

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

TEN O'CLOCK

April 25, 2021

We gather today as “the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant ...”

Hebrews 12:23-24a

A Time for Praise:

Prelude Pearl Barton

Call to Worship Pastor Travis Gosnell

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 59:15–21

New Testament Reading John 10:14-21

Prayer Pastor Lucas Mann

Hymn of Praise *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Hymn #50

(Trinity Hymnal)

Hymn of Psalm (*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*) Psalm 103:1-13

(insert)

A Time for Hearing God's Word:

Message “The 5 C's of Worship: Communion” Pastor Lucas Mann

1 Corinthians 5:7

A Time for Surrender:

Closing Hymn *Blessed Assurance* Hymn #572

(Celebration Hymnal)

Benediction Jude 1:24–25

Soli Deo Gloria

Postlude Pearl Barton

Opportunities of the Week

Sunday, April 25

7:00 p.m. Children's Ministry

7:00 p.m. Evening Worship

8:00 p.m. Church Conference

Wednesday, April 28

7:00 p.m. Bible Study/LBC

Senior Adult for the Month of April: Pat Abrams

May Fellowship

Sunday, May 16 2021

After the morning worship service

Church Picnic Luncheon

Everyone is invited to come enjoy the fellowship.

We will be having fried chicken, picnic style sides & desserts.

Please see the signup sheet on the table in the vestibule and select what you would like to bring.

Church Contact Information:

Office/Parsonage: (864) 861-2196

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 124, Ware Shoals, SC 29692

Church Office: 6466 Poplar Springs Road, Ware Shoals

Office Hours: Wednesday and Thursday, 8-4

Email: balentine@poplarspringsws.org

Pastor: Lucas Mann - (864) 909-7564

Pastor Hours: M: 12 pm – 4pm

Tu – F: 9 am – 11:30 am; 1:30 pm – 3 pm

Youth Pastor: Travis Gosnell

Music Leader: Deck Balentine

Pianist: Pearl Barton

Website: www.poplarspringsws.org

Yes, He Really Does Hold Your Life and Your Future in His Hands

By Kevin DeYoung

Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God by which he upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that lead and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from his fatherly hand (Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 27).

This is my favorite Lord's Day in the entire Catechism. I absolutely love its poetic description of providence. "Sovereignty" is the word we hear more often. That's a good word too. But if people run out of the room crying whenever you talk to them about sovereignty, try using the word "providence." For some people God's sovereignty sounds like nothing but raw, capricious power: "God has absolute power over all things and you better get used to it." That kind of thing. And that definition is true in a sense, but divine sovereignty, we must never forget, is sovereignty-for-us. As Eric Liddel's dad remarked in Chariots of Fire, God may be a dictator, but "Aye, he is a benign, loving dictator."

Coming to grips with God's all-encompassing providence requires a massive shift in how we look at the world. It requires changing our vantage point—from seeing the cosmos as a place where man rules and God responds, to beholding a universe where God creates and constantly controls with sovereign love and providential power.

The definition of providence in the Catechism is stunning. All things, yes all things, come to us not by chance but from his fatherly hand." I will sometimes ask seminary students being examined for ordination, "How would the Heidelberg Catechism, particularly Lord's Day 10, help you minister to someone who lost a limb in Afghanistan or just lost a job or just lost a child." I am usually disappointed to hear students who should be affirming the confessions of their denomination shy away from Heidelberg's strong, biblical language about providence. Like most of us, the students are much more at ease using passive language about God's permissive will or comfortable generalities about God being "in control" than they are about stating precisely and confidently to those in the midst of suffering "this has come from God's fatherly hand." And yet, that's what the Catechism teaches.

And more importantly, so does the Bible.

To be sure, God's providence is not an excuse to act foolishly or sinfully. Herod and Pontius Pilate, though they did what God had planned beforehand, were still wicked conspirators (Acts 4:25-28). The Bible affirms human responsibility. (to be continued)

Poplar Springs Baptist Church



“For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and purpose predestined to occur.”

Acts 4:27–28

THE LORD'S DAY, April 25, 2021

6000 Poplar Springs Road

Ware Shoals, SC 29692

(864) 861-2196

www.poplarspringsws.org

Pastor Lucas Mann

Worship: 10:00 am