



POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
est. 1794

The Lord's Day, December 4th, 2022
The Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Danny Settle, Interim Pastor
Phone: 864-770-5514

6000 Poplar Springs Road
Ware Shoals, SC 29692
Office: (864) 861-2196

www.poplarspringsws.org

CALL TO WORSHIP

THE STRIKING OF THE HOUR

MEDITATION AND PREPARATION

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 103:20-22

"Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!"

Minister: Lift up your hearts unto the Lord!

Congregation: **We lift them up!**

HYMN

Angels, From the Realms of Glory
Celebration Hymnal #259

CONFESSION OF SIN

THE LAW OF GOD

Exodus 20:4-6

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

Private Confession

Corporate Confession

Minister: We make this, our corporate confession, unto God:

All: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen (BCP)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Minister: Your sins are forgiven through Christ.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

DOXOLOGY

Doxology

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Celebration Hymnal #815

CONSECRATION

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Judges 5:24-31

Luke 1:26-38

Matthew 1:18-25

Minister: May God bless the reading of His Word.

Congregation: **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ANGEL CANDLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

Minister: We make these petitions, ending with the prayer our Lord taught us to pray:

All: **"Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever.
Amen."** (Matthew 6:9-13)

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Celebration Hymnal #277

SERMON

"The Cradle, The Cross and The Crown"

Philippians 2:5-11

HYMN

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne
Celebration Hymnal #292

COMMISSIONING

BENEDICTION

Minister: "The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."
(Numbers 6:24-26 NKJV)

Congregation: **Amen.**

Postlude

EVENING SERMON

"Christmas – A Time of Giving"
Matthew 2:11

The Happy Choir of Heaven by Adam Cavalier (DesiringGod.org)

In the popular Christmas hymn, Angels We Have Heard on High, the opening line describes angels singing God's praises over the open fields. Their cry is retained in the famous Latin phrase, "Gloria, in excelsis Deo!" which translated means, "Glory to God in the highest!" It's taken from Luke 2:14, where the angels joyfully sing God's praise.

Too often seen as shrouded in mystical experiences or lost in speculative theology, angels are either ignored or relegated to the thoughts of a few especially spiritual people. The rampant materialism and anti-supernaturalism of the world has caused Christians to question the presence and influence of angels. Reflecting on angels is thought of as impractical and useless.

Sadly, many Christians today are ignorant to the startling and strengthening ministry of angels. This unfortunate neglect has blinded believers of an excellent model for Christian living. Not only did they minister to Jesus and the apostles, they minister to believers today. One of the most important ways this happens is through their example to us. This is most notable in the model they provide for us in their enjoyment of God. We sing this in Angels We Have Heard on High.

They Worship God

The angels cry out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (Isaiah 6:3). In another passage, we see them raising their voices to exclaim, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" (Revelation 5:12). On the day of Christ's first advent, we hear them celebrate Jesus's kingship before the shepherds. We hear him lauded for bringing peace.

Repeatedly in Scripture, angels joyfully proclaim the infinite worth of God's name. It is their duty and delight to worship the Lord. Their enjoyment and satisfaction in him does not stand still. It overflows into declarations of praise. In this hymn, they're seen "sweetly singing" the "gladsome tidings" that the Christ has come.

Their joy increases exponentially when God is prized among people. The spread of joy in Christ among people intensifies worship among the angels. Jesus tells us, "There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

They Worship God in Community

When Christians come before God in worship, they are joining something that is already happening. Believers are participating with "innumerable angels in festal gathering" (Hebrews 12:22). This amazing hymn begins with the angels in the first stanza. Then, the hymn shows us that the shepherds are inspired by the chorus of angels. In other words, angels provide a model, which "inspire(s) heavenly songs." Lastly, all are invited to "come adore on bended knee" and join in the "joyous strain" of the angels. Everyone is welcomed to marvel and join in the amazement at the person and work of Christ. It should fill our hearts with awe and wonder before our transcendent Creator and King.

We rarely see unaccompanied angels. They're always in community with other angels. The picture we see in this hymn is a grand chorus of angels, crying aloud together in unison. They form a holy society, delighting in the Lord together. Recalling the vision in Isaiah, the angels call out to one another. They encourage one another to praise his moral perfections and his divine purity.

How does this realization affect our attitude in worship, knowing that we are joining a host of countless angels in praise? If we have feelings of loneliness and isolation in our Christian walk, be encouraged that we are far from alone.

A Model for Christian Hedonism

We deprive ourselves of joy when we neglect the angels because angels provide an excellent model for Christian Hedonism. As we see them carry out the divine purposes of God in the Scriptures, we should emulate their uninhibited worship and joyful obedience.

Their exemplary devotion should cause Christians to prioritize worship and obedience in every aspect of their lives. Angels carry out their tasks with delight. The Psalms urge us likewise, "Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!" (Psalm 100:2). The joyful praise of God is a command, not a piece of advice. It's not a suggestion or a recommendation. We are called to join the angels in this happy devotion.

In teaching his disciples to pray, Jesus asked that the Father's will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). The direct inference is that the Father's good and perfect will is done to its exact specifications in heaven. The Lord's Prayer is asking that this perfect obedience be mirrored here on earth. Undoubtedly, the angels are an integral part of that beautiful heavenly reality. So, when we pray the Lord's Prayer, we're actually asking that our behavior be like the angels'.

During this advent season, we're invited to,
Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing.

Yes, come and see Jesus, our Lord, Savior, and greatest Treasure, and be inspired by his angels.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Next Sunday morning, December 11, we will be nominating a pastor search committee. Please be in prayer for who the LORD would have us choose for this important task. Also, be in prayer for the one who the LORD will be getting ready to be our next Pastor.

SERVICES

THE LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship 10:00 AM

Evening Worship 7:00 PM

Children's Ministry 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM

LEADERSHIP

ELDER

Rev. Travis Gosnell

Phone: 864-554-4458

Email: travis.gosnell@lonza.com

DEACONS

Deck Balentine, Chairman

Phone: 864-871-4411

Tommy Bryant

Phone: Home: 864-861-2255

Cell: 864-554-1811

Jerry Crawford

Phone: 864-992-2179

Mike Posey, Jr.

Phone: 864-980-7387

Larry Powell

Phone: 864-993-5265

Michael Madden

Phone: 864-377-4373

SECRETARY

Nancy Balentine

Phone: 864-871-2051

Email: balentine@poplarspringsws.org

PIANIST

Jean Powell