

NEW SENIOR PASTOR INSTALLATION SERVICE



DR. TYLER H. SMILEY

DECEMBER 13, 2020

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH • GAINESVILLE, GA

Order of Worship

Call to Worship

Advent Candle

Welcome & Offertory

Sermon

Dr. John Morrison - God Dwells With Us (Psalm 84)

Video: Looking Back

Looking Back

Song

Video: Encouragement and Prayer

Encouragement and Prayer

Installment Responsive Reading

Special Presentations

Song

Closing Remarks

Dr. Tyler Smiley

Doxology & Scriptural Benediction

**If you would like to speak with someone about a Spiritual Decision or to have prayer for a personal concern please see the Pastor in the Pastor's Reception area following the service. A Pastor or Deacon Minister will be happy to assist you.*

Letter from Lakewood's *Deacon Minister Team Leader*

A Pastor's installation service is an important event for the pastor and his congregation. It is a festive, welcoming ceremony to recognize and formalize the calling of the pastor, to acknowledge his responsibilities and duties and to celebrate a new chapter in a congregation's life.

Greetings from your Deacon Ministers,

God blesses us, Lakewood Baptist Church, with the opportunity to install our seventh Senior Pastor. We arrive at this day by God's grace and provision, through the obedient heart of our current Senior Pastor, Dr. Tom Smiley. Dr. Tom has sought the will of God faithfully during his tenure in this ministry.

God delivers us to this day. This day began years ago when He instilled the desire to follow His call to ministry in the heart his young servant, Dr. Tyler Smiley. Remember, Dr. Tyler's love for the Lord was nurtured within the ministry programs at Lakewood. Amen!

I welcome you to this special day of worship. Let's give ALL the praise and glory to the one true God as He presents us with our new Senior Pastor, Dr. Tyler Smiley. God IS good!

Neal W. Booth, Sr.

Deacon Minister Team Leac



BIO



"I received Christ and was baptized at age nine. In the years that followed, I grew in my personal walk with the Lord by the grace of the Holy Spirit and with the help of many wonderful mentors. During college, I felt reassurance of God's call in my life to be a pastor and began preparing for a full-time vocational Christian ministry. Catie and I are passionate about serving the Lord and his church with all our heart, soul, mind and strength."

- Dr. Tyler Smiley

When you consider the biblical qualifications for a pastor, it becomes clear what a gift Tyler is to our church. He faithfully proclaims God's Word, and he loves Christ's church. He exhibits such pastoral care and wisdom as he connects with people. Most importantly, he is a man of high character who loves the Lord and loves his wife and children.

- Dr. John Morrison

I know Tyler best as a son of Tom and Terri, as a husband to Catie and as a father to three precious sons. He is such a godly man in each of these roles, but I am in awe of the way he pours into his boys the meaning of God's love and grace every day.

- Lynn Martin

How incredible it is having a pastor who is not only a kind, personable man, but also a leading theological scholar in his field! I am excited for Lakewood's continued growth as a regional church doing local and global ministry under his leadership.

- Dr. JJ Wiley

Tyler possesses the intellect, poised leadership, and Christ-centered principles to be the next generational pastor for Lakewood. Most importantly, Tyler loves Jesus Christ with all his heart and loves the people of this church.

- Andrew Joyner

Tyler's preaching demonstrates a skilled ability to locate the gospel within a passage and clearly articulate it to the congregation.

- Kip Wright

// TYLER HAMPTON SMILEY //

Tyler Smiley's journey to the ministry comes as no surprise to those who know him well. The younger son of Dr. Tom and Terri Smiley was born in Atlanta, spent his earliest years in Pickens County before moving to Gainesville in 1990 at age three.

He graduated North Hall High and North Georgia College & State University with honors. He earned a Master of Divinity degree (with emphasis in leadership) from Denver Seminary. He further earned a Th.M. degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, MO and was awarded a Ph.D. from Midwestern in 2020.

He is husband to his high school sweetheart, Catie Coker Smiley, and dad to Andrew, Matthew and Peter. Catie has served in a variety of ministry capacities, and Tyler and Catie are certified "Prepare and Enrich" marriage counselors.

His ministerial journey led him to Journey Church in Centennial, Colorado where he served as a pastoral intern and then interim youth pastor. He was called as the interim pastor of Logos Central Chapel Church in Denver before becoming Lakewood's Associate Missions Pastor in 2013. The Deacon Ministry Leadership Team and congregation named him Associate Senior Pastor before calling him as Lakewood's seventh Senior Pastor in 2020.

From the bottom of my heart, I can truly say that Tyler is a great friend, pastor, and brother. He handles the word rightly, preaches Christ passionately and loves our church deeply. Tyler is wise beyond his years and, by God's grace, truly sets our church an example "in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." (1 Tim. 4:12).

– Benji Lavender

When I think of Tyler I think of what a good friend he is. In the short time that I have known him and Catie, they have always made me feel welcome, and I know they genuinely care about me and my family. Whether it's a "hey" passing in the hallway or debate on the soccer field, Tyler always makes you feel important and he listens very intently about everything. I'm thankful to call him and Catie our friends.

– Allie Weaver

Dr. Tyler is a man of God, hand selected by God to further the mission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through his people of Lakewood Baptist. Tyler is truly one of the good guys, and we are thankful God chose him to lead our family.

– Yale Moore

I have been greatly enriched by having a personal relationship with Dr. Tyler. His wisdom, his pastoral integrity, his humor and humility have all had a profound impact upon my life and our family. I am profoundly grateful that the LORD chose him to lead our church forward, and pledge to pray for Tyler, Catie and the boys, to participate in actively supporting this ministry, and to protect him from adversaries, whether from within or without.

– Andrew Beccue

RESPONSIVE READING

Installation Service for Dr. Tyler H. Smiley

LEADER: Having called this man of God to be your minister, do you now solemnly pledge to him your prayerful interest, your sympathetic understanding, your faithful support?

CONGREGATION: We do.

ALL STAFF: We do.

LEADER: Do you promise to hear attentively his preachings of the Word, to participate reverently in the services of worship, to share with him in the responsibilities of the teaching and learning, to assume your proportionate part of the church's benevolent ministries, to receive him into your hearts and homes, to counsel with him concerning the welfare of the church and the winning of souls, to encourage him in his stand for the right, to forgive him when he makes mistakes, and to follow his leadership as he follows Christ?

CONGREGATION: We do.

ALL STAFF: We do.

LEADER: Let us together reaffirm our high resolution and devotion to the preaching of the good tidings of salvation.

CONGREGATION: We consecrate our gifts.

ALL STAFF: We consecrate our gifts.

LEADER: To the teaching of Jesus' way of life:

CONGREGATION: We consecrate our time.

ALL STAFF: We consecrate our time.

LEADER: To the healing of broken bodies and the soothing of troubled minds:

CONGREGATION: We consecrate our service.

ALL STAFF: We consecrate our service.

LEADER: To the leading of children and youth to the knowledge of the love of Christ:

CONGREGATION: We consecrate our talents.

LEADER: To the caring of aged and the relief of all who look to us for help:

ALL STAFF: We consecrate our talents.

CONGREGATION: We consecrate our strength.

ALL STAFF: We consecrate our strength.

LEADER: To the evangelization of the community and the worldwide extension of the kingdom of God:

ALL: We consecrate our wealth, our efforts and our lives.

LEADER: Having been called to be the pastor of this church, Dr. Smiley, do you take this people to be your people, this field of labor to be your field, without reservation of mind or heart?

OUR PASTOR: I do.

LEADER: Do you promise to give yourself faithfully to the ministry of the Word and to prayer, to be the good shepherd of this flock of God, to minister to the needs of all alike, to be the friend of all who will permit you, to seek the salvation of souls and the nurture of the saved, to put the service of Christ and His Kingdom above all else, if wronged to forgive as you expect to be forgiven, to seek always to keep yourself mentally alert and physically fit, as much as in you lies to be at peace with all men, and to lead this church in the ways of Christ as the Holy Spirit may give you wisdom and strength?

DR. SMILEY: I do.

LEADER: May you now enter with us into these purposes and resolutions. For the high privilege of being followers of Christ and co-workers with his people:

DR. SMILEY: I give thee thanks, O God, and ask thy favor upon us.

LEADER: For the eternal truth of God's Word, which you are called upon to interpret in our daily lives:

DR. SMILEY: I give thee thanks, O God, and pray that it may ever be a lamp unto our feet, a light unto our path.

LEADER: For the high visions and noble ideals which we gain through our fellowship and which make life fruitfully happy:

DR. SMILEY: I offer grateful praise, O Lord, and pray that the vision may never dim nor the ideals lose their power to inspire and strengthen us.

LEADER: For the church of Christ which is our spiritual home on earth, and which prepares us for the Church Victorious:

DR. SMILEY: I bless thy name, O God, and pray that we may be diligent to uphold her honor and advance her ministry.

LEADER: For the acceptance of our lives in service, in the knowledge that we can do all things through Him who strengthens us:

DR. SMILEY: I give thee thanks, O God, and pray that we may be kept teachable by thy Spirit, unto the day of our promotion into the eternal Kingdom of thy love and light, where we shall dwell with thee in the land of perfect day.

ALL: We bless you, only true God, who is eternally Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In all things we glorify the Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by the Holy Spirit within us.

LEADER: (Psalm 106:48) "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say..."

ALL: "Amen! Praise the Lord!"

TO THE CONGREGATION OF LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH



Dearly Beloved Church Family,

It is with great humility and thankfulness of heart that I receive the call to become the 7th Senior Pastor of this congregation. The people of this church have loved me and are dearly loved by me. Yet, even more than our mutual affection, I know that this church loves the Lord Jesus Christ, and has taught me also to treasure him above all things. This is, perhaps, what I admire most about the legacy of this congregation: this church has ALWAYS prioritized as its deepest desire reverence for the one, true God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

As the next Senior Pastor, I have, as the saying goes, “large shoes to fill.” I know the stories and testimonies of the first five Senior Pastors of this church, and I am an eyewitness to the full tenure of the 6th Senior Pastor, Dr. Tom Smiley. This church has most recently been served by a pastor who has cared faithfully for his flock for 30 years. Following in the footsteps of such a faithful pastorate comes as a great blessing and challenge—like Joshua following Moses as the next leader of God’s people. In this I must trust that God has called me, the Lord is with me, and his Holy Spirit will enable me, and by His grace I will serve with all the strength that I possess.

As a church, we are standing on the shoulders of giants. Many of these giants still walk among us today; many walk today with the Lord in paradise. Of this latter group, there are so many that I remember—I remember their faces, the sound of their voices, their smiles, and, most of all, their faithfulness to the Lord. We are indeed “surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses;” therefore, “let us throw off every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with endurance the race set out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

“For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

1 CORINTHIANS 2:2

“Look to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”

ISAIAH 45:22

FAVORITE BOOKS

*An All-Round Ministry:
Direction, Wisdom, and
Encouragement for
Preachers and Pastors*
CHARLES H. SPURGEON

*The Open Secret:
An Introduction to the
Theology of Mission*
LESSLIE NEWBIGIN

Lord of the Rings
J.R.R. TOLKIEN



Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart” (Hebrews 12:1–3).

On April 19, 1854 the Baptist church at New Park Street Chapel unanimously elected to invite Charles Haddon Spurgeon to be their Senior Pastor. Eleven days later, Spurgeon wrote these words in reply: “No lengthened reply is required; there is but one answer to so loving and cordial an invitation. I ACCEPT IT. ... I feel it to be a high honor to be the Pastor of a people who can mention glorious names as my predecessors, and I entreat of you to remember me in prayer, that I may realise the solemn responsibility of my trust. ... Your kindness to me has been very great, and my heart is knit unto you.”

His words reflect my sentiments exactly. It is an honor to be called, by so great a people, pastor.

With Love,

Yours to serve in the gospel,

Tyler H. Smiley



FAVORITE QUOTES

“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

– C. S. LEWIS

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”

– AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

“The motto of all true servants of God must be, ‘We preach Christ; and him crucified.’ A sermon without Christ in it is like a loaf of bread without any flour in it. No Christ in your sermon, sir? Then go home, and never preach again until you have something worth preaching.”

– CHARLES H. SPURGEON

FAVORITE BIBLE CHARACTERS:

- Andrew
- Matthew
- Peter



Lakewood Blessed WITH EXCEPTIONAL SENIOR PASTORS

In 1956, a hearty band of believers from Central Baptist Church sought to organize a then-unnamed new church and began meeting at interim sites while calling Reverend James W. McRay as its founding pastor. A building site was secured near the intersection of Thompson Bridge Road and Enota Avenue in the city's Lakewood community, and Lakewood Baptist Church built its first home there.

In the mid 1990's, the congregation acquired our present 47-acre campus one mile north of our original one. A planned, phased construction program began to serve the needs of our fellowship and the greater community. The program continues today to ensure this campus and her people stand ready to serve the Lord locally, nationally and globally.

Six pastors have faithfully and dutifully served the Lakewood congregation in its 64-year history:

James W. McRay 1956-1967

E. Willard Baxter 1968-1970

Al H. Craft 1971-1978

Joe M. Glisson 1978-1980

B. Gene Brooks 1981-1989

Thomas R. Smiley 1990-2020





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