



*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  
May 5, 2024*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

*Keith Gamo*

**Praise & Worship**

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special

**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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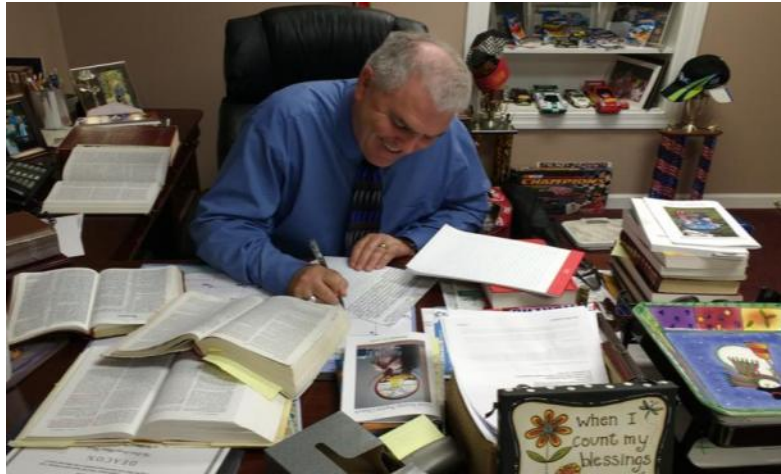
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

*Keith Gamo*



Phone: 843-986-8525

*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



### **He Reigns**

**(John 17:1-5, 24; 1 Cor 15:22-26; Eph 1:18-23; Col 3:1, 2)**

#### **Introduction:**

Since Easter we've been looking at the things that Jesus did and is doing since His resurrection. We examined the forty day period that Jesus hung around revealing Himself to His disciples before He ascended back to heaven. Then we looked at the ascension itself. Following that we began to look at the things that Jesus is now doing in heaven since He returned back there.

So what is it that we've discovered that Jesus is doing since returning? Well, in our last message we discussed the intercession ministry that Jesus carries on in the very throne room of heaven before the Heavenly Father. The second thing that we will examine in this message that Jesus is presently doing in heaven is the fact that He is reigning. We saw that when He ascended He did so in a very regal and royal manner. It was a clear demonstration that His ascension back to glory was not just to be another participant in the activities of heaven but rather to ascend to the throne where He can reign. As we often say to encourage one another, He's seated on the throne. I'm simply calling this message, He Reigns.

#### **I. First, let's notice that in heaven Jesus reigns positionally (Col 3:1,2)**

I'm using the word positionally to refer to the place where Jesus returned to when He ascended to heaven. We could share a number of verse that reveal that place and position He ascended to, but we will use this particular couple of verses to show what all the others show. What they show is that the place in heaven He ascended to is at the right hand of God.

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your heart on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (Col 1:1, 2).

This second verse tells us to set our mind on things above, and clearly that first verse gives us all the reason why we should be focused upon heaven and not on earthly things because our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ is there and He’s not simply there as one of the many. Rather He’s as high as you can go the right hand of God.

Being in that place reminds us that He’s worthy of our commitment, devotion, and obedience. But it also reminds us that because He’s in that place He’s also able to intercede for us, and He’s also able to accomplish and fulfill everything that He said He would do for us. So hang in there because our Lord and Savior is at the top of the totem pole, and because He is we will be too.

**II. Second, let’s notice that in heaven Jesus reign gloriously (John 17:1-5, 24).**

These verses for this point is called the high priestly prayer of our Lord and Savior. In this prayer as Jesus is about to face the cross, He prays for His, and our Heavenly Father to glorify Him. One commentary author said of this request of Jesus that, “Jesus then prayed, ‘Glorify your Son,’ this request for glorification included sustaining Jesus in suffering, accepting His sacrifice, resurrecting Him, and restoring Him to His pristine glory.”

Paul in Philippians gives us a great picture of Jesus’ humble descent from glory to become a man, and ultimately to die on the old rugged cross. But then he shows us His amazing exaltation back to glory. “In your relationship with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who being is very mature God did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness . And being found in appearance as a man He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil 2:5-11). He went from glory to groaning to the ground, and back to glory in all of His glory. All this glory tells us that He’s no ordinary king but rather He’s the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Also John tells us that a day will come, praise be to our God, that we will get to see and experience His glory with Him one day. But this will only be for those that have trusted in Him. So let us now begin giving Him glory here because we are definitely going to go there. It’s our whole reality for living to glorify Him.

### **III. Third, let's notice that in heaven Jesus reigns powerfully** **(Eph 1:18-23)**

Before Jesus ascended back to heaven He told His disciples in the gospel of Matthew, that "all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Matt 28:18) Jesus had clearly demonstrated that by resurrecting from the grave.

The apostle Paul expounds on that power and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ in the book of Ephesians. It is part of a prayer that he is praying for the Ephesians believer. "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." (Eph 1:18-23).

In both of these sets of verses I just shared above we are told by Jesus Himself, and by the apostle Paul under the Holy Spirit's leadership, that the authority and power of our Lord Jesus Christ bows down to no other authority and power in all of creation. For His power and authority reigns supreme in all places and over all others.

All the demonic forces of hell couldn't hold Him in the grave, nor could they stop Him from ascending back to heaven right through their very domain. For Paul tells us that there's demonic forces called the spiritual forces of evil that dwell in the heavenly realm. Jesus basically got in their faces and said 'I am coming through and you can't stop me.'

So the question is as Jesus reigns powerfully what is He using that power for? Well, in these two sets of scripture verses we are told what Jesus is doing with all of that power. He's using it to empower the church so that we can continue His work of reaching the lost and bringing them to redemption. He's also using that power to make sure that the plans, purpose, and promises of God are ultimately fulfilled.

So let us not be overcome by the forces of evil that seem to be winning the day. Rather let us be encouraged and reminded that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ reigns powerfully and supremely and therefore all other power and authority will one day bow down to Him. Oh, what a Savior we have.

**IV. Fourth, let's notice that in heaven Jesus reigns purposely (I Cor 15:22-26).**

Now I have already in the previous points hit on this fact that Jesus did not ascend back to heaven to sit back and do nothing. Rather our blessed Lord reign in heaven will accomplish many amazing and awesome purposes. Some of those purposes He's fulfilling at the present, but some of those purposes He will fulfill at a later date.

There is so much scripture that we could share about all that He's purposely fulfilling or will fulfill as He reigns, but that would use up more space than we have room for. However I do want to share one of those passages that shows that as He reigns He's fulfilling many activities. As a matter of fact Paul shares with us in a different passage that as He reigns Jesus is sustaining and holding together all that He created which is everything that exists (Col. 1:15-19).

However let me share the verses I chose for this point. "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death." (1 Cor. 15:22-26). So in heaven right now as He reigns He is preparing to destroy His enemies and then set up His glorious kingdom. This is just one of the many purposes He is and will fulfill. So let us not fret, nor live as though we have an inactive Savior and Lord. For He reigns to accomplish and fulfill all that the Father has called Him to do. Amen.

**V. Fifth, let's notice that in heaven Jesus reigns victoriously (Rev 17:14; Rev 19:16).**

Every point that we've already examined in this message leaves us with no doubt that as Jesus reigns in heaven He does so victoriously. But there are two verses that I will share that shouts absolutely that Jesus reigns victoriously because He's the King of kings and Lord of lords.

"They will wage war against the Lamb (Jesus), but the Lamb (Jesus), will triumph over them because He's the Lord of lords and King of kings -- and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers." (Rev 17:14).

"On His (Jesus) robe and on His thigh He has this name written: King of kings and Lord of lords." (Rev 19:16).

Because He's victorious we, too, will be because of His victory.

**Conclusion:**

As we've already noted in one of the set of verses shared there will come a day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. My prayer is that you do that now, by surrendering your life to Him today, so that you will be a willing participant on that day and not one forced to do so for whom it will be too late to save you. Jesus reigns now and forever and you can be a part of His reign by trusting Him as Lord and Savior.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee

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**Greeters for Today:**

Latrelle & Mike D

**Next Sunday 5/12:**

Courtney & Jeff





<i>Friday</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>Amy O'Connor</i>
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	<p><b><u>Sunday, May 5th:</u></b> Mack &amp; Bonnie Pope</p> <p><b><u>Monday, May 6th:</u></b> Eric &amp; Kellie Chapman</p>
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We did it!! Our grand total for the Annie Armstrong Offering is \$1,227!! Thank you to everyone who donated to this wonderful cause!

**SAVE THE DATE  
Saturday - May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
COME JOIN US!!**

**Savannah River Baptist Association WMU/WOM  
Spring 2024 Meeting  
Okatee Baptist Church  
Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am til 12:00 noon  
Lunch will follow - 12:00 noon til 1:00 pm.**

**This will be our Annual Training and Board Recruitment Meeting, with Special Guests from our State WMU Board (Jess Archer and Cindy Skelton), as well as several other speakers from around our area.**

**We will have special missions presentations by Ms. Sheila Roemling with *Fresh Start, Healing Hearts* (our local human trafficking assistance organization), and our SRBA WMU Associate Director Vicki Farrow, representing the Dru Graves Ministry.**

**Since we have not had an “official” food pantry item collection event this year, those churches that have not had the opportunity to support our local church food pantries are encouraged to bring items to be sorted and distributed to these churches. If you are interested in starting a pantry at your own church, this is the time to discuss this with us and work towards forming your own pantry that we as an association can help support.**

***\*\* Lunch will be catered for this event. \*\****

***Please RSVP to Cindy Rhodes at (843) 247-6364 OR by email [cindyrhodes@savannahriverbaptist.org](mailto:cindyrhodes@savannahriverbaptist.org)***

**Thanks and we look forward to seeing you there!!**

***Beth Bonds, Director, SRBA WMU  
(832) 334-2563 email: [bethie59@protonmail.com](mailto:bethie59@protonmail.com)***



**Muffins for Mom Program**

Friday, May 10th  
At 8:15 a.m. in MPB

**Junior and Senior Prom**

Saturday, May 11th  
At TBD and Place TBD

**Baccalaureate**

Wednesday, May 15th  
At 7:00 p.m. in Old Sanctuary

**Sports Banquet**

Thursday, May 16th  
At 6:00 p.m. in MPB

**Kindergarten (K5)**

**Graduation**

Friday, May 17th  
At 7:00 p.m. in Gym

**SFCA High School**

**Graduation**

Saturday, May 18th  
At 4:00 p.m. in Gym

**Sixth Grade "Moving Up"**

May 23rd at TBD

**SFCA Awards Day**

Friday, May 24th at 8:15 a.m.

*\*\*Dismiss afterwards for  
Summer Break\*\**

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THANK  
YOU!

A special thank you to everyone who helped with the cook out. The food was fantastic as were the games. We couldn't have done it without your help!



# Operation Christmas Child



These are the items being collected for April or you can give a monetary donation and we will do the shopping for you.

**Here is the list for the month of May:**



Ponytail Bands  
Stuffed Animals  
Toothbrushes



Ziploc Bags - Gallon & Quart  
Socks - Boys & Girls



Yo-yos, jump ropes, or any other toy  
Hair Barrettes, Scrunchies, & Headbands



Any questions, please ask Dorthie.  
Thank you.



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## **MOVIE NIGHT!!**

Showing: TBD

Sunday, May 19th

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!**



## Wednesday Night Supper

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

**Team Timmy will be cooking Wednesday, May 8th**

**Menu: Hamburgers, hot dogs, the fixins and baked beans**

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

**\*\*NO SUPPER WED. MAY 15TH DUE TO**

**BACCALAUREATE**

**\*LAST SUPPER - Wed. May 22nd\***

**\*LAST BREAKFAST - Sun. May 19th\***

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**IMPORTANT  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

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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

*Saylor Olivas*  
*Mike Wall*  
*Mack Pope*  
*Gary Breland - stomach surgery*  
*and kidney stones*

## Cancer/Treatments

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

## Other Health Needs

*Mary Kay Cade*  
*Julia Rushing*  
*Pinky Rushing*  
*Amy Hannah*  
*Kathy Breland*  
*Grace Hetrick*  
*Arthur Pearson*  
*Pete Williamson*  
*Rodney Malphrus, Jr.*  
*Mark Mingledorff*  
*Bill Carter*  
*Mike Wall*

## 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*  
*Shirley Malphrus - Resorts at Beaufort (D wing)*

## Please Continue To Remember

### Homebound

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

### Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton - Deployed*  
*Matthew Mills - US Marines -*  
*Okinawa, Japan*  
*Jericho Malphrus - Sp. Agent/Air Force -*  
*Pine Hurst, NC.*  
*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**.....greatswampbc@gmail.com  
843-726-3631

School Administrator: **Donna Carter**.....dcarter@sfcaweb.org

# Stewardship

<b>Tithes</b>	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>Surplus/Deficit</b> + / -
	<b>\$4,620.00</b>	<b>\$4,923.33</b>	<b>\$-303.33</b>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$240.00</i>		
<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>Acct. Balances</b>
<i>SMB</i>	<i>\$69.00</i>	<i>*****</i>	<i>\$951.78</i>
<i>WNS</i>	<i>\$181.00</i>	<i>*****</i>	<i>\$725.40</i>
<i>Annie Armstrong</i>	<i>\$171.00</i>	<i>*****</i>	<i>\$1,227.00</i>



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