



*"For unto you is born this day in
the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord."*

~ Luke 2:11



Great Swamp Baptist Church

December 25, 2022

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Call to Worship

Hymn #87 *“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”*

Invocation

Mack Pope

Selections of Praise & Worship

Hymn #103 *“Away in A Manager”*

Hymn #95 *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special *“All Is Well”* by Michelle Waitt

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery
Help Needed



Helpers:
Mason Losgar
Emily Johnson



DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Today:

Mack Pope: 843-540-6636

Next Week:

Keith Gamo: 843-986-8525



*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



Christmas Can't Be Cancelled

(Matt 2:1-25)

Introduction:

Every year someone is trying to cancel Christmas. They are trying to do it in our public squares, our schools and colleges, our stores and shops, our places of business, our neighborhoods, and, yes, even in our churches.

They say that you can't display a manger scene; or that you can't sing religious Christmas carols; or that you can even say Merry Christmas because someone might be offended. And if you attempt any of these things they threaten you with a lawsuit. At all costs, they must cancel Christmas.

Now sadly this should not surprise us because God's word has shown us that the world under the devil's influence first attempted to stop the first Christmas from happening and after it did happen to act as though it didn't, and that's exactly what we see taking place. Our world is acting like the first Christmas never took place.

Now the reason why the world wants to cancel Christmas is because they don't want to have to admit that the Child who was born to the virgin Mary was Christ the Lord, Immanuel God with us, Jesus, who came to take away our sins. Because to do so means that you would then be responsible and accountable to Him by repenting and following him.

However, the Bible says that they love their sins too much to want to give them up. So if somehow they can cancel Christmas then just maybe they won't feel responsible or accountable to Him. Take time to read Romans 1:18-32 and Psalm 2.

Today however in my message we are going to look at the story of the wisemen because in their story we discover an early attempt to cancel Christmas, but one that utterly failed, and all attempts before and since have and always will fail. Of course, we are referring to King Herod's attempt to use the wisemen most deceptively of course to get rid of Jesus. So through this story let us be encouraged that Christmas can't be cancelled.

I. First, Christmas can't be cancelled because it was completely God's plan and purpose.

When King Herod decided that he as a human being could cancel Christmas he obviously forgot who he was up against. On knowing some of his history it's more likely that somehow he believed that he himself was powerful enough to take God on. Well, which ever way it was it was doomed to fail because Herod was not divine in any shape, manner, or form. As a matter of fact, he was the exact complete opposite and he was indeed and in fact coming up against God Almighty who permeates the entire Christmas happenings from beginning until fulfillment and, of course, right on beyond.

So consider the fact that the angel appeared to Mary to announce to her that God in His great grace had chosen her to bring the Christ child into the world. Then an angel came to announce to Joseph that the child Mary was carrying was not from another man, but was the work of the Holy Spirit of God. The angel also said that he would be called Immanuel which means God with us.

Also in our present set of verses when the wisemen came to Herod seeking for the exact location of Jesus he went to the religious leader of the Jews to find out where the Messiah was to be born and of course their answer to him came straight out of God's Holy Word.

Therefore since God arranged the whole thing no creature in heaven and on earth can stop His will, purpose, and plan. Let's take a look at some verses in God's word to clearly point this truth out.

"This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations. For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart Him? His hand is stretched out and who can turn it back?" (Is. 14:26-27)

"Then Job replied to the Lord: I know that you can do all things; no purpose of you can be thwarted." (Job 42:12)

"But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever the purposes of His heart through all generations." (Ps. 33:11)

There are so many more verses like the ones I've used, and they all relay one message: God's plans and purposes are done before they are done. How wonderful of a blessing is that to us because God has expressed many precious and gracious eternal purposes from lives because of Christmas and without a doubt we can be assured that they will be fulfilled, amen!!

II. Second, Christians can't be cancelled because it was controlled by God's power.

Not only was King Herod coming up against God's plan and purpose but he also was coming up against God's almighty power. For whenever God chose or chooses to carry out His plan and purpose He puts the full force of His power behind it.

God used the person and power of His Holy Spirit to place Jesus in the womb of the virgin Mary. He then used His power to sustain the treacherous journey to Bethlehem. He used his power to light the sky with angelic beings to inform the shepherds of His birth. He also used His creative power to place a star in the sky dedicated to just Jesus which led the wisemen to Him. Finally, God used His power to prevent King Herod from finding the King of Kings.

The chorus of an awesome God says, "Out God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power, and love, our God is an awesome God." His power is unstoppable and incredible and for those who become Christ followers through Christ our Lord, God's awesome power becomes available for us to sustain through this fallen world all the way to glory. Praise be to God!

III. Third, Christmas can't be cancelled because it's a fulfillment of God's prophecies.

In our present chapter alone there are four prophecies relating to the events surrounding the coming of the wisemen. First, there was the fact that Jesus was born in Bethlehem which had been prophesied roughly 700 years before in the book of Micah chapter five and verse two. The next prophecy mentioned that also was fulfilled was when the angel told Joseph in a dream to take Mary and Jesus and go to Egypt to save Jesus' life from King Herod. Of course, Joseph did so. This fulfilled the prophesy that said that Jesus would come up out of Egypt. And once King Herod died the family came out of Egypt back to the land of Israel. This prophecy came from the book of Hosea 11:1. It also was made some 700 years before Christ came into the world.

The third prophecy mentioned was a sad one. When King Herod had been outwitted by the wisemen he became angry and decided to kill every male child two years old and under in Bethlehem and the vicinity around Bethlehem in order to be sure and kill Jesus.

This was the sad response of the mothers and families and the area, because of this terrible action of King Herod it was prophesized in Jeremiah 31:15 some hundreds of years earlier.

The final prophecy and its fulfillment mentioned in this chapter had to do with the fact that when the family finally did return to the land of Israel they did not go back to Bethlehem or Jerusalem. Rather they moved to Nazareth and this fulfilled the prophecy that stated that Jesus would be called a Nazarene.

Nazareth was a despised area to most people of Israel. Jesus fulfills this prophecy because the Old Testament predicts over and over that Jesus would be despised as well.

So just in our one chapter alone there were four prophecies fulfilled with this part of the Christmas story, and we would have to write another message alone just to cover the other prophecies Jesus fulfilled relating to His birth.

This should greatly encourage us knowing that every aspect of that first Christmas were fulfillments of prophecies made hundreds of years before. For it gives us the complete assurance that all God's prophecies and promises that He's made for us will absolutely come to pass. God controlled the past. He controls the present and He will control the future.

IV. Fourth, Christmas can't be cancelled because it's in the glorious past.

This last point that I am using right here alone would have shut up all means of cancelling Christmas all together. Because the point that I'm making is that you can't cancel what's already taken place. Yes, Christmas has already happened whether we celebrate it or not. It took place over 2,000 years ago on a dark night in a stable somewhere in Bethlehem. And there were witnesses who were there to verify this fact. First, there was Mary and Joseph themselves and a little later the same night came the shepherds who had been keeping watch over flocks out in the fields surrounding Bethlehem. And that very night the shepherds began spreading the good news of great joy to all that they came into contact with.

However in that stable not only was there Mary and Joseph, and a little later the shepherds but there was one more very important person to verify the events of that first Christmas and that was the child that was born that night in that Bethlehem stable who was named Jesus, but also called Immanuel which means God with us. So the baby was a real genuine male human child and at the same time He was God.

Now as a human child He would not have remembered that night or the events surrounding it, but as God He not only remembered it, but as all the other points indicated He orchestrated everything that took place on that first Christmas night. He then through the Holy Spirit's leadership led men of God to record the happenings of that first Christmas and all the events surrounding it which He then had placed into His sacred writing the Word of God for us to read and believe.

There is one more aspect I want to write about this point and it is that in reality Christ came into the world a little over 2,000 years ago but the planning for this event took place in eternity past. The Apostle Paul under the Spirit's leadership said, "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that are under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying Abba Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." (Galatians 4:4-7).

So in the heart and mind of God Christmas was a reality in eternity past before He ever made one of us. That's how much God loves us.

Conclusion:

Christmas can't be cancelled because it's already happened in the past and in the eternal past, but why don't you let it become a reality in your heart and life this Christmas by letting Him be born in your own heart through repentance of your sins and trust in Him as Lord and Savior and you will then never stop celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



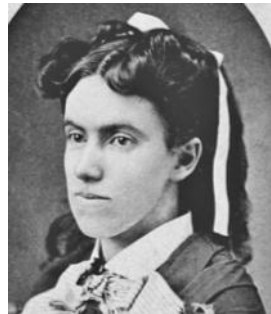
<i>Monday</i>	<i>26th</i>	<i>Ron Degler</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>28th</i>	<i>Sophia Sineath</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>30th</i>	<i>Tori Malphrus</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>30th</i>	<i>Lloyd Freeman</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>31st</i>	<i>Terri King</i>



*A gift of \$200.00 has been given
to the cemetery fund
in memory of Maxwell and Annette
Malphrus by Mamie and James Minton*



Goal for 2022: \$3,000
Received to Date: \$957.00





Deacons' Meeting

Monday, January 9th
at 6:00 p.m.



Business Meeting
Wednesday, January 11th
at 7:00 p.m.



Grandmothers' Group

Monday, January 2th
at 11:30 a.m.

Soup and Sandwiches

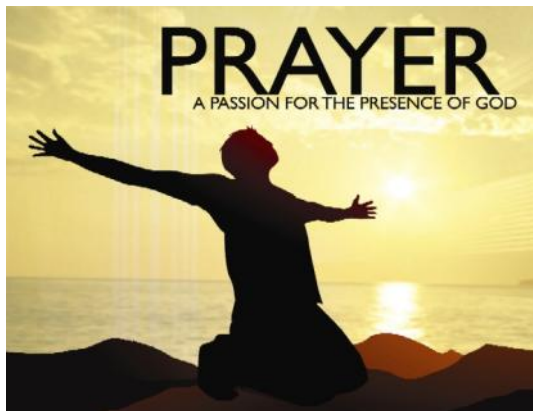
*All grandmothers
welcome!*

Finance Committee Info

The 2023 budget is in the foyer for info. The budget was presented at the regular business meeting on December 14th, 2022 and discussed. The budget will be voted on without discussion on Sunday after service today, December 25th.

Please note that beginning of the new budget year 2023 that before any monies can be spent from regular or designated funds a request form must be received from the church office secretary or finance committee, filled out, and returned for approval. No exceptions!!!

Respectfully,
Finance Committee



Prayer Group
Tuesday
Mornings @
9:00am



**Beginning at 6:00 p.m.
Service to follow at 7:00 p.m.**

**Team Keith will be cooking!
Come out and have dinner
and fellowship with us!**



**Sunday Morning
Breakfast**

Begins at 8:00 a.m.
\$5.00 each or \$15.00
for a family of 4
or more

GSBC Prayer Page

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

Leadership

*President / Vice President of the
United States of America*

Church Needs

*Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries*

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry*

Bereavement

Unspoken

Hospitals

Surgery/Recovery

Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler - RNC
Bobby Mohn - Indigo Pines HHI
Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe
Dot Nettles - NHC*

Cancer/Treatments

*Regina Bouye
Kaiaya Alston
Pat Headley*

Other Health Needs

*Pinky Rushing
Sara Davis
Bob Cramer
Marie Malphrus
Mary Kay Cade
Ellen Nettles
Donna Roberts
Jennifer Pitts Key
Tim Roberts
Chris Blanchard
Jane Himes' Nephew
Keith Gamo
Doug & Melanie Hamm
Rose Sheehan
Steve Bailey
Kenny Hay
Stan Stones
Mel Toland*

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

<i>Shirley Malphrus</i>	<i>Tom Hinely</i>
<i>Rose Boyles</i>	<i>Ann Blocker</i>
<i>Judy Smith</i>	<i>Doby Cleland</i>
<i>Vera Floyd</i>	<i>Lucille & Ron Degler</i>
<i>Barbara Mills</i>	<i>Red & Helen Malphrus</i>
<i>Alice & Gary Way</i>	<i>Thomas & Erma Cooler</i>
<i>Kenny Smith</i>	<i>Lisa Chandler</i>
<i>Diane Hannah</i>	<i>Lloyd Freeman</i>
	<i>Sherry Toland</i>

Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton-Deployed
Matthew Mills-US Marines
Jericho Malphrus-Sp. Agent/Air Force
Washington, D.C.
Michael Sottile - Ret.
Tristan Blanton-San Diego/SWCC
Andrea C. Daring-Charleston, SC*

Church Staff

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

Music Director: **Richard Waitt**waittfamily83@gmail.com

Sunday School Director: **Mike Davis**

Pianist: **Michelle Waitt** waittfamily83@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Meador**greatswampbaptist@hargray.com
843-726-3631

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

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

Finance Director: **Timmy Sauls**greatswampbaptist@hargray.com

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$4,441.00	\$ 4,982.47	-\$541.47
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$0.00		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	\$85.00	*****	\$105.76
<i>Kitchen Supplies</i>	\$75.00	*****	\$117.45
<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$70.00	*****	\$460.45
<i>Wreaths Across America</i>	\$50.00	*****	\$550.00
<i>Lottie Moon</i>	\$743.00	*****	\$957.00
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	\$128.00	*****	\$253.28
<i>Cemetery</i>	\$300	*****	\$400.00



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

Sunday School.....9:15AM
Morning Worship.....10:30AM
Wednesday Night Service.....7:00PM

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