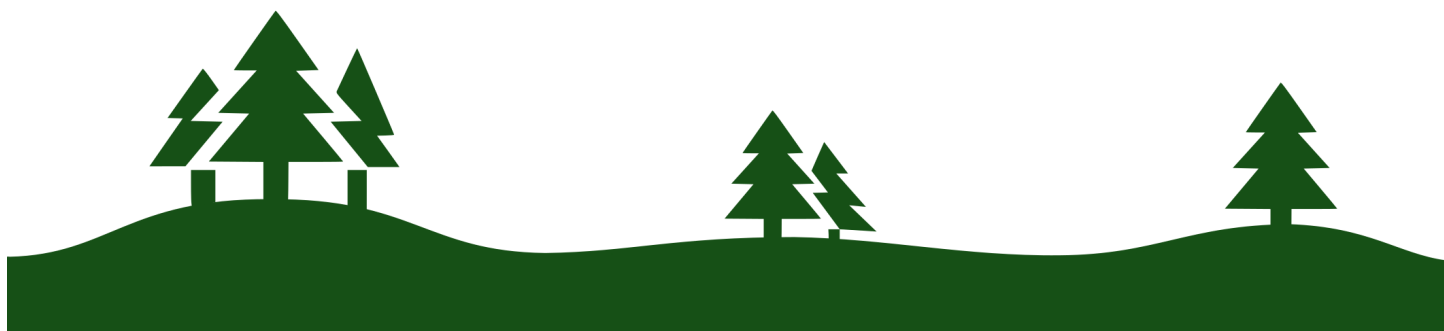




Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Come & See

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by John 1:35-51

Digital Painting

This text paints a parade of shifting identities and assumptions, starting off with John the Baptist doing what he does best: pointing people to Jesus. One after the other, these men follow Jesus, despite the fact that not one of them has a full picture of who he is: Lamb of God, Rabbi (teacher), Messiah (anointed), the one Moses and the prophets wrote about, son of Joseph, a Nazarene, etc. Amidst these various attributes, Simon's name even changes after meeting this mysterious man. There is something compelling about Jesus which brings all of these different people together on a common path.

Nathanael acts as many of us do. He makes assumptions and builds his own image of Jesus before even meeting him: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (John 1:46) Nathanael's assumptions evaporate when Jesus says he saw him under the fig tree. The text does not reveal why this convinces Nathanael, but we do know that he finds clarity and more ways of describing who Jesus is. In being seen, Nathanael is better able to fully see.

The refrain of this narrative is piercing and simple: "Come and See." Come—Jesus calls us to move, to

change our position and see things from a new perspective. See—Jesus invites us into a spirit of curiosity, to open our eyes and to strive to take in the vastness of whoever is before us. As the disciples come together, each with their own experiences and particularities, a patchwork understanding of Jesus is pieced together. Like a relay, they pass to one another a glimpse of who Jesus is, and the picture gains more detail, complexity, and texture. The beauty of this text is that we need one another—from our particular, unique points of view—to be able to find understanding and to begin to take in the full picture of ourselves and the world around us. We need one another to discover the fullness of who Jesus is.

In this image, I drew Jesus' followers each wearing a pattern that references their identity and their understanding of who Jesus is. John the Baptist's clothes contain patterns of his unusual diet—locusts and honey—as well as three droplets of water, representing his baptism of Jesus. The unnamed disciple identifies Jesus as Rabbi and his clothes are patterned with scrolls from which Rabbis would teach. Andrew identifies Jesus as "Messiah" or anointed, and his clothes are patterned with jars of oil decorated with salvific imagery of light and the cross. Andrew, Simon, and Philip are all from a fishing town called Bethsaida. Each of their clothes contains a reference to their hometown: Andrew with waves of water, Simon Peter with swirling fish, and Philip with fish scales. The fish on Simon's clothes swim around rocks which reference the meaning of his new name, Peter. Philip refers to Jesus as the one "about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote." (John 1:45) His clothes are patterned with the stone tablets etched with the Ten Commandments. Nathanael's clothes are patterned with the very fig branches Jesus saw him under. Jesus' clothes include the colors of all the followers' clothes, as well as imagery symbolizing the persons of the Trinity. Jesus' halo contains imagery referencing the many attributes the disciples use to describe who Jesus is. Do these symbols bring to mind any other names you might have for Jesus? Jesus, half in the frame, cannot be fully known or contained by our patchwork understandings.

— Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman (sanctifiedart.org)



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

June 27, 2021

ORDINARY TIME

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Contents

Order of Worship	3
Connect	8
Pray	9
Act Give	10

an inclusive community of faith

Welcome to Greenwood Forest!

We are so glad you've chosen to join us this week. Greenwood Forest Baptist Church is an inclusive community of faith, which means we welcome, affirm, and include all God's people in their diversity of genders, sexual orientations, races, ethnicities, ages, abilities, and backgrounds. We are each beloved by God and we are happy to welcome you to our church this morning exactly as you are.



← You can
scan with your
phone's camera
to give online!

*If you need a hearing assistance device,
they are available at the back of the
sanctuary.*

*Services are livestreamed and you may
end up on camera if in attendance.*



Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (Sanctified Art)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: We are from north and south.

People: We are from tiny apartments and expansive homes.

Leader: We are from this city and from others far away.

People: We are from big families and dinners made for one.

Leader: We are from stages of grief and stages of love.

People: We are from hot summers and cold winters.

Leader: We are from kitchens with passed down recipes, and front porches with old, familiar swings.

People: We are from the dust of the earth and the stars of the sky.

Leader: We are from a lot of places, but today we are here.

People: Today we are together.

All: Holy God, gather us in.

Invocation

Rev. Spears-Newsome

Gathering Hymn (vv. 1 & 4)

Here in This Place

(see page 4)

Offertory Prayer

Greg Upchurch

Presentation of the Offering

OLD HUNDREDTH

Transcendent God, we bless your name,

Incarnate Christ, the risen one,

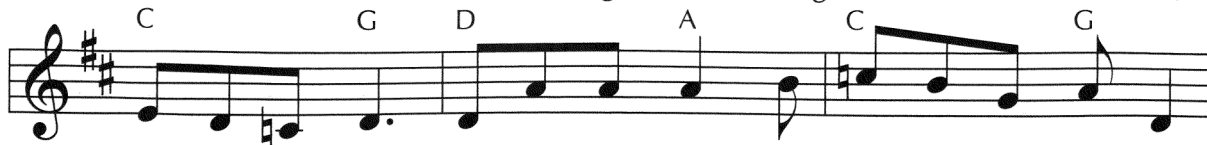
The Spirit with us, Immanent,

The Source, the Word, the Breath of Life! Amen.

Here in This Place



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his - tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way: here in this place the new light is shin - ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to-geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

We affirm each prayer with the following response:

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

We conclude the Prayers of the People with the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Meditation on "Where Are You From?"

Rev. Kadeisha Bonsu

Scripture Reading

John 1:35-51

Felice Parent

We affirm the reading of Scripture with the following response:

Reader: The word of God for us, the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own
That I left, that I lost
So long ago
All these years I have wandered
Oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home

After wind, after rain
When the dark is done
As I wake from a dream

In the gold of day
Through the air there's a calling
From far away
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home

Rise up, follow me
Come away, is the call
With the love in your heart
As the only song
There is no such beauty
As where you belong
Rise up, follow me
I will lead you home

Meditation on "Where Are You From?"

Rev. Dr. Stacks

Hymn

Who is My Mother, Who is My Brother

(see page 7)

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Stacks

Postlude

Today's hymns come from Celebrating Grace and Glory to God. Copyrighted music use is covered by CCLI License #1243530 and OneLicense #A-721397.

Who is My Mother, Who is My Brother

Unison

1. Who is my moth - er, who is my broth - er?
 2. Dif - ferent - ly a - bled, dif - ferent - ly la - beled
 3. Love will re - late us — col - or or sta - tus
 4. Bound by one vi - sion, met for one mis - sion

All those who gath - er round Je - sus Christ:
 wid - en the cir - cle round Je - sus Christ:
 can't seg - re - gate us, round Je - sus Christ:
 we claim each oth - er, round Je - sus Christ:

Spir - it - blown peo - ple born from the Gos - pel
 crutch - es and stig - mas, cul - tures' en - ig - mas
 fam - i - ly fail - ings, hu - man de - rail - ings —
 here is my moth - er, here is my broth - er,

sit at the ta - ble, round Je - sus Christ.
 all come to - geth - er round Je - sus Christ.
 all are ac - cept - ed, round Je - sus Christ.
 kin - dred in Spir - it, through Je - sus Christ.



► I've Been Meaning To Ask ...

Over the next few weeks, we'll be engaging in a worship series called "I've Been Meaning To Ask..." focused on addressing some of the prominent realities we are all facing right now, particularly on our journey out of the pandemic. In the past year and a half, we have been isolated and disconnected and we are in desperate need on hope. Over these next weeks, we'll be asking some questions about where we are and what we're feeling, both in worship and in Faith Formation.

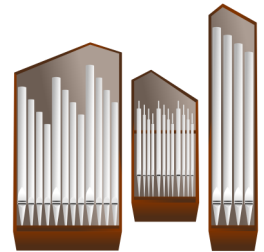
We hope that these questions serve as guiding questions in your life among those you love. We hope they bring us into deeper connection with God and with each other.

► Save the Date: July 11

We will be holding a town hall and business meeting on Sunday, July 11 at 2pm. Mark your calendars!

► Organ Update

Our organ renovators have begun detailed work on our project! From this Sunday on, the organ will not be used until the project



is completed. This is an exciting time in the music ministry at Greenwood Forest! If you are interested in donating to the organ fund to help us make the final payments, email Rev. Dr. Stacks.

A Theology of Inclusion

► Teaching Series | A Theology of Inclusion | July 11 through August 1

Rev. Dr. Stacks will lead us through developing and understanding the scriptural basis for an inclusive theology. Rather than play defense against homophobia, racism, sexism etc. within the church, this series will play offense, showing how a high regard for Scripture and a deep commitment to Jesus should lead one to inclusion, and what that means for how we move into the future as a church. We will gather in person at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall. The Teaching Series will also be available via Zoom.

► Prayer List*

Jim Allen
Nell Allen
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
Don Beal
Gilles Bikindou
Jo Brooks
Bob and Alice Curti (Susan Beck's parents)
Sharon Edmondson
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Betty Griffin (Jane Griffin's mother)
Doug Hughes (Kathy Watkin's friend)
Angela McGee (Valerie Brooks' friend)
Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)
Sylvia Morgan
Alice Price
Fred Seeger
Randy Soyars (Mark Soyars' father)
Marvel Wahrman
Marta Whitehouse (Al Whitehouse's mother)
Jim Wigginton (Elizabeth Biser's uncle)
Alison Zieglmeier
Our partner church,
Ebenezer Baptist, Cuba

► Prayer for the Week

Holy God,

I don't always know how to pray,
but you find me anyway.

I don't always know how to listen,
but you are in my ears all the same.

I don't always know how to believe,
but you surround me with beauty and
I find myself held together in love.

Where I come from there are so many distractions.

Where I come from there is so much noise.

Find me.

Hold me.

Be in these words.

Help me hear.

Amen.

Rev. Sarah Are (sanctifiedart.org)

**To add a name to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Names rotate off and can be re-added upon request.*

ACTACTACTACT

► Neighborhood Summer Program



Greenwood Forest is joining our partner churches to host the annual Summer Program which provides care, nourishment, and

enrichment for kids during the summer. There will be numerous health and safety precautions in place including masks, vaccine requirements, pre-registration, and limitation to one church's campus this year.

We need your help to make this vital mission of our church and our partners happen this year! We need both kitchen volunteers and volunteers to spend time with kids. Youth volunteers welcome. Pastors from multiple congregations will be on site to assist and lead volunteers.

If you can help on any of the Thursdays from July 1 to August 12 (9am-1pm), email Rev. Spears-Newsome at wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org! We can't make this happen without your help!

GIVEGIVEGIVEGIVE

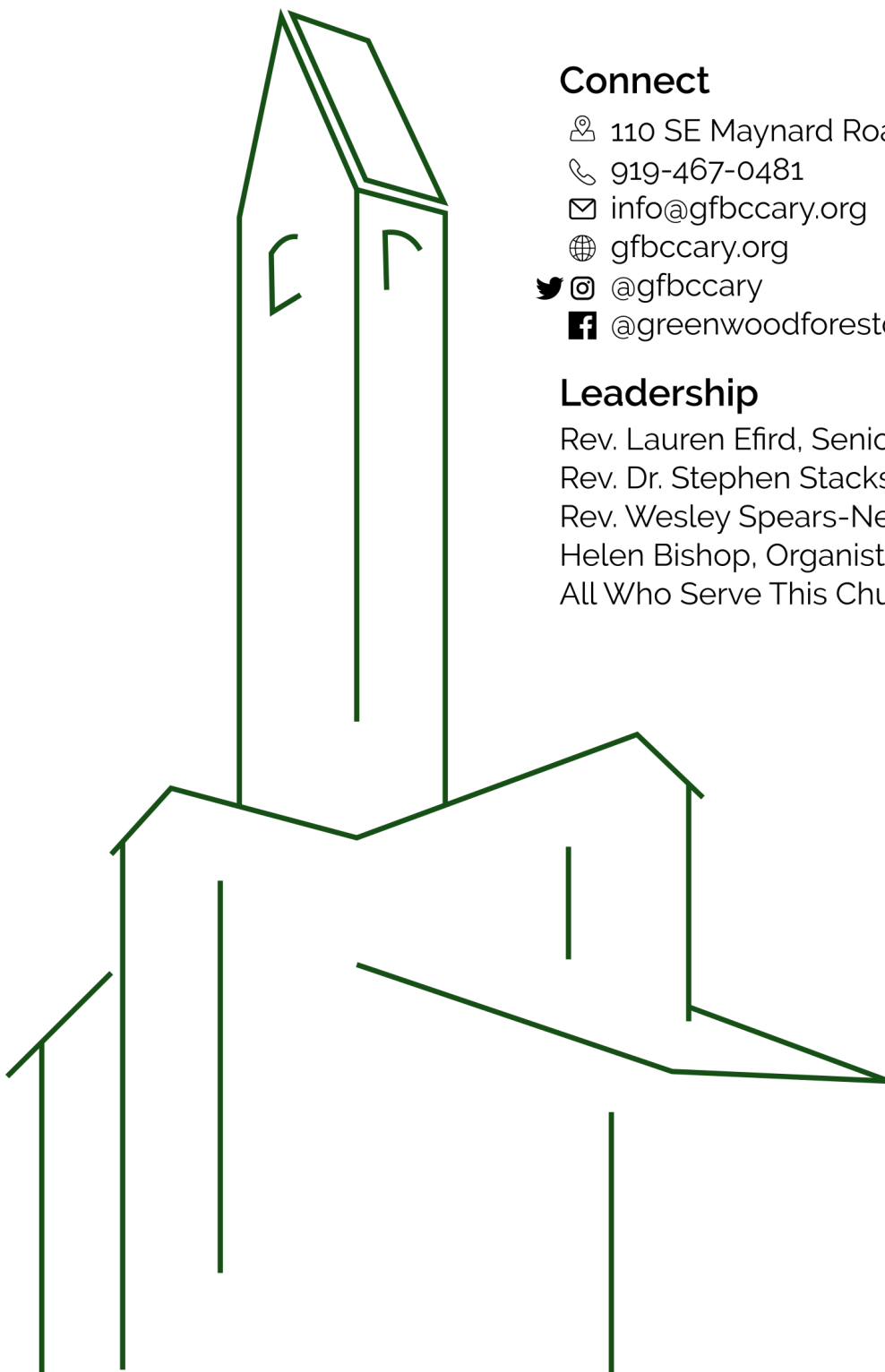
► Ways to Tithe

- Set up an automated bank draft by filling out a form requested from the church office, attaching a voided check, and mailing it back to the church office.
- Set up auto pay through you bank using the "Bill Pay" function. Then, your bank will mail a check to the church weekly or monthly.
- Give online through the church website at gfbccary.org/give.

► May 2021 Finance Update

Updated when the previous month's books have closed.

	May 2021	YTD
Congregational Giving	\$58,008	\$500,140
Congregational Giving Target	\$67,030	\$540,722
Congregational Giving Under/Over	\$(9,022)	(\$40,582)
Other Receipts	\$2,413	\$18,489
Total Giving and Receipts	\$60,421	\$518,629
Total Disbursements	\$61,542	\$552,869
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	\$(1,121)	(\$34,240)
Together We Build Giving	\$11,683	\$110,336



Connect

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📘 @greenwoodforestcary

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

Helen Bishop, Organist

All Who Serve This Church