



Ephesians 1:3

PRAISE BE TO THE  
GOD AND FATHER

*of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

**WHO HAS BLESSED US**

*in the heavenly realms with  
every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

*Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*November 26, 2023*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

*Bjo Mills*

**Praise & Worship**

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer  
Worship by Giving  
Offertory Special

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Message**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Invitation**

**Benediction Prayer**

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*Sunday Mornings*  
*Following The Song Service:*



Nursery



Teacher:  
Olivia Stanley

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DEACON OF THE WEEK:

*Bjo Mills*



Phone: 843-271-2840

*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



## **Giving Thanks**

### **Introduction:**

Thanksgiving doesn't get the attention it deserves. It gets sandwiched in between Harvest Fest activities and Christmas. Also when it is taking place our minds and activities have little to do with giving thanks. Much of that time we are shopping for Christmas or watching football.

However the truth is that giving thanks should never be a just a once a year activity for Christmas. Rather it should be one of our daily activities throughout the day, and the word of God is going to reveal that to us

### **I. First, what I want us to consider is the people who are called to give thanks (Ps 95:1-7)**

Five times in these seven verses the Psalmist said either, "Come let us..." or "Let us come...". These three words are an invitation to come to give praise and thanksgiving to our God.

Now this invitation that is given demands for us to ask the question just who is the "us" that's being called to give praise and thanksgiving to our God.

Well, the answer to that question is simple to answer. For the Book of Psalms is the hymn book for God's chosen people the nation of Israel. Therefore it's the people of God that is being called to come forward to lift up their voice in praise and thanksgiving to God.

Tragically the people of this world give thanks as well but it's not to God. Paul directly points this out from his writings to the Christian in Rome. "For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened." (Romans 1:21).

So as the unbeliever refused to honor God and give Him thanks it resulted in their hearts and minds becoming even more and more ungrateful.

So it is with us that if we spend more and more time complaining, gossiping or being ungrateful it will just result in more of the same thing.

But if God's people would devote their time in giving more and more worship, praise and thanksgiving unto our Lord then that would result in us doing more of that same thing as well, which is exactly what we need to do. The world hears enough negative things coming out of the church. It's time that we show them our gratitude and thanksgiving unto God. Which would result in helping the world to know that our God is worthy of our praise. So, church, come let us give thanks unto our blessed Lord.

**II. Second, what I want us to consider is what is the purpose for which we give thanks? (Ps 95:1-7, Col 1:12-23).**

In these two sets of verses that I have chosen for this point there are, I believe, three main choices stated for which God's people are to give thanks unto our blessed Lord.

First, both the Old Testament passage and the New Testament passage reveal that we should give thanks because God is our creator. "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our maker." (Ps 95:6). "For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him." (Col 1:16). So He's worthy for our thanksgiving because without Him we would not be.

Second, both passages of scripture reveal that God is worthy of our thanksgiving because He has saved us. "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation." (Ps 95:1). Notice we are to give thanks not to our salvation but to the Rock of our salvation. In other words our salvation is completely associated with the Rock of our salvation and that Rock is Jesus Himself. There is no salvation apart from Jesus.

Now Paul says it this way, "And giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Col 1:12-14).

So Paul calls upon us to give exuberant, joyful and exciting thanks unto our Lord because He has delivered us from darkness to light; from sin to salvation; from Satan to the Son of God. Oh, let us worship the God of our salvation for His amazing grace by which He has saved us!

Third purpose for which we give thanks as stated through both of these set of verses is purely because of who God is. He's God and therefore that alone entitles Him to our praise and thanks. "Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods." (Ps 95:2,3).

"He (Jesus) is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him." (Col 1:17-19).

### **III. Third, what I want us to consider is the places and the period in which we are to give thanks.**

With this point I will share three different verse that reveal the simple fact that we are to worship and give thanks to our Lord in all places and at all times.

"Give thanks in **all** circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thess 5:18)

"DO not be anxious about anything, but in **everything** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God." (Phil 4:6).

"**Continue Steadfastly** in your prayer , being watchful and thankful."(Col 4:2).

So these set of verse I chose for this point absolutely reveal that thanksgiving for the Child of God is not and must never be only a once a year holiday but rather a continuous ongoing activities of our lives at all times and in all places. As a matter of fact as Christians it's so wonderful that even when life gets us down that we still have awesome reasons to be grateful. And with that gratitude we can better get through our trials.

#### **Conclusion:**

So let me conclude by pointing out that God's people should be in the habit of continually giving thanks because that's what you're going to be doing continually in heaven, as the Book of Revelations shows us.

"Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (Rev 4:9-11).

"And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.' Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: 'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!'"(Rev 5:9-13). Amen!

Jesus Loves You,  
Ralph Lee, Jr.



## **MOVIE NIGHT!!**

Showing: Let There Be Light



~~TONIGHT~~  
Sunday, January 26th  
Concessions 6:00 p.m.  
Movie 6:30 p.m.



Please bring a finger food to share!  
Tea and Popcorn provided.

**Come watch an amazing movie with us!**

## Sunday School Classes

**@ 9:15am**

**CAMO CLASS - Room 406 - Bobby Smith**

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**GLEANERS CLASS - Room 401 - Darlene Bollack**

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**VISIONARIES CLASS - Building 3, Old Social Hall**

*Leader - Greg Mariocourt*

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**SOJOURNERS CLASS - Room 417 - Mack Pope**

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**YOUTH - Youth Annex Leader - Amanda Hodges**

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**BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES - Room 415 -**

**Nicole Mauriocourt**

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## Wednesday Night Services

**@ 7:00 pm**

**WORSHIP SERVICE** *Multi-Purpose Building*

*Leader-Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

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**YOUTH GROUP** *Youth Annex*

*Leader-Michelle Waitt*

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**SWAMP KIDS** *Nursery Hall*

*Leader - Kim Malphrus*

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# AGENDA

**Business Meeting**

Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m.

**Deacons' Meeting**

Monday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m.

**Prayer Meeting**

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m.

**Grandmothers' Group**

Monday, December 4th at 11:30 a.m.

All ladies welcome!

**Swamp Kids**

Every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m.

**Men's Ministry Meeting**

Thursday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m.

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**Greeters for Today:**

Latrelle & Mike D.

**December:**

- 12/3 - Kim & Richard
- 12/10 - Juliette & Mike W
- 12/17 - Latrelle & Mike D
- 12/24 - Courtney & Jeff
- 12/31 - Kim & Richard



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>26th</i>	<i>Krey Lowther</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>26th</i>	<i>Carol Davis</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>30th</i>	<i>Chuck Scoggins</i>



## Operation Christmas Child



A huge THANK YOU to Mrs. Dorthie for all her hard work year in and year out with Operation Christmas Child. A big thank you also to everyone who helped out in any way, shape, form, or fashion (shopping, packing, contributing, etc). We could not have done it without each and every one of you.

Our success as a whole is because of each one of you individually. So everyone pat themselves on the back and give Mrs. Dorthie a pat on the back, and get ready to do it again next year!!!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Great Swamp Christmas Family Gathering

Sunday, December 10th during worship service

**Church will provide baked chicken and tea.**

**\*\*Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share!\*\***

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**4 Vital Screenings  
for \$149**

- Carotid Artery Ultrasound
- Peripheral Arterial Disease
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

To register for your appointment and receive the special discount, please call

**866-964-1386**

LIFE LINE SCREENING  
The Power of Prevention

Life Line Screening has screened over 10 million people since 1993. Get 4 preventive health screenings in just 1 appointment with Life Line Screening here at the church on December 21st. Included in the screening are the following: carotid artery ultrasound, peripheral arterial disease, atrial fibrillation, and abdominal aortic aneurysm.

**Don't miss this great opportunity to give you peace of mind. Call today and book your spot before they fill up!**



# Grandmother's Group

Grandmother's group invites all ladies  
for the Chinese Christmas party!

Monday, December 4th at 11:30 a.m.

**Please bring a covered dish  
or a dessert!!**

Meat and drinks will be provided.

Plan to bring a \$5 to \$10 gift to  
participate in the game and plan to  
stay a while!





## Wednesday Night Supper

Meals served from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
every Wednesday night.

**Team Timmy is cooking for Wednesday,  
November 29th.**

\$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family of four or more.

No meal deliveries.

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## Sunday Morning Breakfast

Breakfast will be served  
from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00  
a.m.

\$5.00 per person or  
\$15.00 per family of  
four or more.

# GSBC Prayer Page

## Church Leadership

*Sunday School*  
*SFCA-Donna Carter*  
*Child Development*  
*Ministries*  
*Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor*  
*Richard Waitt- Music Director*  
*Deacons*  
*Church Finances*

## Leadership

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

## Bereavement

## Unspoken

## Hospitals

## Surgery/Recovery

*Eddie Amason - Knee Surgery*  
*Ann Blocker - Sprenger*  
*Healthcare in Bluffton*

## Cancer/Treatments

*Revel Crosby - 4 years old*  
*(Leukemia)*  
*Morgan Warren*  
*Ken Lawler*

## Other Health Needs

*Mary Kay Cade*  
*Debbie Hale*  
*Julia Rushing*  
*Pinky Rushing*  
*Amy Hannah*  
*Kathy Breland*  
*Grace Hetrick*  
*Arthur Pierson*  
*Clark Daring*  
*Arlette Jones*

## Nursing Centers

*Bobby Mohn - Indigo Pines HHI*  
*Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe*

## 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>Red &amp; Helen Malphrus</i>
<i>Barbara Mills</i>	<i>Thomas &amp; Erma Cooler</i>
<i>Kenny Smith</i>	<i>Marie Malphrus</i>
<i>Diane Hannah</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*  
*Schuyler Johnson - Basic Training Marines*

## Church Staff

Pastor: **Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.** ..... [jehu27@gmail.com](mailto:jehu27@gmail.com)

Music Director: **Richard Waitt** ..... [waittfamily83@gmail.com](mailto:waittfamily83@gmail.com)

Sunday School Director: **Mike Davis** .....

Pianist: **Michelle Waitt** ..... [waittfamily83@gmail.com](mailto:waittfamily83@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Meador** ..... [greatswampbaptist@hargray.com](mailto:greatswampbaptist@hargray.com)  
843-726-3631

School Administrator: **Donna Carter** ..... [dcarter@sfcaweb.org](mailto:dcarter@sfcaweb.org)

## Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	<b>\$2,494.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,012.49</b>	<b>\$-2,518.49</b>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<b>\$50.00</b>		
<b>Designated Funds</b>		*****	<b>Acct. Balances</b>
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	<b>\$80.00</b>	*****	<b>\$833.60</b>
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	<b>\$670.00</b>	*****	<b>\$1,533.86</b>
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	<b>\$134.00</b>	*****	<b>\$378.96</b>
<i>Janie Chapman</i>	<b>\$33.00</b>	*****	<b>\$33.00</b>



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](mailto:greatswampbc@gmail.com)  
Website: [greatswampbaptistchurch.com](http://greatswampbaptistchurch.com)  
Church Office: (843) 726-3631