



O LORD,  
our Lord,  
how majestic  
is your name  
in all the  
earth!

You have  
set your glory  
above the  
heavens.

*Psalm 8:1*

***Great Swamp Baptist Church***

***December 31, 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:*



### **What Mary Didn't Know (Luke 2:22-35)**

#### **Introduction:**

Mark Lowry gave us one of the greatest Christmas songs of all time when he wrote "Mary Did You Know." The theme of the song is what did Mary know about the son that she gave birth to? Did she understand just who Jesus was and what He came to do?

For me this leads to another question: What was it that Mary didn't know about the Son that she gave birth to? While there were things that she knew about her Son, there were also many things that she didn't know. In this message I want us to take a look at those things that Mary and Joseph didn't know. This will come from their encounter with a righteous man named Simeon when they took Baby Jesus to the temple to have Him go through the purification rite of every first born son.

#### **I. First, let's consider what Mary and Joseph did know.**

Now the things that they did know had been revealed to them by angels of the Lord and the teaching of God's Word. Of course, even though the angels and God's Word gave them knowledge as to who Mary's son was and what He came to do, it's obvious that they didn't comprehend what it all meant as would be true of any of us.

However both Matthew's account and Luke's account of the Christmas events reveals several things to both Mary and Joseph as to just who this baby boy Jesus is.

What they learned and knew, though not fully comprehended, was that this son that Mary gave birth to was not just any other ordinary Jewish boy. No. There's never been anyone born who even begins to resemble just who Baby Jesus is.

They had learned that Mary's son was the work of the Holy Spirit of God. They learned that He was the Son of the Most High, the Son of God. They learned that He was Immanuel God with us. They also learned that He was named Jesus because He was going to save His people from their sins. Also they learned that because He was the ancestor of King David, that He would reign on the throne of David and His Kingdom would last forever. Finally, they learned that He was Christ the Lord, the Messiah.

Now these were things that clearly would have been mind blowing to any of us. However the concept of who the Messiah was to be at the time of Jesus's birth was that when He came He was going to be a great military and political figure who would come and in a very powerful fashion wipe out the enemies of Israel and set them up as the ruling nation of the world. Well, this is basically our understanding of whom Jesus will be at His second coming but not who He came to be at His first coming.

So a lot of what Mary and Joseph had learned or revealed about who Jesus is would have been somewhat clouded by their nation's view of the Messiah. In our next point we will see that Simeon will reveal who Jesus was and what He came to do in a way that Joseph and Mary didn't know.

## **II. Second, let's consider what Mary and Joseph didn't know.**

When Joseph and Mary entered the temple to carry out the rite of purification on Jesus, the Holy Spirit led Simeon into the temple at the same time. He picked up the child and begin to praise God for Jesus. The things that He said in His praise and Thanksgiving to God for the Baby Jesus were things that the angels had already revealed to Joseph and Mary. Mainly that the Baby Jesus had come in order to bring salvation for Gentiles and Jews.

However once Simeon had finished his praise and thanksgiving over seeing the Baby Jesus he then spoke to Mary and Joseph, revealing to them a couple of things that they didn't know about Jesus.

First, Simeon revealed that depending upon peoples' response toward Jesus will determine whether they will rise or fall or whether they will be saved or be lost. Many will refuse to believe in Him as the Messiah and Savior and that will be their downfall with no means of eternal salvation. While there will be those who will believe and will experience eternal salvation and everlasting joy. So Simeon is revealing that salvation will come by individuals personally believing and trusting in Jesus Christ alone.

The second thing that Simeon shared that Mary and Joseph didn't know was that the salvation that Jesus came to present was not that of a military and political one. Rather that of a suffering Savior who came to pay the greatest price of all time in order to save us. Of course, that price was the shedding of His precious blood when He took our punishment at the cross on our behalf.

Now when you read exactly what Simeon said to Mary he didn't exactly use the words and phrases that I wrote above. However, what he said to her implied those words and phrases. What he said was a sword would pierce her very soul. And this is what happened to Mary when Jesus went to the cross and she was there to witness her son's horrible treatment and unimaginable suffering. So though she didn't fully comprehend his statement he was revealing to her that Jesus would be the Messiah who must first suffer which would cause her to suffer, but it was necessary in order to save us from our sins.

**Conclusion:**

Praise God that what Mary didn't know, though at first brought great agony, what she didn't know also brought great ecstasy because she not only saw her son suffer but she saw Him alive after He came up out of the grave. So we too need to know that the Baby Jesus grew up, went to the cross, but three days later gloriously arose.

So the question is will you accept what we now know, that Jesus suffered for our salvation so that we might have eternal life?

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee, Jr.

# AGENDA

**Business Meeting**

Wednesday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m.

**Deacons' Meeting**

Monday, January 8th at 6:00 p.m.

**Prayer Meeting**

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m.

**Grandmothers' Group**

Monday, February 5th at 11:30 a.m.

All ladies welcome!

**Swamp Kids**

Every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m.

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**Goal: \$3,000.00**  
**To Date: \$2,109.00**



<i>Monday</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Allysa Schrader</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Dora Reynolds</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Jennifer Meador</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Teresa Garbade</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Duane Armstrong</i>



The church office will be closed,  
Monday, January 1st due to New  
Years.





## Wednesday Night Supper

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

**Team Keith will be cooking Wednesday, January 3rd.**

\$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

*Family of Kay Elliott*  
*Family of Keith Gamo*  
*Family of Rhonda Stones*  
*Family of Matthew Boyles*

## Unspoken

## Other Health Needs

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

## Hospitals

*Allen Tindal, Junior*

## Cancer/Treatments

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

## Surgery/Recovery

*Debbie Hale*  
*Chyleen Mock*  
*David Sauls*

## Nursing Centers

*Bobby Mohn - Ridgeland Nursing Home*  
*Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe*  
*Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home*

## 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 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-Louisiana*  
*Andrea C. Daring-Charleston, SC*  
*Schuyler Johnson - Basic Training Marines*

## 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@sfcaweb.org*

## Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	<b>\$3,490.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,012.49</b>	<b>-\$1,522.49</b>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>		
<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>Acct. Balances</b>
<i>Lottie Moon</i>	<b>\$980.00</b>	*****	<b>\$2,109.00</b>
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	<b>\$105.00</b>	*****	<b>\$273.43</b>
<i>SFCA Gym</i>	<b>\$40.00</b>	*****	<b>\$1,016.83</b>
<i>Kitchen Supplies</i>	<b>150.00</b>	*****	<b>\$500.44</b>
<i>MPB</i>	<b>\$125.00</b>	*****	<b>\$225.00</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