

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

TEN O'CLOCK
May 23, 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 60:15–18
New Testament Reading John 10:40-42
Prayer Pastor Lucas Mann
Hymn of Praise *Come, Thou Almighty King* Hymn #89
(Trinity Hymnal)
Hymn of Psalm (*Cleansing Fountain*) Psalm 46
(insert)

A Time for Hearing God's Word:

Message Pastor Lucas Mann
“Approaching the Throne: The Throne Itself” Hebrews 4:16a

A Time for Surrender:

Closing Hymn *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* Hymn #393
(Celebration Hymnal)

Benediction Romans 16:17–20
Soli Deo Gloria

Postlude Pearl Barton

Opportunities of the Week

Sunday, May 23

7:00 p.m. Children's Ministry
7:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Wednesday, May 26

7:00 p.m. Bible Study/LBC

Senior Adult for the Month of May: Judy Pitts

June Fellowship
Sunday, June 13 2021
After the morning worship service

Covered Dish Luncheon

Everyone is invited to come enjoy the meal.
Please bring your favorite covered dish, dessert or beverage
and join us for an afternoon of Christian fellowship.

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

How Should Christians Think of Memorial Day?

By Kevin DeYoung

With Memorial Day this month, I wanted to offer a few theses on patriotism and the church.

1. Being a Christian does not remove ethnic and national identities.

In **Christ** there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, slave nor free (**Gal. 3:28**), but this does not mean men cease to be male or Jews cease to be Jewish. The worshipping throng gathered around the throne is not a bland mess of Esperanto Christians in matching khaki pants and white polos. God makes us one in Christ, but that oneness does not mean we can no longer recognize tribes, tongues, nations, and peoples in heaven. If you don't have to renounce being an American in heaven, you shouldn't have to pretend you aren't one now.

2. Patriotism, like other earthly "prides," can be a virtue or vice.

Most people love their families. Many people love their schools, their home, and their sports teams. All of these loves can be appropriate. In making us for himself, God didn't mean to eradicate all other loves. Instead, he wants those loves to be purer and in right proportion to our ultimate Love. Adam and Eve should have loved the Garden. God didn't intend for them to be so "spiritual" that they were blind to the goodness around them. In the same way, where there is good in our country or family it is right to have affection and display affection for those good things.

Of course, we can turn patriotism into an idol, just like family can be an idol. But being proud of your country (or proud to be an American or a Canadian or a Russian or whatever) is not inherently worse than being proud of your kids or proud to be a Smith or a Jones or a Dostoevsky. I find it strange that while it is fashionable to love your city, be proud of your city, and talk about transforming your city, it is, for some of the same people, quite gauche to love your country, be proud of your country, and talk about transforming your country.

3. Allegiance to God and allegiance to your country are not inherently incompatible.

Sometimes Christians talk like you should have no loyalty for your country, as if love for your country was always a bad thing. To be sure, this must never be ultimate loyalty. We must always obey God rather than men. But most Christians have understood the fifth commandment to be about honoring not only your parents but all those in authority over you.

Moreover, Jesus shows it's possible to honor God and honor Caesar. This is especially clear if you know some of the Jewish history. The tax in question in **Mark 12:1** is about the poll tax or census tax. It was first instituted in AD 6, not too many years before Jesus' ministry. When it was established a man by the name of Judas of Galilee led a revolt. According to Josephus, "He called his fellow countrymen cowards for being willing to pay tribute to the Romans and for putting up with mortal masters in place of God." Like the Zealots, he believed allegiance to God and allegiance to any earthly government were fundamentally incompatible. As far as they were concerned if God was your king, you couldn't have an earthly king.

(to be continued)

Poplar Springs Baptist Church



“And Jesus said to them, ‘Pay to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ And they were utterly amazed at Him.”

Mark 12:16–17

THE LORD’S DAY, May 23, 2021

6000 Poplar Springs Road

Ware Shoals, SC 29692

(864) 861-2196

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Pastor Lucas Mann

Worship: 10:00 am