



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

December 12, 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.*



A HOME FOR all

Third Sunday of Advent

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Prelude on *Kingsfold*

David Winkler

Lighting of the Peace Candle

Elizabeth Vickery

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. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Leader: A voice calls out in the wilderness.

People: It sings of a home for all.

Leader: It speaks of justice and peace.

People: We could choose to ignore it.

Leader: We could drown out that song.

People: We could choose not to listen.

Leader: Instead, we come into this space.

People: We let the world grow quiet. We listen.

Leader: A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

People: We hear it.

Leader: In listening, we worship.

People: Let us draw near to God.

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Stacks

Gathering Hymn

Canticle of the Turning

(see page 3)



Canticle of the Turning

Em C D

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

Em C D Em

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

G D Em C Em

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

G D

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

Em C D Em

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.



Offertory Prayer

Anthony Warren

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. Wesley Spears-Newsome

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 3:1-18

Rev. Dr. Stacks

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Evan Owoc-Edwards, Soloist

arr. John Rutter

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

O Come, thou Rod of Jesse,
free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.

Sermon

A Home For All

Rev. Efird

Hymn

Joy to the World!

(see page 6)

Benediction

Rev. Efird

Postlude

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

arr. Victor Labenske

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Joy to the World!

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her King;
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let men their songs em - ploy;
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground;
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove

let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 the glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of His love, and won - ders of His

1. And heaven and na - ture sing,
 1. And heaven and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heaven and na - ture sing,



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

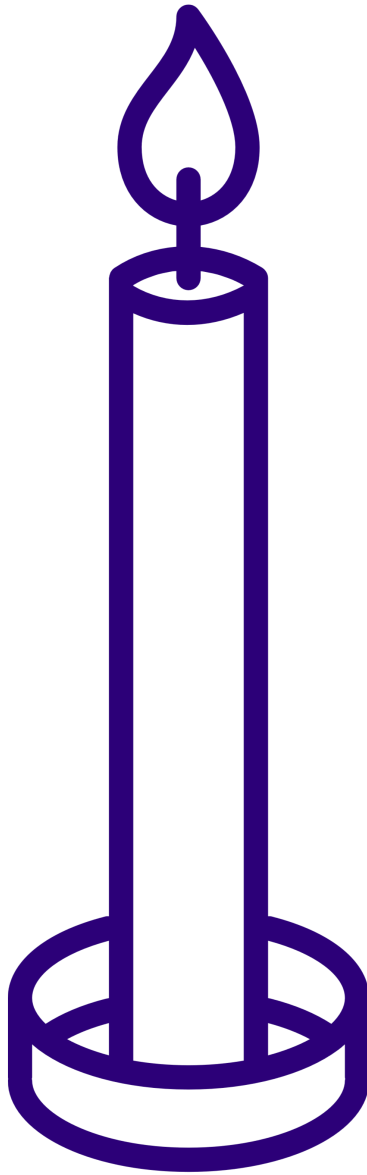
Children's Christmas Eve Service | Dec. 24, 11:00 am

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





Service of Lament

December 15 @ 6:00pm

This time of year can be extremely difficult when you're dealing with loss; for the past two years, unfortunately so many of us count ourselves in that number. Come join us for a time to acknowledge and process that grief. Even if you aren't dealing with a particular loss, we encourage the entire community to come together and extend grace and comfort to one another in this service.

► 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.

► 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 (919-749-3662), 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. An invitation and information will be sent via email on Sunday.

► Prayer List*

Jim Allen
 Nell Allen
 Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
 Gilles Bikindou
 The Family of Merle Filipowski
 Vanna Fox
 James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
 Gloria Lee (friend of the Becks and the Curtis)
 Cathy Lockhart (Katie Lockhart's mother)
 Doris Martin
 Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)
 The Family of Susan Miller
 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.*

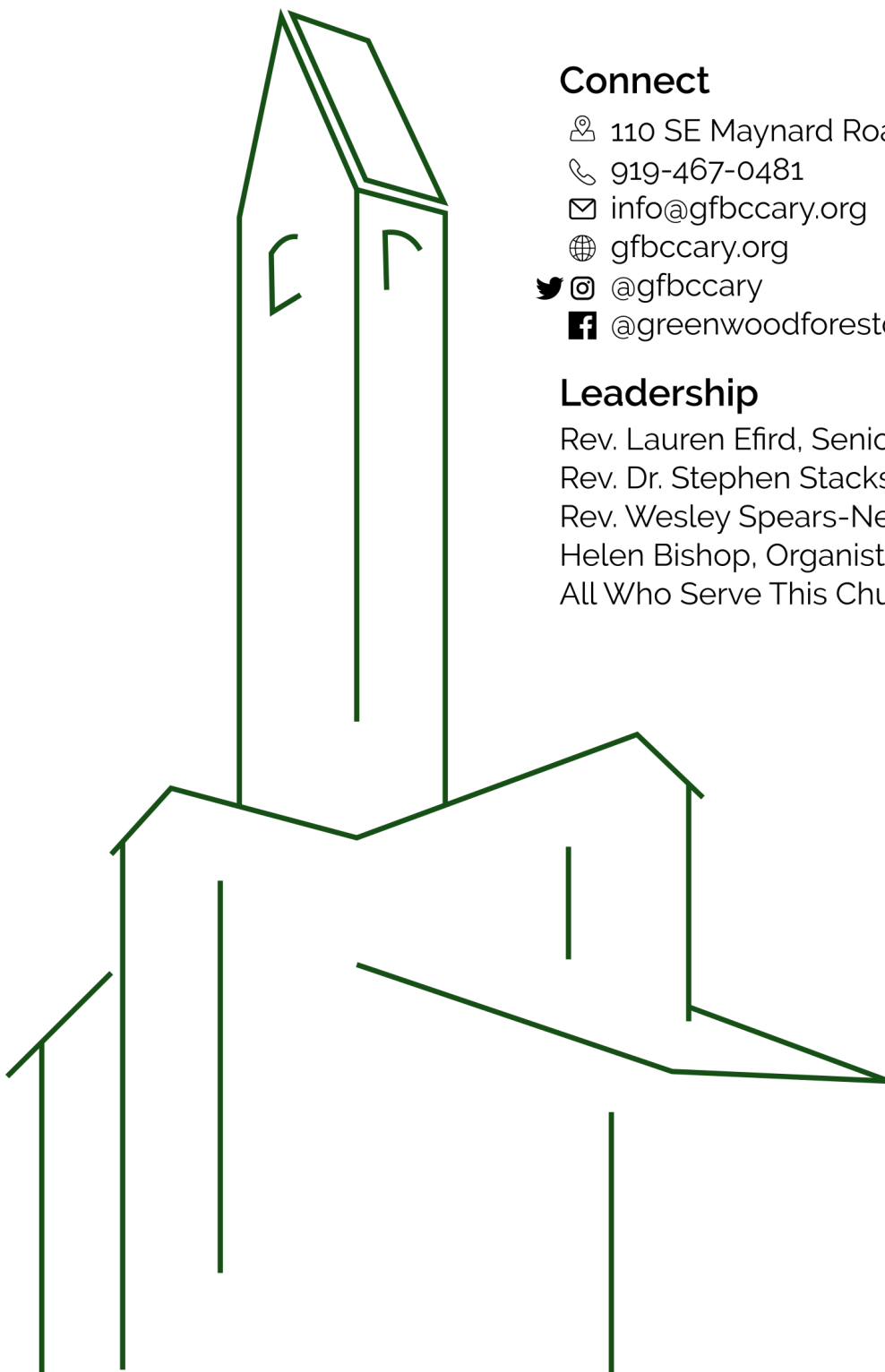
► Year-End Stock Donations

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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🌐 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