.

Welcome

New Members

Grayson & Taylor Roberts

Sonya Cooler

JANUARY 5th @ 10:45am



The Lighthouse Singers
IN CONCERT

Great Swamp Baptist Church

GSBC Prayer Pages December 22, 2019

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

Leadership

*President Donald Trump
United States of America*

Hospitals

*Oscar Rivera-Bft. Memorial
Keith Floyd-MUSC*

Surgery / Recovery

*Pam Stanley (9/16)
Mack Pope (9/19)
Eva Migliore (9/18)
Pat Bryan (9/27)
Deidre White (11/12)
Judy Roberts (11/22)
Max Cole (12/15)*

Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler-RNC
Doris Blackmon-Morningside
Becky Jones-Anderson
Royce Malphrus-RNC
Dot Tindal-NHC*

Special Requests

David Meador-Job

Church Needs

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

Unspoken

*Olivia & Juan Garcia
Jessica Cleland
David Meador*

Spiritual Guidance

Cancer / Treatments

*Mitzi Cramer (1/28)
Lynn Daugherty (8/30)
Sidney (8/15)
Douglas Denegel (9/16)
Donald Fludd (9/30)
Gen Malphrus (11/19)*

Called to Ministry

Chris Carter & Family

Ministries

*Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry*

Bereavement

*Family of
Ashley Warren*

Other Health Needs

*Dan Peeples (6/26)
Charles Maney (7/2)
Lee Martin (7/3)
Ann Blocker (7/25)
Ruby Keiffer (9/19)
Eddie Kinard (9/19)
Danny Breland (9/19)
Pinkie Rushing (10/10)
Wallace Malphrus (11/1)
Cookie Daley (11/19)
Margaret Davis (11/19)
Helen Malphrus (11/19)
James Harris (12/10)
Jane Gorman (12/19)
Paul Malphrus, Jr. (12/19)*

Expecting / Births

Chelsie Lake & Baby Girl

Please Continue To Remember

*Shirley Malphrus
Rose Boyles
Mary Cope
Judy Smith
Jeffrey Stanley
Redden Tuten
Vera Floyd
Bobby Mohn*

*Dot Nettles
Tom Hinely
Lois Bootle
Grace Boyles
Patricia Malphrus
Scott Boyles*

*Gary Way
Rodney Malphrus, Sr.
Lanell Smith
Dot Tindal
Pam Stanley
Philipp Hanna*



Pray For Our Military

Jared Blanton-Fort Stewart

Isaac Martin Malphrus

Cape May, NJ / Coast Guard

Matthew Mills-CA-US Marines

Jericho Malphrus-Sp. Agent / Air Force /

Oklahoma City. OK

Michael Sottile - Deployed

Tristan Blanton-San Diego/ SWCC



Intercessory Prayer Today's Prayer Team

Betty Robertson

Vera Miles

For Prayer Needs

You may access by calling the church at

843-726-3631

This Weeks Birthdays

December 22nd

Tammy Lee

December 26th

Krey Lee Lowther

December 28th

Ron Degler

Sophia Sineath

ABIDE CONTEMPORARY
SERVICE

JANUARY
8

7PM

SAVE THE DATE

Notice

*Due to several computer crashes caused from viruses, **NO** one is allowed to check their personal e-mail accounts (especially g-mail) or Facebook accounts on the office computers anymore. Our computer technician says that is where the viruses are stemming from. We have had to temporarily change our e-mail address to greatswampbaptist@Hargray.com until a permanent fix can be made.*

The Office Staff

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 + / -
<i>Tithes & General Budget</i>	\$ 4,555.00	\$4,982.79	-\$ 427.79
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Lottie Moon Offering</i>	\$ 495.00	*****	\$ 1,366.25
<i>Sojourners SS Class</i>	\$ 45.00	*****	\$ 280.04
<i>SMB</i>	\$ 106.00	*****	\$ 185.38
<i>WNS</i>	\$ 138.00	*****	\$ 138.00
<i>Kitchen Supplies</i>	\$ 45.00	*****	\$ 103.00



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Our Church Goal: \$2,000.00



Great Swamp Baptist Church
9009 Tarboro 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

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