

THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

January 6, 2019

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,

Length of days does not profit me except the days are passed in your presence, in your service, to your glory. Give me a grace that precedes, follows, guides, sustains, sanctifies, aids every hour, that I may not be one moment apart from you, but rely on your Spirit to supply every thought, speak in every word, direct every step, prosper every work, build up every mote of faith, and give me a desire to show forth your praise; testify your love, advance your kingdom. I launch my bark on the unknown waters of this year, with you, O Father, as my harbor, you, O Son, at the helm, you, O Holy Spirit, filling my sails. Guide me to heaven with my loins girt, my lamp burning, my ear open to you calls, my hear full of love, my soul free. Give me your grace to sanctify me, your comforts to cheer, your wisdom to teach, your right hand to guide, your counsel to instruct, your law to judge, your presence to stabilize. May your fear be my awe, your triumphs my joy. Amen! (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** *Crown Him with Many Crowns* Hymn #45

A Time for Offering:

Walk to the manger

- **Offertory Hymn** Jesus Paid it All Hymn #305

Offertory Prayer

Tithes and Offerings Ushers

A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

- **Congregational Hymn** Let Us Break Bread Together Hymn #460

Message Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

A Time for Communion:

- **Hymn of Preparation** ... *The Way of the Cross Leads Home* ... Hymn #697

- **Prayer of Confession**

- **Partaking the Lord’s Supper**

A Time for Surrender:

- **Closing Hymn** *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* Hymn #391

- **Benediction**

“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

36. What is justification?

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins (Rom. 3:24, 25; and 4:6, 7, 8), and accepteth us as righteous in his sight (2 Cor. 5:19, 21), only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us (Rom. 5:17-19), and received by faith alone (Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9).

37. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace (1 John 3:1), whereby we are received into the number and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God (John 1:12; Rom. 8:14).

38. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace (2 Thess. 2:13), whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God (Eph. 4:23-24), and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness (Rom. 6:4, 6).

Opportunities of the Week

Sunday, January 6

11:00 a.m. Lord’s Supper
6:00 p.m. Choir Practice
7:00 p.m. Evening Worship
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry
7:00 p.m. Children’s Ministry

Wednesday, January 9

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Nursery this week: Mary Brock

Nursery next week: Crystal Thomson

Church Watch this month: Larry Powell

We Have Come to Worship

Part 2

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'" Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.”

4. Jesus is Troubling to People Who do not Want to Worship Him and He Brings out Opposition for those Who do.

This is probably not a main point in the mind of Matthew, but it is inescapable as the story goes on. In this story there are two kinds of people who do not want to worship Jesus, the Messiah. The first kind is the people who simply do nothing about Jesus. He is a nonentity in their lives. This group is represented by the chief priests and scribes. Verse 4: "Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, [Herod] inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born." Well, they told him, and that was that: back to business as usual. The sheer silence and inactivity of the leaders is overwhelming in view of the magnitude of what was happening. And notice, verse 3 says, "When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." In other words, the rumor was going around that someone thought the Messiah was born. The inactivity on the part of chief priests is staggering - why not go with the Magi? They are not interested. They do not want to worship the true God.

The second kind of people who do not want to worship Jesus is the kind who is deeply threatened by him. That is Herod in this story. He is really afraid. So much so that he schemes and lies and then commits mass murder just to get rid of Jesus.

So today these two kinds of opposition will come against Christ and his worshipers. Indifference and hostility. Are you in one of those groups? Let this Christmas be the time when you reconsider the Messiah and ponder what it is to worship him.

So let me close with that, the fifth truth in this story. What is worship in this text?

5. Worshipping Jesus Means Joyfully Ascribing Authority and Dignity to Christ with Sacrificial Gifts.

There are four pieces to that definition of worship, and all four are grounded in this text.

First, I see the magi ascribing authority to Christ by calling him "King of the Jews" in verse 2: "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?"

Second, I see the magi ascribing dignity to him by falling down before him in verse 11: "After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him." Falling to the ground is what you do to say to someone else: you are high and I am low. You have great dignity and I am lowly by comparison.

Third, I see the joy in these ascriptions of authority and dignity in verse 10: "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy." Now this is a quadruple way of saying they rejoiced. It would have been much to say they rejoiced. More to say they rejoiced with joy. More to say they rejoiced with great joy. And even more to say they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And what was all this joy about? - they were on their way to the Messiah. They were almost there. I cannot avoid the impression then that true worship is not just ascribing authority and dignity to Christ; it is doing this joyfully. It is doing it because you have come to see something about Christ that is so desirable that being near him to ascribe authority and dignity to him personally is overwhelmingly compelling.

And the fourth part of the definition of worship here is that we do our ascribing with sacrificial gifts. Worshipping Jesus means joyfully ascribing authority and dignity to Christ with sacrificial gifts.

Now we have learned in this series on worship that God is not served by human hands as though he needed anything (Acts 17:25). So the gifts of the magi are not given by way of assistance or need-meeting. It would dishonor a monarch if foreign visitors came with royal care-packages. Nor are these gifts meant to be bribes. Deuteronomy 10:17 says that God takes no bribe. Well, what then do they mean? How are they worship?

The gifts are intensifiers of desire for Christ himself in much the same way that fasting is. When you give a gift to Christ like this, it's a way of saying, "The joy that I pursue (verse 10!) is not the hope of getting rich with things from you. I have not come to you for your things, but for yourself. And this desire I now intensify and demonstrate by giving up things, in the hope of enjoying you more, not things. By giving to you what you do not need, and what I might enjoy, I am saying more earnestly and more authentically, 'You are my treasure, not these things.'" I think that's what it means to worship God with gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

And so may God take the truth of this text and waken in us a desire for Christ himself. May we say from the heart, "Lord Jesus you are the Messiah, the King of Israel. All nations will come and bow down before you. God wields the world to see that you are worshiped. Therefore, whatever opposition I may find, I joyfully ascribe authority and dignity to you, and bring my gifts to say that you alone can satisfy my heart, not these."

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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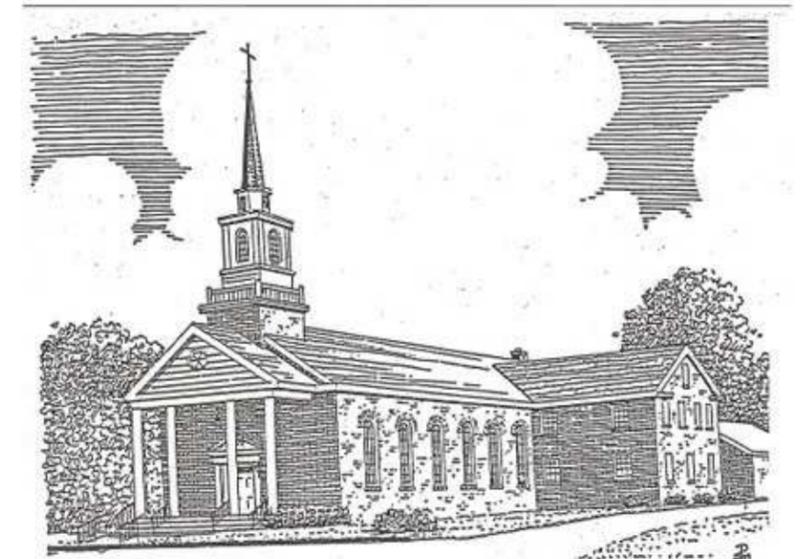
Youth Pastor: Travis Gosnell

Music Leader: Deck Balentine

Pianist: Jean Powell

Website: www.poplarspringsws.org

Poplar Springs Baptist Church



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Ware Shoals, S.C.

“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation.”

Acts 17:24 – 26

THE LORD’S DAY, JANUARY 6, 2019

6000 Poplar Springs Road

Ware Shoals, SC 29692

(864) 861-2196

www.poplarspringsws.org

Interim Pastor Lucas Mann

Sunday School: 10:00 am

Worship: 11:00 am