



**POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
est. 1794

**The Lord's Day, January 1st, 2023**  
**The Second Sunday of Christmas**

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

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

**[www.poplarspringsws.org](http://www.poplarspringsws.org)**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*THE STRIKING OF THE HOUR*

*MEDITATION AND PREPARATION*

Prelude

*CALL TO WORSHIP*

Psalm 66:1-4

“Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious. Say to God, “How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name.” Selah”

*Minister:* Lift up your hearts unto the Lord!

*Congregation:* **We lift them up!**

*HYMN*

Go Tell It on the Mountain  
Celebration Hymnal #258

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*THE LAW OF GOD*

Romans 3:19-20

“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore, by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

*Private Confession*

*Corporate Confession*

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

***All: Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen***

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

Luke 2:27b-32

“And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he (Simeon) took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: “Lord, now You are

letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”

*Minister:* Your sins are forgiven through Christ.

*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God!**

*DOXOLOGY*

Doxology  
Celebration Hymnal #815

**CONSECRATION**

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION*

*SCRIPTURE READING*

*Minister:* The Word of the Lord.

*Jeremiah 4:1-4*

*Luke 2:16-21*

*Romans 4:8-14*

*Minister:* May God bless the reading of His Word.

*Congregation:* **Amen.**

*PASTORAL PRAYER*

*PSALM*

Psalm 8  
Tune: JESUS SAVES  
Celebration Hymnal #438, “Jesus Saves!”

**LORD, our Lord, in all the earth  
How excellent Your name!  
You above the heav’ns have set  
The splendor of Your fame.  
From the mouths of infants young  
You the power of praise compose  
In the face of enemies  
To stop avenging foes.**

**When I view the skies above  
Which Your own fingers made,  
When I see the moon and stars  
Which You in order laid,  
What is man so frail and weak  
That You should remember him?  
What can be the son of man  
That You should care for him?**

**Next to God You have made man,  
With light and honor crowned.  
You placed him above Your works;  
Beneath him all is found:  
Oxen, sheep, and all wild beasts,  
Birds, and fish the oceans claim.  
LORD, our Lord, in all the earth  
How excellent Your name!**

*SERMON*

Christian Expenses for the New Year  
Luke 9:23-26

*HYMN*

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne  
Celebration Hymnal #292

**COMMISSIONING**

*BENEDICTION*

*Minister:* "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace  
in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen."  
(Romans 15:13)

*Congregation:* **Amen.**

Postlude

*In the foyer, a plate is designated for tithes and offerings.*

**NO EVENING SERVICES**

**The Circumcision of Christ**

By Bill Smith

Luke dedicates one sentence to the circumcision of Christ Jesus. "And when eight days were fulfilled, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb"

(Lk 2.21). Why would Theophilus need to know this? Maybe he doesn't know that male Jewish children were circumcised. Luke may just want to throw in the information for him. I doubt it. Though not given much shrift, the circumcision of Jesus is integral to the story of the gospel and Theophilus's catechetical instruction.

The story of circumcision begins where all human stories begin: in the Garden. No, circumcision wasn't present in the Garden in the way that God prescribes it in Genesis 17 with Abraham, but its necessity and anticipation were there. When Adam and Eve sinned, their flesh was corrupted. This corrupted flesh was a source of shame before one another and before God.

They sought to cover the shame by adding a new layer of “skin,” fig leaves. They knew that they needed new flesh.

The covering they provided for themselves wasn’t adequate. Ultimately, they need new flesh. The only way to create this new flesh is through the ripping apart of the old flesh. Death must take place. God demonstrated this by ripping the flesh of an animal and giving Adam and Eve new skin. This provision was effective for the time, but it only anticipated what needed to be done by the promised seed of the woman (Gen 3.15). Somehow, through this seed, the old Adamic flesh would be ripped apart and a new skin, a new body would be given.

History moves on. God unfolds his plan for the seed through the years and a certain family that draws down to a man named Abram. Abram, “exalted father,” is childless and married to a barren woman, Sarai. God promises them a child early on but waits until both of their bodies are completely dead in terms of procreation (see Rom 4.13ff.). It is at this time that God commands the tearing of the flesh of Abram, now Abraham. Once Abraham’s flesh is torn, then, and only then, can new life be produced. Abraham’s and Sarah’s bodies are resurrected and are able to produce the seed, Isaac.

Like the skins in the Garden, circumcision was effective for the time, but it couldn’t bring about God’s full intention: a new body. In fact, circumcision further clarified the mission of death for the seed of the woman. That is, in order for new life to come, in order for corrupted flesh to be cleansed, the seed’s flesh needs to be torn. Only after this will resurrection occur and the needed new body be given.

For about two thousand years the children of Abraham through Isaac circumcised their male children, anticipating the time when the seed of Abraham would fulfill the mission of Israel, be ripped in half in death, and be resurrected with a new, uncorrupted flesh. Luke tells Theophilus that this time has come in the Person of Jesus.

Jesus takes up the mission of the seed of Abraham, embodying the story, promises, and purpose of Israel. What has been foreshadowed in the circumcision of every male in Israel will reach its fulfillment in Jesus’ death and consequent resurrection. Jesus’ old creation flesh is ripped at the cross so that uncorrupted flesh would be resurrected.

For any of us to be rid of our corrupted flesh received from Adam, our flesh too must be torn. We all need circumcision. Those of us united to Christ in his death and resurrection through baptism have been circumcised. Paul tells us in Colossians 2.11-12 that, “In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.” Through our union with Jesus’ circumcision—his death—our corrupted flesh has been torn and we receive a new body in Christ, a truth that will be fully realized in our bodily resurrection from the dead.

We look forward to that bodily resurrection, but we have new flesh even now. Our sins are forgiven. We are resurrected. Sin does not have dominion over us (see Romans 6). Therefore, do not allow sin to have dominion over you.

# ANNOUNCEMENT

The Pastor Search Committee will consist of the following members:  
Deck Balentine - Chairman, Mike Posey, Tommy Bryant, Dale Bishop and  
Jean Powell.

## SERVICES

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

Morning Worship 10:00 AM

NO EVENING SERVICES

### WEDNESDAY

BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM

## LEADERSHIP

### ELDER

Rev. Travis Gosnell

Phone: 864-554-4458

Email: [travis.gosnell@lonza.com](mailto: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](mailto:balentine@poplarspringsws.org)

### PIANIST

Jean Powell