



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

December 26, 2021

CHRISTMAS

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► 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.*



CHOSEN Home

First Sunday After Christmas

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Baby Son

John Mark McMillan

We thought you'd come
with a crown of gold
A string of pearls and a cashmere robe
We thought you'd clench an iron fist
And rain like fire on the politics

Have you no room inside your heart
The inn is full, the out is dark
But upon profane shines sacred sun
Not ashamed to be one of us

*But without a sword, no armored guard
But common born in mother's arms
The government now rests upon
The shoulders of this baby son*

Gloria, Allelu
Christ the Lord
We've longed for You

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Mercedes Auger

Welcome to Worship

Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: The Lord be with you!
People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Efird

Call to Worship (Sanctified Art)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: Jesus said, "This is my Father's house."
People: So come into this space just as you are.
Leader: Come into this space speaking your truth.
People: Come into this space with your authentic self.
Leader: This is God's home.
People: This is our home. Let us worship God.



Invocation

Rev. Spears-Newsome

Gathering Hymn

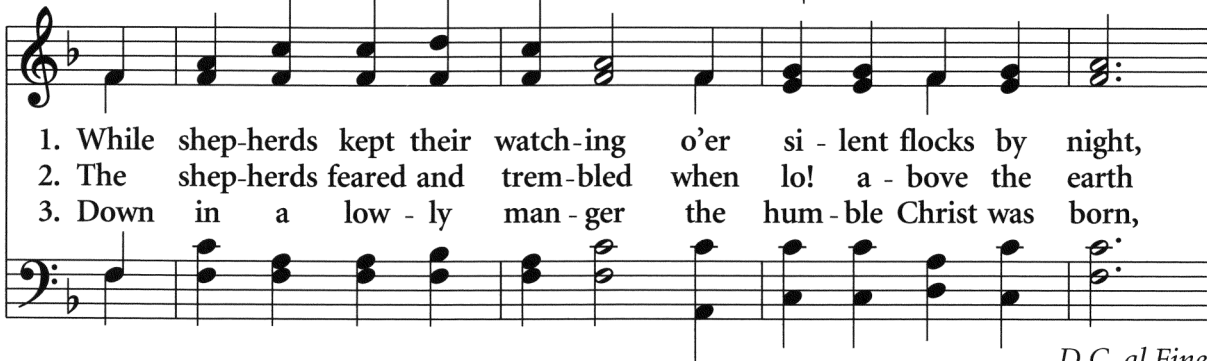
Go Tell it on the Mountain



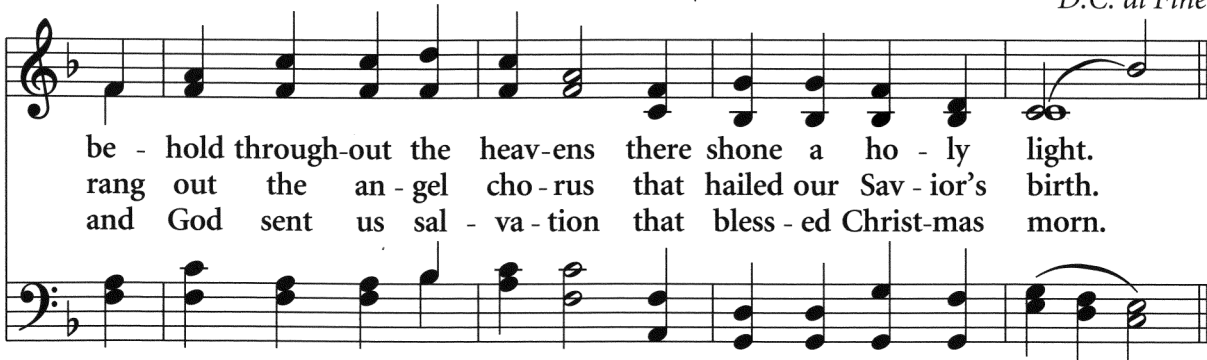
Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery-where;



Go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Offertory Prayer

Andy Jarrell



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.

Community Reflection

Luke 2:41-52

Notes/Reflections:

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the



teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them.

Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.



This story is of Jesus spending time at church. What is your favorite part of our church? What are some of your favorite memories at church?

Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

(see page 6)

Benediction

Rev. Efir

Postlude

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

arr. Vicki Tucker Courtney

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

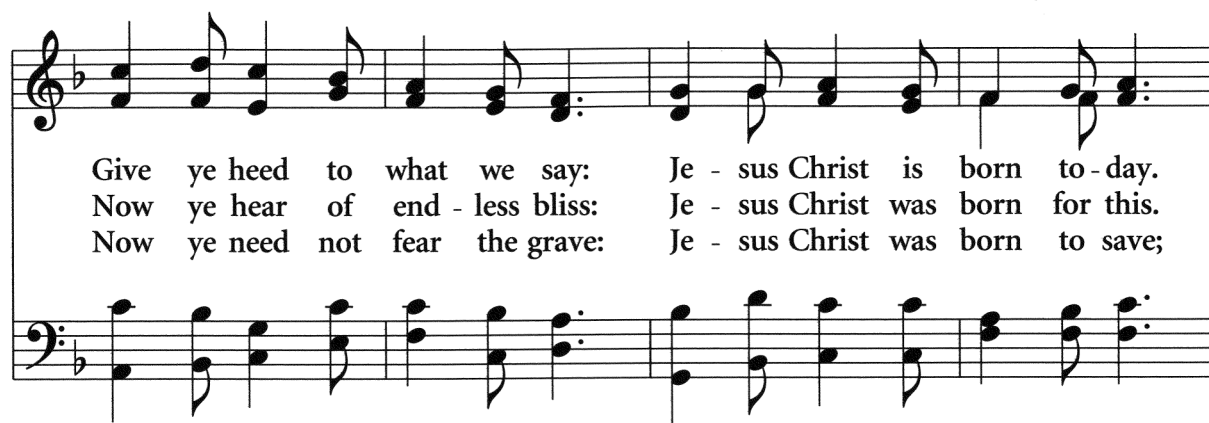
Lay readers today are Anna Claire Jarrell and Rick Chappell.



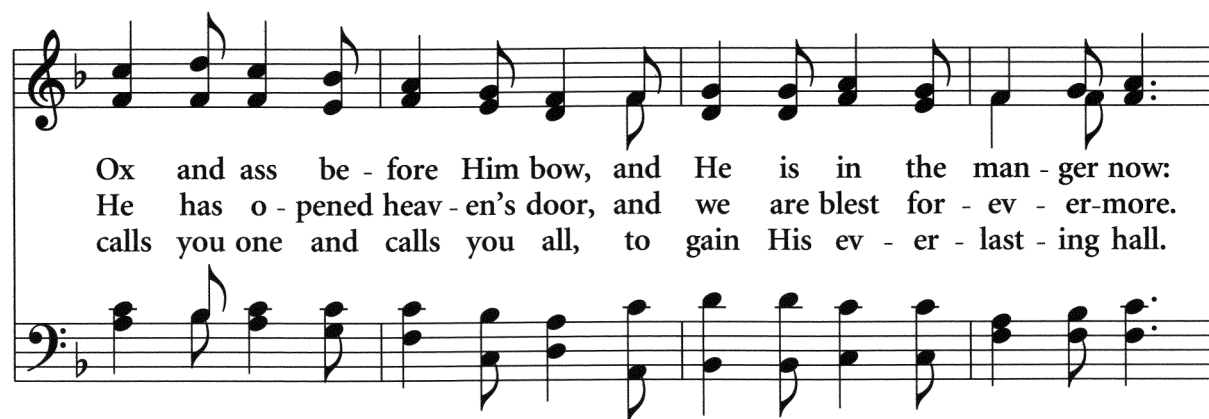
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



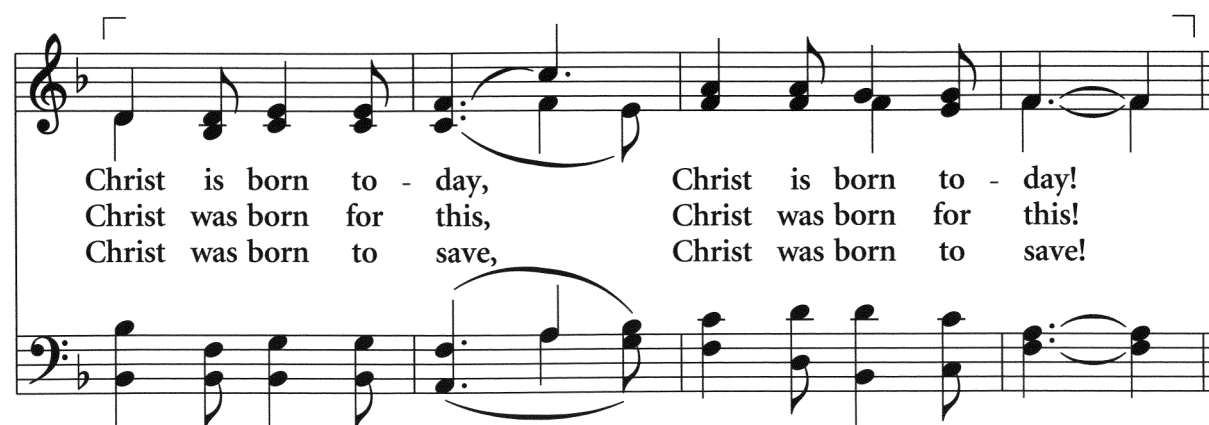
1. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice!
 2. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice!
 3. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice!



Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day.
 Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this.
 Now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save;

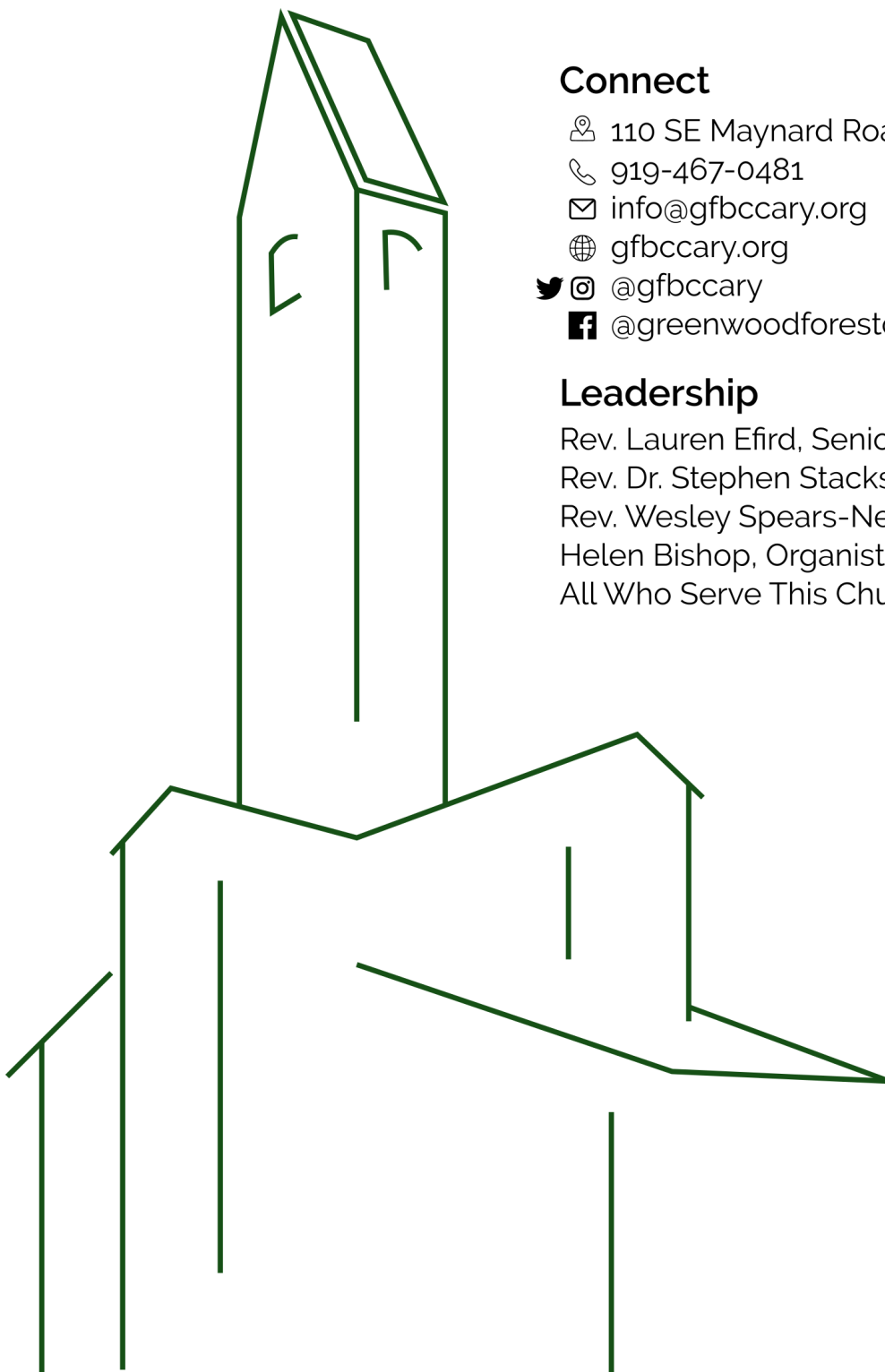


Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now:
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er-more.
 calls you one and calls you all, to gain His ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day, Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!





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