



*This is my
Father's will:*

that all who see the Son and
believe in him will have

eternal life.

JOHN 6:40a

***Great Swamp Baptist Church
March 3, 2024***

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Lloyd Freeman

Praise & Worship

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer
Worship by Giving
Offertory Special

Pastor Ralph Lee

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery



Teacher:
Olivia Stanley

DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Lloyd Freeman



Phone: 803-943-6312

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



Worship Behind the Walls **(Nehemiah 7:73-8:15)**

Introduction:

This past Wednesday night, I began a message called worship behind the walls. This message is based upon the first big worship experience that the Jews did once they finished rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

This worship event as ascribed in the Old Testament called the festival of trumpets took place during the month of September. It was the first festival of the month that prepared them for the other festivals taking place during this most holy month to the Jews.

What we are going to take notice of is how the Jews carried these worshipped festivals out and see if our worship experiences and services are carried out in similar fashion. For the topic of worship, which is absolutely the heartbeat of what we do, has gone all over the place and in many cases lost the whole focus and purpose of what it's all about, and how it's carried out.

What we see in today's worship is more often geared toward entertainment for the crowd than exalting our Christ. It's more often about pleasing the people than pleasing our Lord. It's more often about being seeking sensitive than seeking our Savior. It's more often about being comfortable than about being convicted.

What we find is that in this worship event taking place behind the rebuilt walls is a beautiful picture and example of how the church today also needs to carry out their worship experience. So let's find out what took place in their worship behind the walls.

I. First, let's notice that the worship behind the walls required an assembly of the people in a certain place (vs 7:73-8:3)

This festival was not like festivals that we generally do now in which we do them in our homes. Rather they would leave their homes and gather together in a location determined to carry out this worshipped event. In this case of course it was in Jerusalem behind the now completed walls of the city. More specifically, they were called to a particular square that was facing the water gate.

In our modern electronic times we can turn on a radio, a TV, a computer, or even our smartphones and literally be part of nearly every event that takes place in the world. That also includes a big majority of our church services. No one anymore has to literally attend a church service to quote, quote, be a part of one. And especially since the COVID pandemic have people left the church, as we all did briefly, but stayed a part of it through the online services that we held.

However when it came time to open our churches back up a large group chose not to return but instead to continue participating through our online services or just to quit altogether.

Now let me thank our blessed Lord, that God has given us various online apps to host our worship services for those who for whatever reason physically cannot attend. But otherwise God has called us as believers and as his family to literally physically leave our homes and assemble together in those certain places that we've set aside to worship on our blessed Lord.

The writer of Hebrews gives us a strong command for gathering together in a literal sense when he said, "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another -- and all the more as you see the day approaching." (Heb 10:22-25). Over and over, the writer of Hebrews said "let us" in those verses and then he specifically said to not give up meeting together. So let us challenge one another to be faithful and attending our worship service so worship can happen.

Also, there were a few things about their assembling together that we need to pay close attention to for our own worship services.

First, Nehemiah tells us that when they assembled they did so as one. This means they were all united for the reason why they had assembled together. They did not come together for each person to express an opinion, or to evaluate how well someone does a certain part of the service or to be seen by others and the list could go on and on.

Rather their one goal was to focus not upon themselves so to speak, but rather to focus upon our blessed Lord. So it is that when we assemble together, our focus must always be that we are united to worship our blessed Lord. And when we do this, it will result in helping us and each other as well.

Another aspect of their assembling was that not only did they gather as one but it was an assembly of nearly everyone. It was both the men and the women. It also was all the young people who were old enough to understand. So worship services are not meant for just one specific group but rather for all men, women, and young persons even the children capable of listening and understanding.

Another thing that they had was specific leaders that were necessary to guide the assembled group through the worship experience. We all need to ask the Lord that He will give us leaders to help create a worship experience but also to help us all lead in some capacity in the worship service.

Finally Nehemiah tells us that the assembly came together to understand. They didn't come thinking they already knew it all or that there wasn't something that they could learn. They came with humble hearts ready to receive this lesson God intended upon them learning. We, too, must come together in this same kind of spirit.

II. Second, let's notice that the worship behind the walls required a priority and precedent to be placed upon the proclamation of God's Holy Word (vs 8:1-18)

There are a number of things that tell us that God's word was a priority and a precedent in their worship service. First, we are told that the people themselves cried out to the leaders for the reading and teaching of God's Holy Word. I pray that all across our land that the people of God will once again cry out for the reading and the teaching of God's Word.

Second, we're told that the priest, teachers, and preachers spoke nothing but God's word along with the understanding of it to the people. The tragedy of today is that so many who stand before the people to give a message are merely giving lip service to God's word, while they water it down by mixing it together with the thoughts and opinions of the world.

May God lead his ministers to heed the words that the Apostle Paul gave to young preacher Timothy. "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:14-17).

Also in the next chapter of Second Timothy, Paul directly told Timothy, “. . . I give you this charge: preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instructions.” (2 Tim 4:1,2). So preach nothing but God's word, men of God.

The third thing we learn from their presentation of God's word was that it was done in a large group setting and then as well in smaller group setting. Ezra would speak to the entire assembly group. Then it tells us that certain priests would gather smaller groups together to explain to them what Ezra had read to them. It is vitally important that we get our people in the larger assembly but as well to get them in smaller assembled groups so that we can give them understanding on a more personal level. For our church that is primarily Sunday School.

Last of all the people sought to put the Word of God into practice. We are told in this chapter that on the second day of this festival they found out that God's word says that this festival requires them to literally build some outdoor shelter to camp in while they carried this festival out and that's exactly what they did. We, too, must preach God's word and seek to understand it and that by God's grace and strength put that word into practice.

Conclusion:

May our blessed Lord help us to stop letting the world determine how we do worship, but instead let his word guide us so that the end result will be that our God gets all the glory.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



Operation Christmas Child



It's that time again -- time to start our year 'round collection! We've had two months off for the holidays, but now onward to the rest of this year. 600 boxes are anticipated to be packed this year, possibly more if more donations come in. The OCC account is \$0 but good thing we have items left over from last year to get us started! You can donate the items each month from the list or give a monetary donation if you don't want to shop. Let us do the shopping for you!

Here is the list for the month of March:

Washcloths Stuffed Animals
Toothbrushes Barbies Tennis Balls
Combs/Brushes - both boys and girls

Thank you for your donations.
-Dorthie



SwampKids is in need of the following items on Wednesday nights:

- 1) small bottles of water
 - 2) *snacks such as fruit, fruit cups, fruit snacks, pretzels, Goldfish, cookies, crackers, etc*
 - 3) paper products, such as plates, small cups, small zip lock bags, napkins, paper towels, straws, wet wipes
 - 4) *monetary donations to purchase craft supplies*
- We appreciate your support and prayers. If you would like us to minister to anyone through cards, prayer, etc, please let Kim Malphrus know.

WMU Association-Wide



Help Re-stock our Association Churches' Food Pantries!

Please collect food pantry items during the month of February through your church and bring them to either: (1) Beth Bonds, 5942 Pleasant Farm Drive, Beaufort, SC, OR (2) The SRBA Office on Bees Creek Road in Ridgeland. They will be distributed from there to our associational churches with food pantries.

MOVIE NIGHT!!

Showing: TBA

Sunday, March 17th

Concessions at 6:00 p.m.

Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.



Please bring finger foods for your family and more to share with all!
Tea and Popcorn provided.

Come watch an amazing movie with us!



**STEP OF FAITH
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
BLOOD DRIVE**

MONDAY, MARCH 4

12:30PM – 6:30PM @MULTI-PURPOSE

9009 TARBORO RD RIDGELAND SC 29936



Schedule your appointment by scanning the QR code or online @ www.Redcrossblood.org
then type sponsor code: **SFCA or call 1-800-733-2767**

Donors will get a \$10 e-gift card to a pet supply merchant of choice
Plus, be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$3,000 gift card –
There will be five lucky winners!

VBS Supplies Needed!!

We need sand, preferably beach sand or play sand. If you go to the beach, please fill a bag and bring it in!

Sunday School Classes

@ 9:15am

CAMO CLASS - Room 406 - Bobby Smith

GLEANERS CLASS - Room 401 - Darlene Bollack

VISIONARIES CLASS - Building 3, Old Social Hall

Leader - Greg Mariocourt

SOJOURNERS CLASS - Room 417 - Mack Pope

YOUTH - Youth Annex Leader - Amanda Hodges

BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES - Room 417 -

Nicole Mauriocourt

RAINBOW KIDS - 3RD GRADE AND OLDER - Room 415 -

Kelly Scherger

Wednesday Night Services

@ 7:00 pm

WORSHIP SERVICE Multi-Purpose Building

Leader-Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

YOUTH GROUP Youth Annex

Leader-Michelle Waitt

SWAMP KIDS Nursery Hall

Leader - Kim Malphrus

AGENDA

Business Meeting

Wednesday, March 13th 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Deacons' Meeting

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

Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Grandmothers' Group

Monday, April 1st at 11:30 a.m.

Meet in the parsonage, please!!

All ladies welcome!

Swamp Kids

Every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m.



**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING®

The Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is March 3-10. The theme this year is "Make Jesus Known." Our church goal this year is \$1,200. For every \$100 given, we will color an Easter egg in the basket. See the back wall information board.



<i>Monday</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>Jeffrey Stanley</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>Latrelle Steedly</i>



Thursday, March 7th:
Ben & Cheryl Mills



Greeters for Today:
Juliette & Mike W.

Next Sunday 3/10:
Latrelle & Mike D.

Great Swamp Baptist Church
Sunday School Social

We're Having a
COOKOUT

Invite your friends and neighbors so
we can grow our Sunday School



Saturday, April 27th
11:00 am to 3:00 pm
At the church



Church will provide the
hot dogs and hamburgers, fries, tea
and water.

Church members please bring a
side and/or a dessert to share!



Bounce House and
Games for Kids!!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SFCA Blood Drive

Monday, March, 4th

Sign up online now to get a spot!!

Daylight Savings Time - Spring Forward

Sunday, March 10th

Esther, The Musical

Friday, March 22nd in the SFCA Gymnasium

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24th

Narroway Dinner & Show

Sunday, March 29th

Good Friday - SF No School

Friday, March 29th

Easter “Son Up” Service

Sunday, March 31st at 8:00 a.m. at the crosses

Regular Easter service in MPB at 10:00 a.m. like normal

Lord’s Supper

Sunday, March 31st during normal worship service

“Down by the Creek” Musical

Friday, April 12th at 12:00 p.m.



Wednesday Night Supper

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

Team Keith will be cooking Wednesday, March 6th.

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

No meal deliveries.



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

Allen Tindal, Junior

Surgery/Recovery

Cancer/Treatments

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

Nursing Centers

Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe
Tommy & Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home
David Sauls - Morrell Nursing Center
Doby Cleland - Life Care Center of HHI

Other Health Needs

Mary Kay Cade
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Kathy Breland
Grace Hetrick
Arlette Jones
Jennifer Wall
Arthur Pearson
Pete Williamson
Mike Davis
Dwight Malphrus
Latrelle Steedly
Sarah Sanders
Rodney Malphrus, Jr.
Mark Mingledorff
Bill Carter
Donna Carter

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

Shirley Malphrus *Tom Hinely*
Rose Boyles *Ann Blocker*
Judy Smith *Red & Helen Malphrus*
Vera Floyd *Marie Malphrus*
Barbara Mills *Diane Hannah*
Kenny Smith *Ann Long*

Pray For Our Military

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

Church Staff

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

Music Director: **Richard Waitt**

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 + / -
	\$3,721.00	\$4,923.33	\$-1,202.33
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$50.00		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
<i>SMB</i>	\$100.00	*****	\$858.76
<i>WNS</i>	\$160.00	*****	\$-205.46
<i>Seniors Group</i>	\$236.90	*****	\$328.75



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