

THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

December 23, 2018

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 Preparation

Silent Prayer of Preparation for Worship

O LORD GOD,

You are our Preserver, Governor, Savior and coming Judge. Quieten our souls to call upon your name; detach us from the influence of the flesh and the senses; impress us with the power of faith; promote in us spirituality of mind that will render our services acceptable to you, and delightful and profitable to ourselves. Bring us into that state which attracts your eye and prepare us to receive the proofs of your love. Show us our danger, that we may fly to you for refuge. Make us sensible of our sin’s disease, that we may value the good Physician. Placard to us the cross, that it may slay the enmity of our hearts. Help us to be watchful over our ways, jealous over our tempers, diligent over our hearts. When we droop, revive us. When we loiter, quicken us. When we go astray, restore us. Possess us with more of that faith which is the principle of all vital godliness. May we be rich in faith, strong in faith, live by faith, walk by faith, experience the joy of faith, do the work of faith, hope through faith. Perceiving nothing in ourselves, may we find in the Savior wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

(The Valley of Vision Prayer Book)

Ring of Bell Judah & Felicity Gosnell

Announcements..... Deacon

A Time for Praise:

Prelude

Call to Worship

Scripture and Prayer Worship Leader

- *Hymn of Praise* *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Hymn #249

A Time for Offering:

Walk to the manger

- *Offertory Hymn* *The First Noel* Hymn #265

Offertory Prayer

Tithes and Offerings Ushers

A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

Choral Message *It’s Still the Greatest Story Ever Told* Arr. Gaither

Message Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

A Time for Surrender:

- *Hymn of Response* *What Child Is This?* Hymn #281

- Benediction

Postlude

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Affirmation of Faith – the Baptist Catechism, 1813

30. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A. Christ's humiliation consists in his being born, and that in a low condition (Luke 2:7), made under the law (Gal. 4:4), undergoing the miseries of this life (Heb. 7:2, 3; Is. 53:2, 3), the wrath of God (Luke 22:44; Mt. 27:46), and the cursed death of the cross (Phil. 2:8); in being buried (1 Cor. 15:4), and continuing under the power of death for a time (Acts 2:24, 25, 26, 27, 31; Mt. 12:40).

31. Wherein did Christ's exaltation consist?

A. Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day (1 Cor. 15:4), in ascending up into heaven (Mark 16:19), in sitting at the right hand of God the Father (Eph. 1:20), and in coming to judge the world at the last day (Acts 1: 11; 17:31).

32. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us (John 1:11,12) by his Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5,6).

Opportunities of the Week

Sunday, December 23

7:00 p.m. Evening Worship

7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry

Tuesday, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, December 26

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Nursery this week:

Crystal Thomson

Megan Balentine

Church Watch this month:

Mike Posey

Mary’s Magnificat

by C. H. SPURGEON

“*And Mary said, ‘My soul does magnify the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.’*” Luke 1:46, 47.

MARY’S Magnificat was a song of faith. You have thought, perhaps, that you could easily have sung this song if you had been as highly favored as she was; but are you sure that you could have done so? Have you ever realized the difficulties under which this hymn was composed and sung? If not, permit me to remind you that the wondrous birth, which had been promised to her, had not then been accomplished, and in her mind, there must have been a consciousness that many would doubt her statements. The visitation of the angel and all its consequences would seem to be ridiculous and even impossible to many to whom she might venture to mention the circumstances—no, more than that—would subject her to many cruel insinuations which would scandalize her character! And that which conferred upon her the highest honor that ever fell to woman would, in the judgment of many, bring upon her the greatest possible dishonor. We know what suspicions even Joseph had and that it was only a Revelation from God that could remove them. Mary would have been sorely troubled if she had been influenced by her natural feelings and had been swayed by external circumstances.

It was only her wondrous faith—in some respects, her matchless faith, for no other woman had ever had such a blessed trial of faith as she had—it was only her matchless faith that she should be the mother of the holy child Jesus that sustained her. Truly blessed was she in believing that and blessed indeed was she in that even before there was an accomplishment of the things that were told her by the angel, she could sing, “My soul does magnify the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.” Unbelief would have said, “Wait.” Fear would have said, “Be silent.” But faith could not wait, and could not be silent; she must sing, and sing she did most sweetly. I call your attention to this fact because, when we ourselves have a song to sing unto the Lord, we may perhaps be tempted not to sing it till our hopes are accomplished, and our faith has been exchanged for fact. O brother, sister, if this is your case, do not wait, for your song will spoil if you do. There is another song to be sung for the accomplished mercy, but there is a song to be sung now for the promised mercy; therefore, let not the present hour lose the song which is due to it.

EXPOSITION BY C. H. SPURGEON: LUKE 1:39-56.

Verses 39-41. “*And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah; and entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elizabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit:*”

We do not read that Mary was filled with the Holy Spirit, possibly because she was always in that condition, living very near to God in hallowed fellowship. Some of us have occasional fillings with the Holy Spirit, but blessed are they who dwell in Him, having been baptized into Him, and enjoying continual nearness to God as the blessed result.

42, 43. *“And she spoke out with a loud voice, and said, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And whence is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?’”*

Those who are most holy are most humble; you will always find those two things go together. Elizabeth was the older woman, but inasmuch as Mary was more highly favored than she was, she asked, “Whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” Genuine Christians do not exalt themselves above their fellow believers, but they have a self-depreciatory spirit, and each one esteems others better than himself.

44, 45. *“For, lo, as soon as the voice of your salutation sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord”.*

What a benediction that is! If any of us truly believe God’s Word, we are blessed from that very fact, for God’s promise never misses its due performance. Men find it convenient to forget their promises, but God never forgets; He takes as much delight in keeping His promise as He does in making it.

46. *“And Mary said,”—*

We do not read that she spoke with a loud voice. Occasionally, the visitation of the Spirit causes excitement. Thus, Elizabeth spoke with a loud voice; but Mary, though full of a rapturous joy, spoke calmly and quietly, in a royal tone of holy calm. “Mary said,”—

46. *“My soul does magnify the Lord,”—*

She was weary, for she had come a long journey, but she was like Abraham’s servant, who said, “I will not eat, until I have told my errand.” So, Mary will not eat until she has sung the praises of her God: “My soul does magnify the Lord,”—

47, 48. *“And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden: for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.”*

Some have done so to the grief of genuine Christians, for they have apostatized from the faith, and made Mary into a kind of goddess; and, therefore, Protestant Christians have gone to the other extreme, and have not always given her the respect which is due her.

49, 50. *“For He that is mighty has done to me great things; and holy is His name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.”*

Notice how Mary quotes Scripture. Her mind seems to have been saturated with the Word of God, as though she had learned the books of Scripture through and had them “by heart” in more senses than one; and it is significant that, though the Holy Spirit was speaking by her, yet even He quoted the older Scriptures in preference to uttering new sentences. What honor He put upon the Old Testament by so continually quoting it in the New Testament, even as the Lord Jesus also did. Let us, too, prize every part of God’s Word; let us lie a-soak in it till we are saturated with Scriptural expressions; we cannot find any better ones, for there are none.

51-53. *“He has showed strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of the hearts. He has put down the mighty from their seats and exalted them of low degree. He has filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He has sent empty away.”*

Mary’s song reminds us of the Song of Hannah, yet there is a different tone in it. Hannah’s has more of exultation over enemies cast down, but Mary’s is more becoming to the new dispensation as Hannah’s was to the old. There is a gentle quietness of tone about the Magnificat all through, yet even Mary cannot help rejoicing that the Lord “has filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He has sent empty away.”

54-56. *“He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy; as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to His seed forever. And Mary abode with her about three months and returned to her own house.”*

Wondrous as her future was to be, she would not neglect the duties of her home. When any of you are privileged to share high spiritual enjoyments, mind that you always return to your own home not unfit for your domestic duties. We read that David, after he had danced before the ark, “returned to bless his household.” We must never set up God’s altar in opposition to the lawful duties of our home. The two together will make us strong for service and enable us to glorify the name of the Lord.

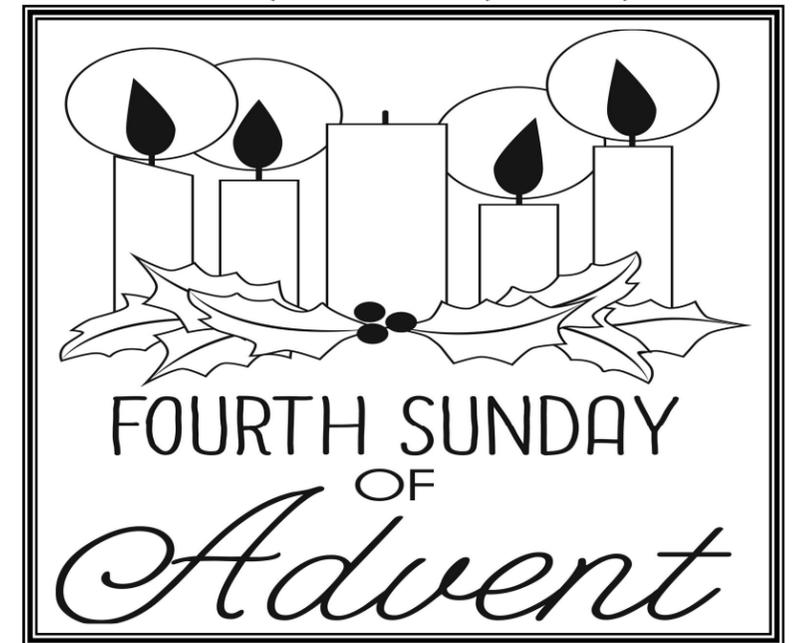
We thank you for worshipping with us today. We trust that your heart has been encouraged, your spirit filled, and that you will leave here equipped for the work to which God has called you. If you would like to find out more information about Poplar Springs Baptist Church, please visit our website: www.poplarspringsws.org or call (864) 861-2196.

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Pianist: Jean Powell
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Poplar Springs Baptist Church



“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. And she cried out with a loud voice and said, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.’” Luke 1:41-45

THE LORD’S DAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018

**6000 Poplar Springs Road
Ware Shoals, SC 29692
(864) 861-2196
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Interim Pastor Lucas Mann

Sunday School: 10:00 am

Worship: 11:00 am