

# THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

November 18, 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,

There is no blessing we implore but you art able to give, have promised to give, have given already to countless multitudes, all unworthy and guilty like ourselves; make us willing to receive the supply of our need from your bounty. To this end convince us of sin, soften our hard hearts, to bewail our folly, ingratitude, pride, unbelief, rebellion, corruption. Through the law may we die to the law, then look with wonder, submission, delight, to the provision you have made for the glory of your Name in the salvation of sinners. Give us a hope that makes us not ashamed, a love that excites to holy obedience, a joy in you that is our strength, a faith in your Son who loved us and died for us. May we persevere in duty when not fully conscious of you, wait upon you and keep your way, be humble and earnest suppliants at your feet, live continually as on the brink of eternity. Let us be at your disposal for the duties and events of life, submit our preferences to your wisdom and will, resign our enjoyments if you should require it as our absolute Proprietor and best Friend. In our unworthiness and provocations make us grateful for the means of grace and the ordinances of religion and teach us to profit by them more than we have done. Help us to be in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, to enter upon the sabbath mindful of its solemnities, duties, privileges, setting all things worldly aside while we worship you. May we know the blessedness of men whose strength is in you, and in whose hearts are the highways to heaven. (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* .... *In Thanksgiving, Let Us Praise Him* ..... Hymn #796

## A Time for Offering:

- *Offertory Hymn* ..... *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* ..... Hymn #797

..... *Doxology* ..... Hymn #815

Offertory Prayer

Tithes and Offerings ..... Ushers

## A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

*Choral Message* ..... *Thanksgiving Praise* ..... Arr. Allen

Message ..... Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

## A Time for Surrender:

- *Hymn of Response* ..... *I Will Praise Him* ..... Hymn #497

- 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*

#### 97. What is baptism?

A. Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament instituted by Jesus Christ, to be unto the party baptized a sign of his fellowship with him, in his death, burial, and resurrection; of his being ingrafted into him (Rom. 6:3, 4, 5; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27); of remission of sins (Mk. 1:4; Acts 2:38, and 22:16); and of his giving up himself unto God through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3, 4).

#### 98. To whom is baptism to be administered?

A. Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God (Acts 2:38; Mt. 3:6), faith in and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, and to none other (Acts 8:12, 36, 37, 38; 10:47, 48).

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## Opportunities of the Week

### Sunday, November 18

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

7:00 p.m. Evening Service

8:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

### Wednesday, November 21

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

### Thursday, November 22

### Happy Thanksgiving

### Saturday, November 25

NO MEN’S BREAKFAST

**Nursery this week:** Theresa Engel  
Megan Balentine

**Church Watch this month:** Tommy Bryant

# They Did Not Honor Him or Give Thanks — Why Thanksgiving is Inescapably Theological

*by R. Albert Mohler, Jr.*

Thanksgiving is a deeply theological act, rightly understood. As a matter of fact, thankfulness is a theology in microcosm — a key to understanding what we really believe about God, ourselves, and the world we experience.

A haunting question is this: How do atheists observe Thanksgiving? I can easily understand what an atheist or agnostic would think of fellow human beings and feel led to express thankfulness and gratitude to all those who, both directly and indirectly, have contributed to their lives. But what about the blessings that cannot be ascribed to human agency? Those are both more numerous and more significant, ranging from the universe we experience to the gift of life itself.

Can one really be thankful without being thankful to someone? It makes no sense to express thankfulness to a purely naturalistic system. The late Stephen Jay Gould, an atheist and one of the foremost paleontologists and evolutionists of his day, described human life as “but a tiny, late-arising twig on life’s enormously arborescent bush.” Gould was a clear-headed evolutionist who took the theory of evolution to its ultimate conclusion — human life is merely an accident, though a very happy accident for us. Within that worldview, how does thankfulness work?

The Apostle Paul points to a central insight about thankfulness when he instructs the Christians in Rome about the reality and consequences of unbelief. After making clear that God has revealed himself to all humanity through the created order, Paul asserts that we are all without excuse when it comes to our responsibility to know and worship the Creator.

He wrote:

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. . . [Romans 1:20-22].*

This remarkable passage has at its center an indictment of thanklessness. *They did not honor Him as God or give thanks.* Paul wants us to understand that the refusal to honor God and give thanks is a raw form of the primal sin. Theologians have long debated the foundational sin — and answers have ranged from lust to pride. Nevertheless, it would seem that being unthankful and refusing to recognize God as the source of all good things, is very close to the essence of the primal sin. What explains the rebellion of Adam and Eve in the Garden? A lack of proper thankfulness was at the core of their sin. God gave them unspeakable riches and abundance but forbade them the fruit of one tree. A proper thankfulness would have led our first parents to avoid that fruit at all costs, and to obey the Lord's command. Taken further, this first sin was also a lack of thankfulness in that the decision to eat the forbidden fruit indicated a lack of thankfulness that took the form of an assertion that we creatures — not the Creator — know what is best for us and intend the best for us.

*They did not honor Him as God or give thanks.* Clearly, honoring God as God leads us naturally into thankfulness. To honor Him as God is to honor His limitless love, His benevolence and care, His provision and uncountable gifts. To fail in thankfulness is to fail to honor God — and this is the biblical description of fallen and sinful humanity. We are a thankless lot.

Sinners saved by the grace and mercy of God know a thankfulness that exceeds any merely human thankfulness. How do we express thankfulness for the provision the Father has made for us in Christ, the riches that are made ours in Him, and the unspeakable gift of the surpassing grace of God? As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" [2 Corinthians 9:15].

So, observe a wonderful Thanksgiving — but realize that a proper Christian Thanksgiving is a deeply theological act that requires an active mind as well as a thankful heart. We need to think deeply, widely, carefully, and faithfully about the countless reasons for our thankfulness to God.

It is humbling to see that Paul so explicitly links a lack of thankfulness to sin, foolishness, and idolatry. A lack of proper thankfulness to God is a clear sign of a basic godlessness. Millions of Americans will celebrate Thanksgiving with little consciousness of this truth. Their impulse to express gratitude is a sign of their spiritual need that can be met only in Christ.

So have a very Happy Thanksgiving — and remember that giving thanks is one of the most explicitly theological acts any human can contemplate. *O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting* [1 Chronicles 16:34]. In all things, give thanks to God.



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](http://www.poplarspringsws.org) or call (864) 861-2196.

### Church Contact Information:

**Church/Fellowship Building:** (864) 861-2190

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**Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday, 8-4

**Email:** [balentine@poplarspringsws.org](mailto:balentine@poplarspringsws.org)

**Interim Pastor:** Lucas Mann  
(864) 909-7564

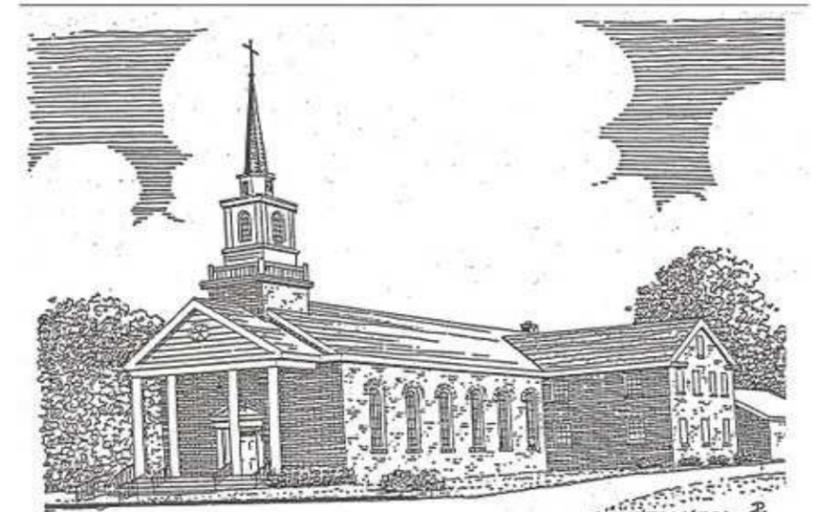
**Youth Pastor:** Travis Gosnell

**Music Leader:** Deck Balentine

**Pianist:** Jean Powell

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

## Poplar Springs Baptist Church



Poplar Springs Baptist Church

Ware Shoals, S.C.

*"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* Colossians 3:16-17

**THE LORD'S DAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018**

**6000 Poplar Springs Road  
Ware Shoals, SC 29692**

**(864) 861-2196**

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

**Interim Pastor Lucas Mann**

**Sunday School: 10:00 am**

**Worship: 11:00 am**