



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

December 5, 2021

ADVENT

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Scan to give!

► Welcome to Greenwood Forest!

**an inclusive
community
of faith**

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.

► Close to Home: Advent and Christmas Sermon Series



**close to
Home**

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Our worship series this year, *Close to Home*, acknowledges the "already but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us. *Sanctified Art* has provided devotionals and activities for this season, which you'll receive in your Faith Formation groups and you can visit an art installation in the narthex related to this theme.

- *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.*



Laying the Foundation

Second Sunday of Advent

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. Lloyd Larson

Lighting of the Peace Candle Kevin Schaefer

Welcome to Worship Rev. Lauren Efrid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace Rev. Efrid

Call to Worship (Sanctified Art) Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: If life was a home, then we would pray—

People: may love be the foundation.

Leader: May God be the cornerstone.

People: May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.

Leader: And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

People: In this hour of worship,

let us work toward building that home together.

Leader: We may not know the path ahead,

People: But God is here, even now.

Leader: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

People: Let us worship Holy God.

Invocation Rev. Spears-Newsome

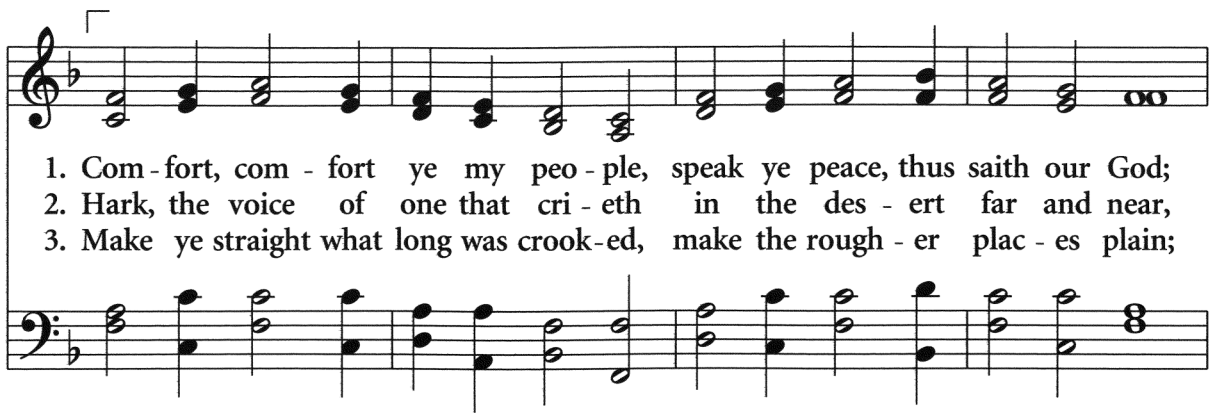
Gathering Hymn Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

(see page 3)

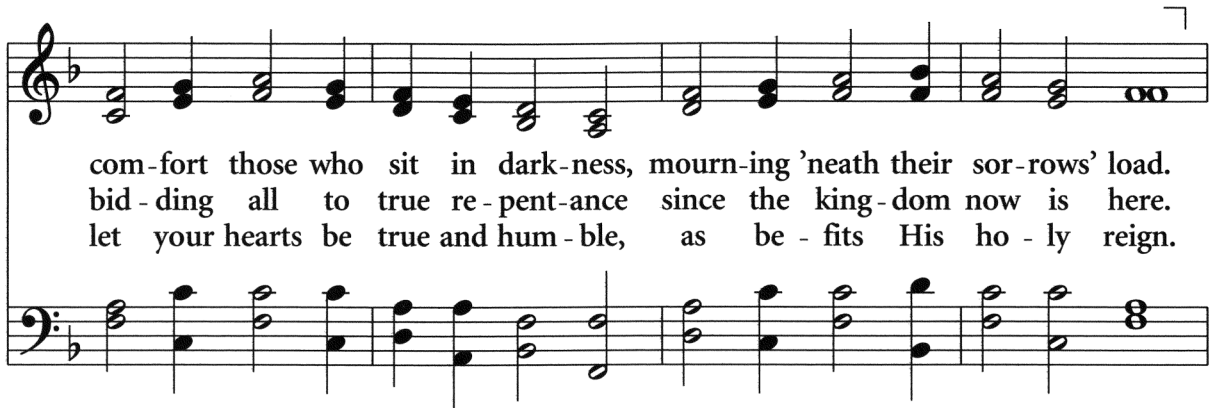
Offertory Prayer Gerry Ritter




Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



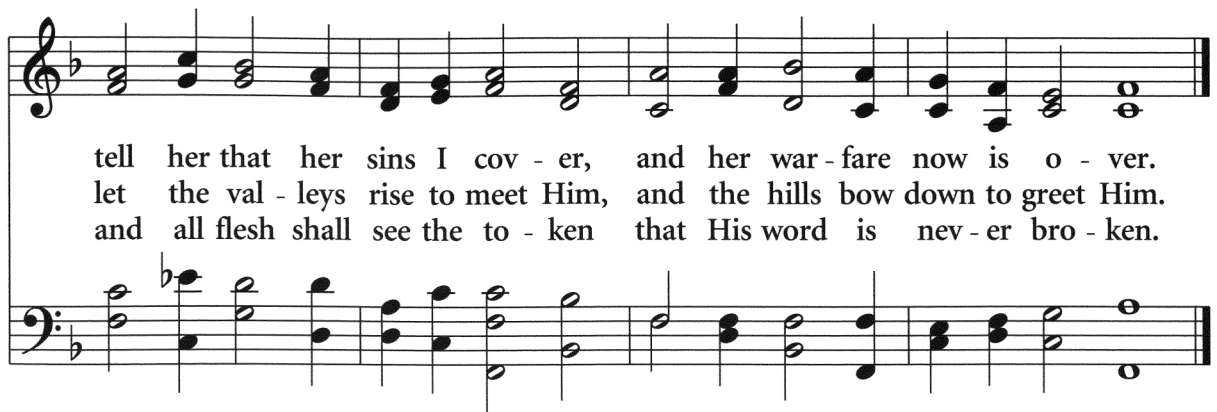
1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
 2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,
 3. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.
 bid - ding all to true re - pent - ance since the king - dom now is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits His ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 let the val - leys rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that His word is nev - er bro - ken.



Presentation of the Offering

GREENSLEEVES

E Minor: Em D G D B⁷ Em Am/C

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

B Em D G D B⁷

here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

Em Am B Em

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

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.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:57-80

Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Lee Geonyong

Come now,
O Prince of Peace;
Make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
Reconcile all people.

Come now, O God of love;
Make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
Reconcile all people.

Come now and set us free, KOREAN

O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
Reconcile all people.

Come, hope of unity;
Make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
Reconcile all people.

1 오소서 오소서 평화의 임금
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
2 오소서 오소서 사랑의 임금
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
3 오소서 오소서 자유의 임금
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
4 오소서 오소서 통일의 임금
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서

Sermon

Laying the Foundation

Rev. Efird

Celebration of Communion

Rev. Efird

Prayer of Confession: Merciful God, we confess that we have not always loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be obedient disciples. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we've not loved our neighbors, and we've not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us for what we have done and for what we've left undone, and free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mystery of Faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

(see page 6)

Benediction

Rev. Efird

Postlude

My Lord, What a Morning

arr. Chuck Marohnic

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



Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Unison

1. Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, and with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Ma-ry, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard
 4. At His feet the six-winged ser-aph; cher-u-bim, with

trem-bling stand; pon-der noth-ing earth-ly mind-ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords, in hu-man ves-ture,
 on the way, as the Light of light de-scend-eth
 sleep-less eye, veil their fac-es to the Pres-ence,

for with bless-ing in His hand, Christ our God to earth de-
 in the bod-y and the blood; He will give to all the
 from the realms of end-less day, that the powers of hell may
 as with cease-less voice they cry, "Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-

scend-eth, our full hom-age to de-mand.
 faith-ful His own self for heav-en-ly food.
 van-ish as the dark-ness clears a-way.
 lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Lord Most High!"



Advent & Christmas

Special Worship Services

Decorating/Wreath-Making Party | Nov. 21, 3:00 pm

Service of Lament | Dec. 15, 6:00 pm

A Service of Lessons & Carols | Dec. 19, 11:00 am



Advent Worship Services

First Sunday of Advent | Nov. 28, 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Advent | Dec. 5, 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent | Dec. 12, 11:00 am



Christmas Worship Services

Children's Christmas Eve Service | Dec. 24, 11:00 am

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service | Dec. 24, 8:00 pm

First Sunday of Christmas | Dec. 26, 11:00 am

Epiphany Sunday | Jan. 2, 11:00 am



► Poinsettia Dedications



The Advent and Christmas seasons are right around the corner, which means we will be decorating the sanctuary soon! If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for the sanctuary adornment and a dedication listed in the bulletin, please visit gfbccary.org/poinsettias. Poinsettias and dedications are \$15. Any profits from poinsettia sales will go to the Organ Fund.

► Christmas Gifts for Our Neighbors



With our partners at the Kirk of Kildaire as we do each year, we will be collecting Christmas gifts for our neighbors that we work with through Backpack Buddies and the Neighborhood Summer Program. If you'd like to sign up to purchase a gift, please visit gfbccary.org/gifts (redirects to a signup). Gifts benefit our neighborhood children and

other local ministries. Please follow these steps to donate gifts:

- Sign up for a slot at the link.
- Purchase and wrap the gift.
- Label with the agency code and number (included in your signup), name of the recipient, and a brief description of the gift. Make sure this label can be easily removed.
- **Return to the Kirk of Kildaire drop-off on Sunday December 5** from 1-3pm or you can drop off gifts at the Kirk of Kildaire church office.

► Greenwood Forest Children's Center Scholarship Fundraiser

GFCC is excited to continue the long-standing tradition of raffling off beautifully themed baskets and experiences to raise money for the Dr. Bill Jones Scholarship Fund. This fund is a crucial part of making GFCC accessible to all children within the community, regardless of financial circumstance.

You are invited to stop by the GFBC Media Center on Sunday morning, December 5th to view baskets and purchase tickets. Tickets are \$1 each or \$10 for 12. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Wolber at gfccdirector@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

CONNECT(CONT.)

► Staff Love Offering

We have an Advent tradition of collecting a love offering for our staff. The offering is distributed to the staff as an expression of our gratitude for their hard work, dedication, leadership, and faithful service to our church throughout the year. **If you would like to contribute to this offering, please mail your gifts to the church and make out checks payable to Andy Jarrell. Alternatively, you can Venmo gifts to Andy Jarrell at @Andy-Jarrell, as well.** Donations will be collected now through December 19. If you have questions please contact either Andy Jarrell (Personnel Chair) or Leta Huntsinger (Deacon Chair).

► Business Meeting on December 12

We will be holding a Business Meeting on Sunday, December 12 at 7pm via Zoom. Along with normal updates and routine business items, the Deacon Board is presenting potential revisions to the church bylaws. This meeting is an information session on the bylaw changes, a vote on the bylaw changes would not take place until 2022.

PRAYPRAYPRAYPRAY

► Prayer List*

Jim Allen
Nell Allen
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
Gilles Bikindou
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Don Hamrick
Gloria Lee (friend of the Becks and the Curtis)
Cathy Lockhart (Katie Lockhart's mother)
Doris Martin
Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)
Sylvia Morgan
Willie Palmer (Randy Palmer's brother)
Fred Seeger
Marta Whitehouse (Al Whitehouse's mother)
Our partners at Ebenezer Baptist, Cuba

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

► Together We Build Campaign Concludes — Thank You!

On November 21, we celebrated the conclusion to the Together We Build Campaign. Despite all of the ups-and-downs of the past two years, you were able to raise **\$1,023,107** toward retiring the church's debt. Your contributions and effort have made way for a stable financial future for Greenwood Forest Baptist Church in the coming decades, ensuring that there will be an inclusive community of faith on the corner of Maynard and Kildaire Farm Roads for years to come.



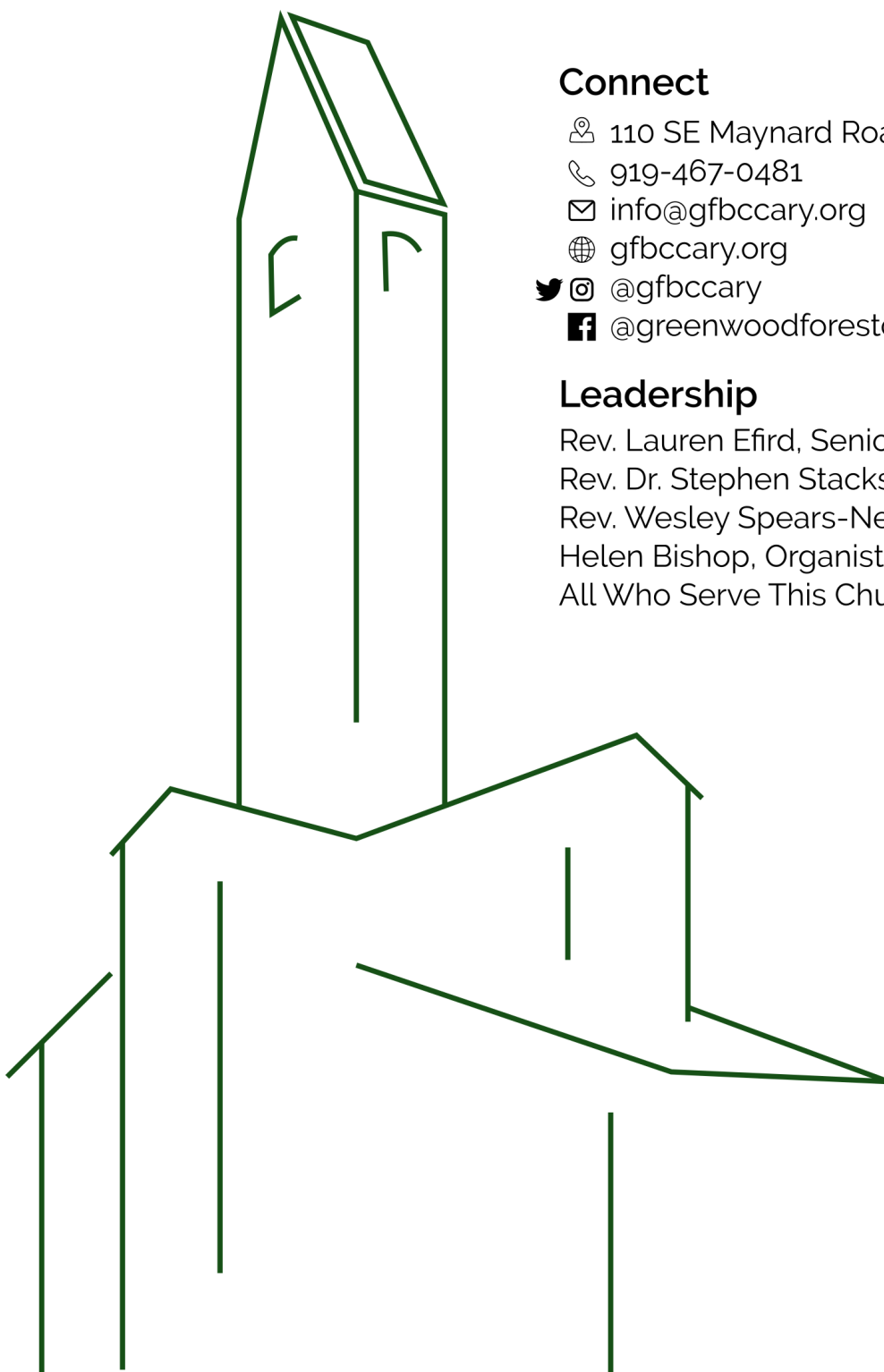
► Year-End Stock Donations

If you plan to make a stock donation to the church this year, please do so as soon as possible as it takes several weeks for transfers to be processed. The donated stock must be in the church's account by December 31 for you to receive credit for your 2021 taxes. Contact the church office at info@gfbccary.org if you need specifics on how to process a stock transaction.

► October 2021 Finance Update

Updated when the previous months' books close.

	Oct. 2021	YTD
Congregational Giving	\$46,910	\$88,739
Congregational Giving Target	\$63,750	\$114,750
Congregational Giving Under/Over	(\$16,480)	(\$26,011)
Other Receipts	\$13,000	\$17,476
Total Giving and Receipts	\$59,910	\$106,215
Total Disbursements	\$68,582	\$126,190
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	(\$8,672)	(\$19,975)
Together We Build Giving	\$38,045	\$53,482



Connect

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✉ info@gfbccary.org

🌐 gfbccary.org

🐦 @gfbccary

📘 @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