



*Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*December 22, 2024*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

## Sunday Morning Worship

*10:30 AM*

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

*Calvin Bryan*

**Invocation Special**

*What Child Is This?  
Sung by Courtney*

**Candlelight Service**

*Silent Night  
Holy Night*

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special

*Christmas Hallelujah*

**Message**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Invitation**

*Sunday Mornings*  
*Following The Song Service:*



**Nursery Workers**

**For Today:**  
Juliette & Melissa I.

**Next Sunday 12/29:**  
Myra & Teresa G



**Teacher:**  
Olivia Stanley



**Greeters for Today:**  
Courtney and Betty

**Next Sunday 12/29:**  
Kim & Richard

**DEACON OF THE WEEK:**

*Calvin Bryan*



*Phone: 843-226-0238*

**NEXT WEEK'S  
DEACON:**  
*Mack Pope*



## *From the Pastor's Desk*



### **Silent Night to Loud Night**

*Luke 2:1-20*

#### **Introduction:**

In 1816 a pastor by the name of Joseph Mohr wrote a poem of hope for his hurting congregation. Two years later he was pastoring a different congregation that also was going through some hurt and pain. It was the evening before the church's Christmas Eve program. He decided that on Christmas Eve day he was going to get his two year old poem of hope and put it to music and present it to the hurting congregation at the evening service. So he contacted the church's musician to ask for his assistance to put his poem to music. They had a problem however and that problem was that the church's organ was not working. So the church's musician wrote the music so that they could use a guitar, and by the time Christmas Eve service the pastor and the musician were ready to go share the pastor's poem of hope, now a song, with the congregation. This was the first time in history that Silent night, Holy Night was ever sung.

Now it's true that that very first Christmas night indeed began for Mary and Joseph as a silent, holy, and humbling night. However that's not at all how that first Christmas might end. First, that first Christmas night went from a silent and humble night to a very bright and loud night. So let us in this watch and listen as that first Christmas went from a silent night to a very bright and loud night.

**I. First, let's notice that that first Christmas began as a silent night that was also the most humbling night (vs 4-7)**

It was a silent night in the sense that as far as we can tell Mary and Joseph and eventually Jesus Christ our Lord were all alone. Though there were people all around in the town because others also would have been there for the same reason they were, which was to register for taxation. But no other family or friends to them specifically are mentioned as part of that first Christmas night with them. They were alone. There was no one to coach Mary, no grandparents to give encouragement and excitement. It was just Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus.

Also that silent night was a very humbling night. As a matter of fact I'm fully confident that I can say that in all of human history up to that point and time this was the most humbling night ever to only be succeeded in 33 years when Jesus Christ our Lord went to Calvary's cross. For the holy eternal Son of God stepped down out of eternity leaving behind all of the prerogatives that come with being the desired Son of God to take on human flesh and become a human being, the lowest form of a servant. And that night began with being born in a dirty stinking stable to two parents who by the world's standards were just a couple of nobodies who came from a town that was most avoided by the majority of people. and finally to consider the fact that a little more than nine months earlier this baby Jesus was the eternal Son of God dwelling in the very throne room of glory now is laying in an animal feeding trough.

This Christmas we must rejoice that the holy eternal Son of God was willing to step down into our world, take human flesh and do so in the most humbling way to show that He comes to reach us all no matter how poor or low or unpopular we may be. Oh, what a Savior we have.

**II. Second, let's notice that that Christmas went from a silent dark night to a very bright night (vs 8-14)**

That silent dark night discussed in our first point was greatly interrupted by a very bright appearance in the sky. As part of that appearance was an angel of the Lord. But what made the angel of the Lord and all sky in that area as well as the shepherds to light up was the glory of the Lord and it was all around them. so it was such a bright night for these shepherds.

However it was a bright night also because of the message that the angel of the Lord shared with them. The angel said that it was a message of "good news" and a message that would bring "great joy for all the people."

The good news of great joy was that our Savior had come to save us, and that He would be able to because He is Christ the Lord. But this good news of great joy doesn't end there for this Savior who had come according to the angel of the Lord had come on the very day that he's giving them the news, as he said, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you..." He didn't say tomorrow or sometime in the future but rather "today." Now this emphasis on when the Christ child was born began to make the angel's message not a fairytale but rather a reality.

The angel took an even larger step to booster the reality of his news to them. For he also told them where the child could be found and what He would be wearing and also what He would be laying in, a manger. Then he encouraged them to go and see for themselves. The angel wanted them to have a full dose of reality when it came to the message He was announcing to them. And the shepherd took up the angel's challenge and went to see for themselves if this was real or just false claims told many times before.

Well, the good news is that the shepherds found it to be exactly as they had been told by the angel. This reality continued brighter that night for them all night long and on into the future.

This Christmas let it be one that is bright to us because Christmas is a message of salvation that's based on reality. Indeed our Savior has in reality come to save us, oh, praise His name.

### **III. Third, let's notice that that first Christmas was a silent night that became a loud night (vs 8-20)**

That silent night became loud when the angel of the Lord appeared and spoke with such a strong voice that all the shepherds present heard the message loud and clear.

That silent night became loud when the angel of the Lord appeared and spoke with such a strong voice that all the shepherds present heard the message loud and clear.

That night also became louder when, "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.'"

Also that night got loud when the shepherds began to spread the news far and wide what they had experienced that night. Also when they returned they did so glorifying and praising God for what they had seen and heard.

Now all this leads me to say that God has called His church to make that silent night become bright and loud by sharing the goodness with everyone everywhere we go and by giving loud worship and praise to our amazing God who has poured out such unbelievable grace upon us by sending Christ to save us. Let's all get loud for Jesus Christ our Savior.

### **Conclusion**

Maybe we could rewrite a new version of Silent Night Holy Night or maybe we could added to it so that our beloved Silent Night, Holy Night, Bright Night, Loud Night. At least let's make it a reality by fleshing it out with our lives.

Jesus Loves You  
Ralph Lee



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Tammy Lee</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Krey Lee Lowther</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Emma Cline</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>28th</i>	<i>Sophia Sineath</i>

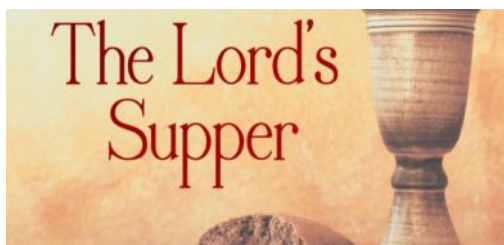
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## ANNOUNCEMENT



The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 24th through Friday,

December 27th. We will reopen Monday, December 30th. However, the office will also be closed Wednesday, January 1st for New Years.



Lord's Supper,  
Sunday, December 29th.



**CANCELLED**

There will be **NO** movie night tonight,  
December 22nd, **NO** Wednesday night  
supper on Wednesday, December 25th  
**NO** supper on Wednesday, January 1st  
and **NO** Sunday morning breakfast on  
Sunday, December 29th.

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# Now Hiring Apply Today

## **ATTENTION! NOW HIRING!!**

OPEN POSITION: Church Secretary

If you are interested in working as the church secretary, please send your resume to [greatswampbc@gmail.com](mailto:greatswampbc@gmail.com), give it to a deacon, or drop it off in the church office.

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We are needing 1 more greeter on Sunday mornings. Please let one of the greeters know or the nominating committee if you are interested.



Greeters

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Help is needed on Wednesday nights for SwampKids. We could use an extra person in crafts, back-up for Missions and a floater. Please contact Kim Malphrus at 843-540-0365.

# GSBC Prayer Page

## Church Leadership

*Sunday School  
SFCA-Donna Carter  
Child Development  
Ministries  
Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor  
Deacons*

## Leadership

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

## Bereavement

*Family of Vera Floyd*

## Unspoken

## Hospitals

### Surgery/Recovery

*Mike Mingledorff (shoulder)  
Ann Blocker (foot)  
Vera Miles (broken shoulder)  
Charles Malphrus (shoulder)  
Jane Himes (wrist)*

### Cancer/Treatments

*Revel Crosby - 4 years old  
(Leukemia)  
Ken Lawler  
Rachel Vaughn  
Ella Gourlay - 10 years old  
(Leukemia)*

## Other Health Needs

*Ralph Lee  
Julia Rushing  
Pinky Rushing  
Amy Hannah  
Arthur Pearson  
Earl Dean Pope  
Jeff Bladen (liver)  
Rachel Mixon  
Lily Smith (migraines)*

## Nursing Centers

*Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe  
Tommy & Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home  
David Sauls - Florence Place Assisted Living  
Doby Cleland - Life Care Center of HHI*

## Please Continue To Remember

### Homebound

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

### Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton - Deployed  
Matthew Mills - US Marines -  
Okinawa, Japan  
Jericho Malphrus - Sp. Agent/Air Force -  
Pinehurst, NC.  
Andrea C. Daring - Charleston, SC  
Schuyler Johnson - Basic Training Marines*

## Church Staff

*Pastor: Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.* ..... *jehu27@gmail.com*  
*Sunday School Director: Mike Davis* ..... *greatswampbc@gmail.com*  
*Pianist: Michelle Waitt* ..... *scarolina1961@gmail.com*  
*Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Meador* ..... *greatswampbc@gmail.com*  
*843-726-3631*  
*School Administrator: Donna Carter* ..... *dcarter@sfcaweb.org*

## Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	<b>\$4,398.00</b>	<i>\$4,923.33</i>	<b>\$-525.33</b>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>		
<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>Acct. Balances</b>
Lottie Moon	<b>\$658.00</b>		<b>\$897.00</b>
Operation Christmas Child	<b>\$100.00</b>		<b>\$565.12</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