



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

January 23, 2022

ORDINARY TIME

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an inclusive community of faith

► Welcome to worship!

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.



► Current Sermon Series

Our current sermon series, *Sing a Song*, takes inspiration from multiple generations of popular music in conversation with the week's biblical text. Discover what everyone from Lil Nas X to Garth Brooks has to do with our faith and Scripture!



Scan to give!

- Today's color is green for Ordinary Time, a season of spiritual growth.
- 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

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude We Are One in the Spirit arr. Albert Mendoza

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 (from Psalm 19:7-14) Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: The decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

Leader: The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: The commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

Leader: The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;

People: The ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Leader: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

People: Sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Leader: Moreover by them is your servant warned;

People: In keeping them there is great reward.

Leader: But who can detect their errors?

People: Clear me from hidden faults.

Leader: Keep back your servant also from the insolent;

People: Do not let them have dominion over me.

Leader: Then I shall be blameless,

People: And innocent of great transgression.

Leader: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

People: Be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Invocation Rev. Spears-Newsome

Gathering Hymn

Live Into Hope

We invite you to participate by listening, clapping, or meditating on the text.

Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God's jubilee!

Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into the hope! The blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of captives freed
from the chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

Offertory Prayer

Anthony Warren

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.

The Prayers of the People

Rev. 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 4:14-21

Rev. Efird

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.

Sermon	We Shall Be Free	Rev. Dr. Stacks
Hymn (vv. 1 and 3)	(see pages 5-6)	Lift Every Voice and Sing
Benediction		Rev. Dr. Stacks
Postlude	This Is My Father's World	arr. Lloyd Larson

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

Lift Every Voice and Sing



1. Lift ev - ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chast - ening
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent



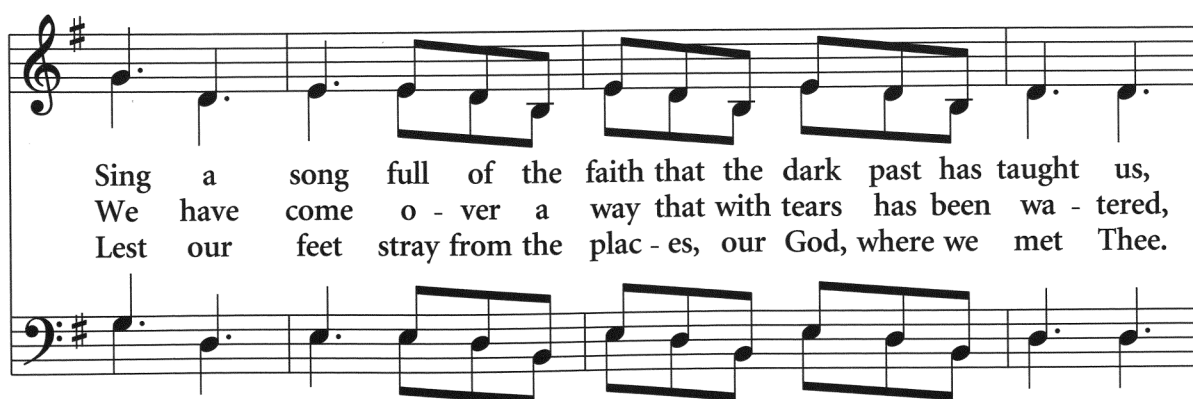
ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the



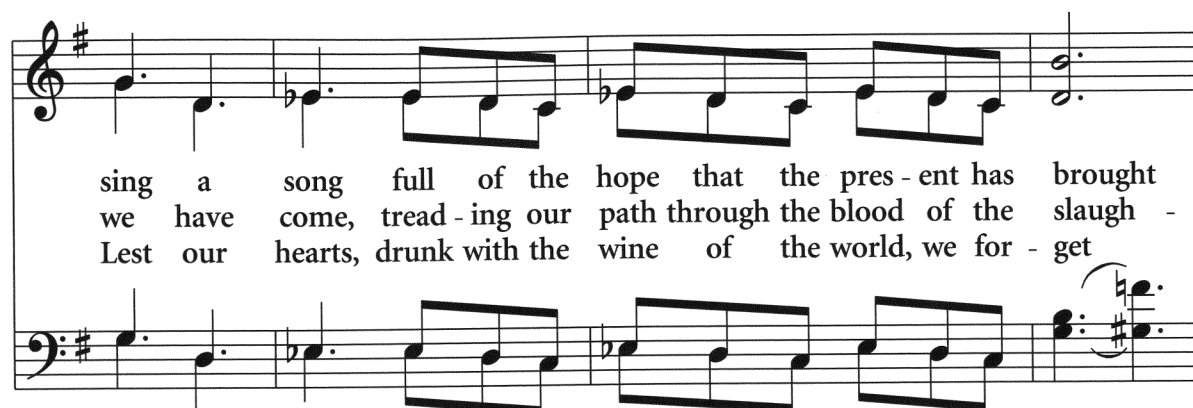
ty; let our re - joic - ing rise, high as the lis - tening
 died; yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; Thou who hast by Thy might, led us in - to the



skies, let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet, come to the place for which our fa - thers sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered,
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee.



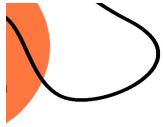
sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get



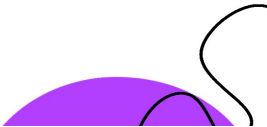
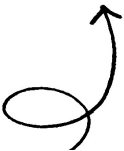
us; fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 Thee; shad-owed be - neath Thy hand, may we for - ev - er



gun, let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.



Ministry Monday



► Ministry Monday Committee Meetings: January 24

Schedule:

6:30-7:15 pm | Team A Meetings

7:30-8:15pm | Team B Meetings

Teams:

Team A: Discipleship,
Congregational Care, Fellowship,
Finance, Properties, and Youth

Team B: Children, Missions,
Outreach, Personnel, and Worship

Ministry Monday is a virtual meeting of church committees. You will receive a Zoom link on Monday to join the call.

► Reminder: Feedback on Bylaws

The December 2021 Business Meeting included a presentation on proposed bylaw changes. Copies of the changes are available in the office and the Narthex or via email from Leta Huntsinger, Chair of Deacons. Changes will be up for a vote at the next Business Meeting (date TBD).

► Thank You from Properties Committee

Thank you to everyone who worked hard and had fun together as they spruced up the landscaping around campus. Last Saturday, we spread three truckloads of leaf mulch and three truckloads of shredded hardwood. Working from 8am until 2pm, we completed our project by blowing clean the parking lot and walk areas.

Thanks,

Doug Black
Properties Chair

► Staff Anniversary: Randy Palmer

From the Personnel Committee



Randy Palmer became our Custodian on January 27, 2004 and throughout those 18 years has provided care and

stewardship over our Sanctuary and throughout our facilities and campus. We celebrate what he does while we give thanks for who he is and for his joyful spirit. It is always a blessing to hear his voice in our musical offerings. Tell Randy thank you when you see him!

► Prayer List*

Jim Allen
 Nell Allen
 Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
 Gilles Bikindou
 Frank Decker
 Vanna Fox
 Lemuel and Victoria Franco (sister and brother-in-law of Marlen Ruegg)
 James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
 Megan Jarrell
 Gary Kent
 Doris Martin
 Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)
 Sylvia Morgan
 Suzanne Rohrbacher (friend of MaryBeth McDermott)
 Fred Seeger
 Wilton Short (Jennifer Whaley's father)
 Frank Smith
 Kathi Smith
 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.*

► 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 your 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.

► December 2021 Finance Update

Updated when the previous months' books close.

	Dec., 2021	YTD
Congregational Giving	\$62,794	\$195,713
Congregational Giving Target	\$63,680	\$229,430
Congregational Giving Under/Over	(\$886)	(\$33,717)
Other Receipts	\$19,405	\$42,461
Total Giving and Receipts	\$82,199	\$238,174
Total Disbursements	\$64,328	\$251,401
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	\$17,871	(\$13,227)
Together We Build Giving	\$11,471	\$109,032

Omicron Update to Covid-19 Precautions

Dear GFBC Family,

We are monitoring the recent COVID-19 surge caused by the new variant closely and wanted to send you an update. The information coming out about Omicron suggests:

1. **Omicron is more infectious than the original strain of COVID** (although it's unclear if it is more or less contagious than the Delta variant at this time).
2. People (both children and adults) infected by the Omicron variant tend to become less sick than other variants; **while it is more contagious, it *seems* less virulent.**
3. Although there have been breakthrough cases, **vaccination and boosters *significantly* reduce the risk of serious illness** from Omicron (as well as other variants)
4. Omicron, like all COVID variants, is an airborne illness (spread through small particles called aerosols not just larger droplets), **but there are proven strategies for mitigating the risk of spreading airborne illnesses.**

While the data are unclear on how effective the total lockdowns implemented in 2020 were at mitigating the spread of COVID, the science is very clear on the effectiveness of several interventions, which are much more sustainable long term:

- encouraging vaccination
- gathering outdoors (when possible)
- universal masking while indoors
- ensuring good ventilation
- following responsible isolation and testing protocols when symptomatic, etc.

Although gathering outside would be the option with the least amount of risk, the weather over the next two months will make that impractical/impossible. A few congregations in the Triangle have chosen to go to virtual worship for a period of time. We, however, feel comfortable continuing in-person worship for the following reasons:

- **Ventilation in our Sanctuary is very good**, and the size of space is conducive for disbursement of any aerosols that may escape masks. We will be using a portable air quality detector to continue to monitor the Sanctuary's ventilation and ensure that it stays at safe levels

- **Vaccination percentage in the congregation is very high** and those who are unable to be vaccinated at this time (children under 5) are, in the vast majority of cases, in a separate wing from the adults while they are at church
- The other precautions we have in place (masking, distancing, keeping length of service short, minimizing congregational vocalization, etc.) make risk low for everyone **as long as we continue to abide by them strictly.**

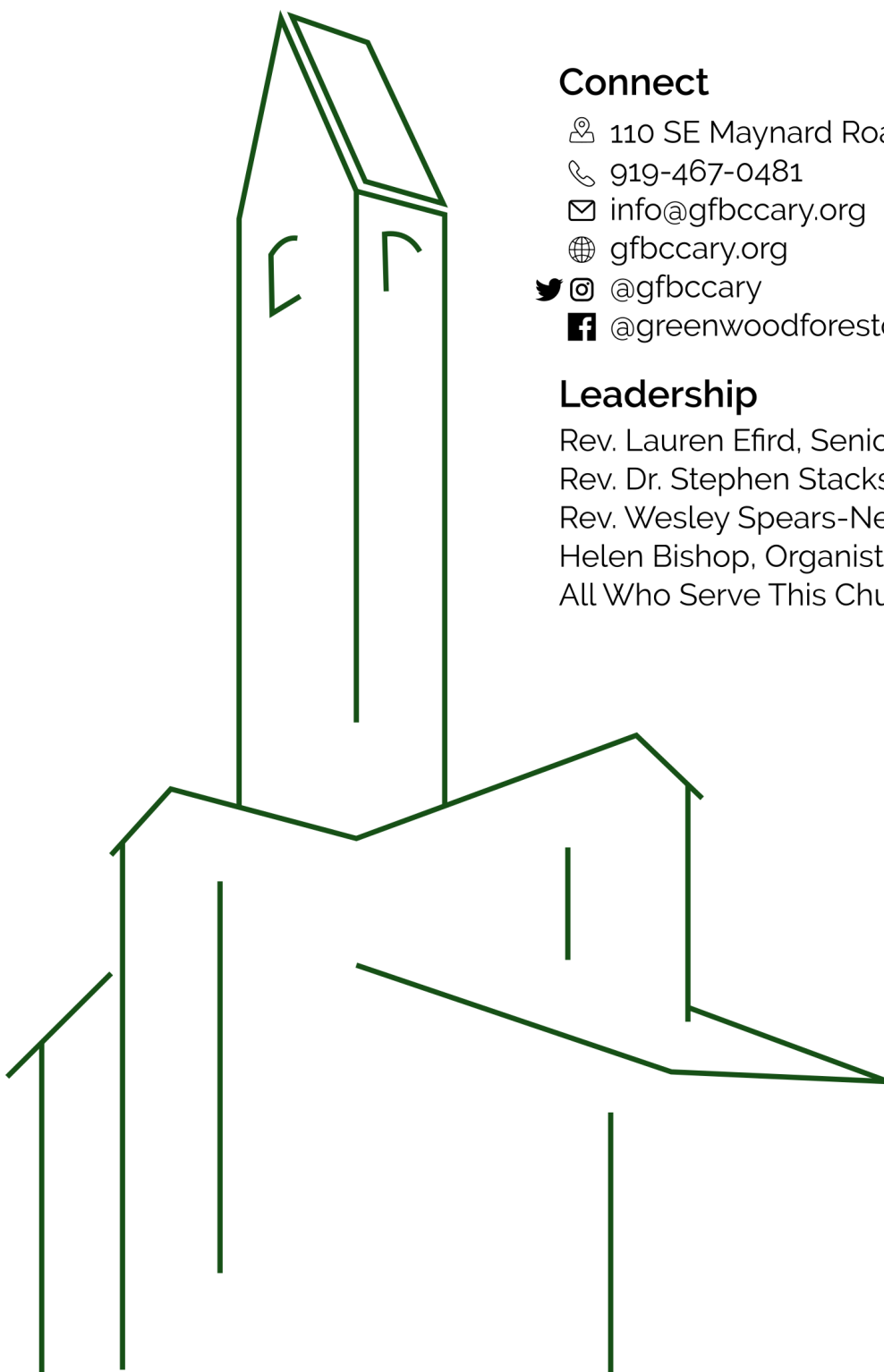
In that spirit, we would like for you to note the following updates/reminders:

1. **If you are able to be vaccinated and have not yet, we strongly encourage you to do so. If you are vaccinated but not yet boosted, we encourage you to get boosted as soon as you are able.** If you need resources or information on vaccination, please contact the church office
2. **Do NOT come onto campus with any COVID symptoms** (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea)
3. **Ensure you have a tightly-fitted mask on before you enter the building and at all times while inside.** We recommend upgrading to an N95/KN95, but if you are wearing a cloth mask, make sure it A) fits well (covers mouth and nose tightly, has no gaps around the perimeter of the mask) and B) is multilayered or you are double masking with a surgical mask
4. **Follow all CDC/NCDHHS isolation guidelines if you have been, or think you may have been, exposed to COVID.** Do NOT come to church if you are within isolation/quarantine time frame even if you are asymptomatic.

Until this surge has abated, we are reinstating the following precautions that we had loosened:

- No food or drink will be offered at indoor events to discourage removal of masks
- We will pause on taking communion in worship
- During worship, the congregation will only sing the closing hymn to avoid the generation of too many aerosols early in the service
- Lay speakers will use a separate lectern when leading in worship
- The ministers will do pastoral care via phone and electronic communication, except in end-of-life situations.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact Rev. Dr. Stacks.



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