



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

December 24, 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE

► Welcome to Greenwood Forest!

an inclusive
community
of faith

We are so glad you've chosen to join us. 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 evening 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.

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Scan to give!

- *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.*



Chiming of the Hour

Processional Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

(see page 4)

Welcome to Worship

Rev. Lauren Efrid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Efrid

Preparation for Worship

God is With Us

Poor Clare

Sing now let our hearts rejoice

God is with us

Sing now let our hearts rejoice

God is with us

God is with us

Keep watch open your eyes

For signs and wonders.

O children, lift your voice;

Always remember

God is with us

God is with us

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Nathan Bullock

Call to Worship (Sanctified Art)

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Leader: An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

People: to carry Christ into this world.

Leader: An ordinary carpenter was invited—

People: to be a father to a child unlike any other.

Leader: The shepherds were invited—

People: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

Leader: The Magi were invited—

People: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

Leader: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

(continued—>)



People: then we can trust that we too are invited.

Leader: This story is for us.

People: This love is for us.

Leader: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

People: Amen.

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Stacks

Hymn (vv. 1, 2, & 3)

Angels We Have Heard on High

(see page 5)

Offertory Prayer

Chris Beal

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.



Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold Him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, risen with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in-car-nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,




with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.





Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"




Angels We Have Heard on High



1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4. See Him in a man - ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.




Glo - ri - a




in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a




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 Holy Night****Adolphe Adam**

O holy night!
the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world
in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared
and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope -
the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks
a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees!
O hear the angel voices!
O night divine,
O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break,
for the slave is our brother,
And in his name
all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy
in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his holy name.

Christ is the Lord!
O praise his name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Homily

Rev. Efird

Celebration of Communion

Rev. Efird

Prayer of Confession: Merciful God, we confess that we have not 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.



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight.
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li-ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht

round yon vir - gin moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant so ten-der and mild,
 Glo - ry streams from heav-en a - far, heaven-ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu - ia,
 ra - diant beams from Thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our King;
nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar. Hold - er Kna - be im lock - i - gen Haar,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.
schlaf in himm - li-scher Ruh', schlaf in himm - li-scher Ruh'!"

Benediction

Rev. Efird

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Poinsettia Dedications



Terry Allen	in memory of	Beverly H. Allen
Bess Averre	in memory of	My Husband, Barry Patchett
Faye Beal	in memory of in honor of	Don Beal Chris, Toni, Chloe, Ellie, Griffin, and Lucy Beal Ashley and Jeremy Clos Kadeisha, John, and Adom Bonsu
Chuck and Susan Beck	in honor of	Gilles Bikindou
The Brewer Family	in memory of	Luther Brewer
Tom and Pat Brooks	in memory of in honor of	Our Parents Our Children and Grandchildren
Greg and Carol Carter	in honor of	Our Children and Grandchildren
Rick and Linda Chappell	in honor of	Our Grandkids: Riley, Caleb, Davis, Shelby, Noah, and Mason Our Ministers and Staff
Ashley Clos	in memory of	Don Beal
Jennifer, Tom, and Sarah Coltrane	in honor of	Jean Harris
	in memory of	Jerry Harris
Bob and Alice Curti	in memory of	Our Parents, Beaty and Sara Randall Peter and Carrie Curti

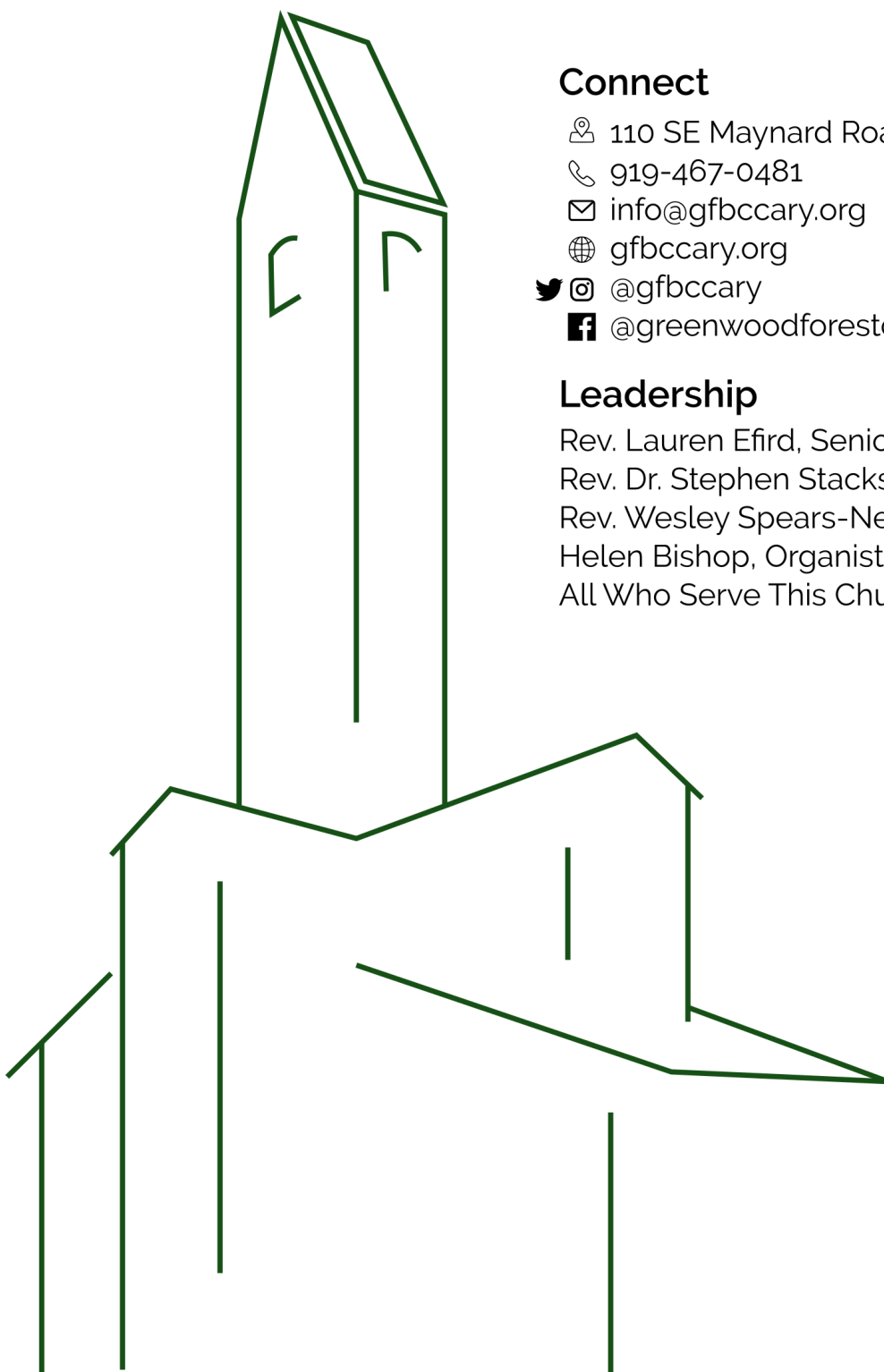


Vivian and Steve Denning	in honor of	Anna, Mallory, Rachel, and Tess Marc, Morgan, and Ellery Jennifer Denning
	in memory of	
Kathy, Teri, Janet, and Billy	in memory of	Bill Edwards
	in honor of	Lois Edwards
Edwin & David Floyd and Nancy, Greg, Evan, Eric, and Emily Long	in memory of	Marjorie Floyd, Our Beloved Wife, Mother, and Grandmother
Jane Griffin	in memory of	Ann Griffin Clawson
N. Lorraine Griggs	in memory of	My Husband, Bill Griggs Don Beal Marvel Wahrman
	in honor of	Faye Beal Jean Harris Kathleen Wicker Gerry Ritter
Don and Laura Hamrick	in memory of	Our Son, David Lee Hamrick
Jean Harris	in memory of	Jerry Harris
MaryBeth McDermott	in honor of	GFBC Properties Ministry
Henry and Susan Meador	in honor of	Our Daughter, Hannah Meador
Janice and Randy Medford	in memory of	Dorothy and Howard Beard
The Miller Family (John, Liz, and Margaret)	in memory of	Our Parents, John and Susan Miller
Diana Morde	in memory of	My Beloved Friend, Annette King



Felice and Jeff Parent	in memory of in honor of	Our Parents Our Daughters
Harold and Gerry Ritter	in memory of in honor of	Our Son, Dean Ritter Our Parents, ET and Geneva Parham, Walter and Ruther Ritter Scott and Denise Ritter Our Granddaughters: Ava and Erica Ritter
Evelyn Spears-Newsome	in honor of	Lynn Newsome
Judy and Vincent Vaccaro and Julie, Michael, and Addison Mulawka	in honor of in memory of	Jean Harris Jerry Harris
Patti and Lee Webb	in memory of	William Webb Glasgow Morris and Lorene Phillips Hurst and Virginia Webb
Wayne and Jenny Williams	in memory of	Sol and Marvel Wahrman John and Marion Williams
Michael Yates	in memory of	Royal and Anna Yates Hal Yates Martha Yates Daniel Mitchell





Connect

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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