



# Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest  
Baptist Church

March 20, 2022

LENT

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Scan to give!

# 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.

► *Today's color is purple for Lent, a season of reflection and repentance. Resources for Lent are available in your inbox. Contact Rev. Spears-Newsome if you have trouble accessing them.*

► *Hearing assistance devices are available at the back of the sanctuary.*

► *Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera.*



# Order of Worship

Third Sunday of Lent

## Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Full to the Brim

Paul Demer

*Performed by Evan and Lou Owoc-Edwards*

Lord, we pause to give you thanks for  
Your boundless goodness.  
In the shadow of your wing  
We are so safe.  
Still we need more than frugal faith.  
How we want to stand in amazement.  
Won't you show us a spring in the desert  
Where love can flow out?

*Lord your love is full to the brim.  
Lord, your love's a cup running over.  
Lord, your loving heart is a river  
That rolls over us,  
And calls us to join in the stream.*

You still run to meet us here,  
Grace in the far country.  
Gardener who won't give up,  
Stones cry out with praise.  
Still we need more than frugal faith.  
How we want to stand in amazement.  
Won't you roll back the stone again  
So love can flow out?

Lord you have filled us,  
Now send us in your name.  
Light for all nations,  
Healing for our pain.  
Lord you have filled us,  
Now send us in your name.  
Flow to all nations,  
Healing for our pain.

## 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: Come, all who are thirsty.

People: Come, all who are seeking.

Leader: Come, all who are waiting.

People: Come, all who labor.

Leader: Come, all who need rest.

People: Come, all who dream dreams.

Leader: Come—whether you're young or old,

People: Confident or curious, lonely or hopeful.

Leader: This is God's house. All are welcome here.

People: Let us worship holy God.

## Invocation

Rev. Spears-Newsome

## Gathering Hymn

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

*(see page 4)*

## Offertory Prayer

Leta Huntsinger

## Presentation of the Offering

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, who forms us from the dust.

Praise Christ, who frees us through the cross.

Praise Holy Ghost who drives us on

To meet God in the wilderness. Amen.

## 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.

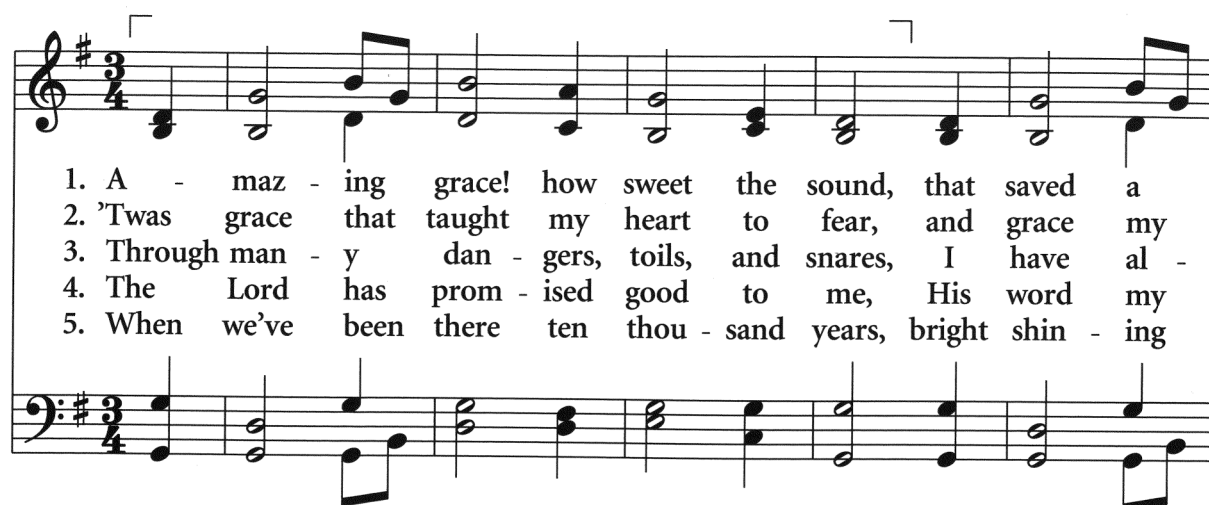
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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.

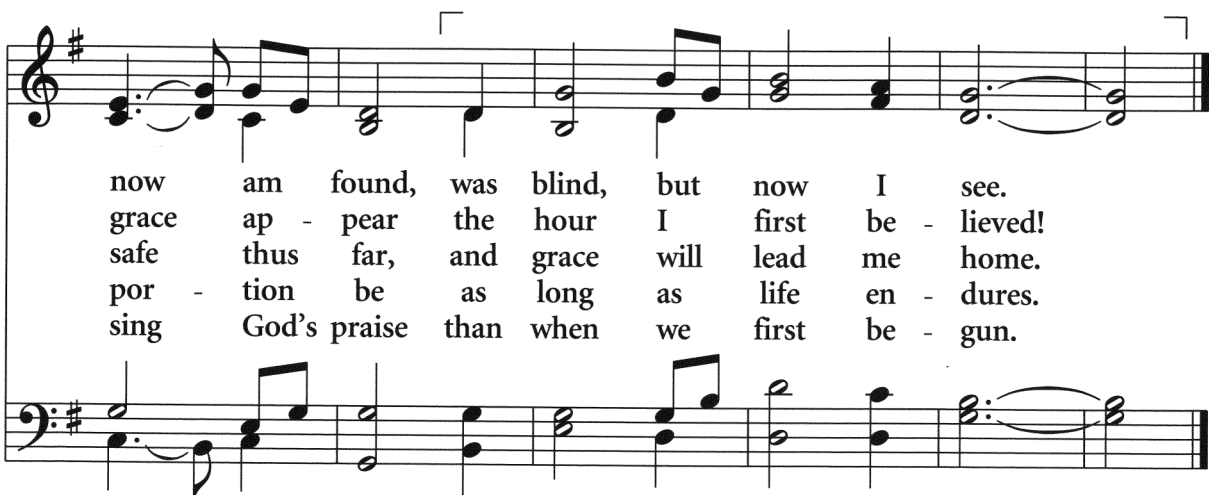
# Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound



1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my  
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al -  
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my  
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing



wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me  
 hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
 as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we first be - gun.

*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

Drop, Drop Slow Tears

Orlando Gibbons

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet,  
which brought from heaven the news and prince of peace.

Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;  
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;  
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

## Sermon

You Are Worthy

Rev. Efir

## Hymn

God of My Life, To Thee Belong

*(see page 6)*

## Benediction

Rev. Efir

## Postlude

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

## PRAYPRAYPRAYPRAY

### ► Prayer List\*

Richard Adair (Janice Medford's brother)  
Nell Allen  
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)  
Gilles Bikindou  
The Curti and Beck Families at the death  
of Bob Curti  
BJ Facemire  
Vanna Fox  
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes'  
brother)  
Jack Lancaster (Christy Brown's father)

Howard Manning  
Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)  
Sylvia Morgan  
Gerry Ritter  
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.*

# God of My Life, To Thee Belong

1. God of my life, to thee be - long the  
2. Yet why, dear Lord, this ten - der care? Why  
3. Still let the bar - ren fig - tree stand, Up -

4 grate-ful heart, the joy - ful song; Touched by thy love, each  
doth thy hand so kind - ly rear a use - less cumb - erer  
held and fos - tered by thy hand; Its fruit and ven - dure

7 tune - ful chord re - sounds the good - ness of the Lord.  
of the ground, on a which so lit - tle fruit is found?  
yet shall be a grate - ful tri - bute, Lord, to thee.

### ► Senior Pastor Sabbatical

*From the Personnel Committee:*

One of the great traditions and church disciplines of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church is the practice of a minister's sabbatical. Per our church's tradition and policy, every 5 years we provide for a period of intentional sabbatical for our Senior Pastor. The purpose of this period away from normal pastoral duties is for renewal, rest, creative work, professional development, and other experiences in order to reinvigorate the Senior Pastor and enhance their work in ministry at GFBC.

**Rev. Lauren Efird, has served at Greenwood Forest for almost 11 years and is approaching her 6 year anniversary as our Senior Pastor.** Rev. Efird offered to delay her sabbatical in the midst of the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to provide necessary leadership for the church. To mark her years of service, **Rev. Efird will start a sabbatical this May lasting for 12 weeks.** The rest of the church staff will be providing coverage of her critical duties during this time and we have an exciting series of voices lined up to fill the pulpit while she is away. We are grateful that Rev. Efird is able to continue this tradition at GFBC and are excited for the experiences she will share with us as a result!

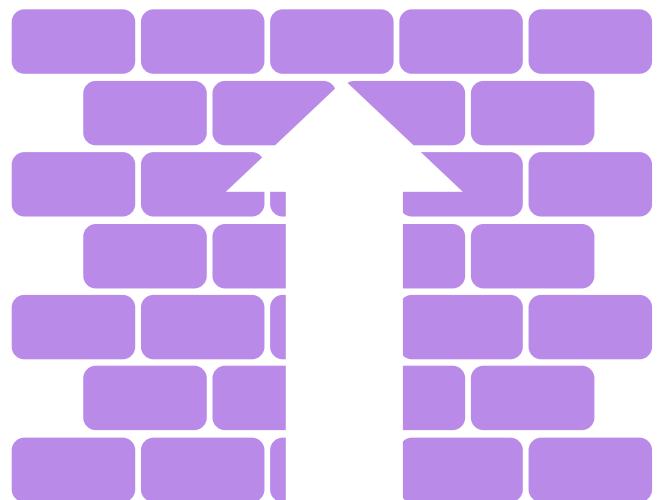
### ► Town Hall and Business Meeting

There will be a churchwide meeting this Sunday beginning at 2pm—we have some exciting and important things to discuss!

First, we will have another Town Hall at 2pm on progress with the Property Repurposing effort. There will be a presentation on a specific proposal involving one of our longtime ministry partners.

Second, there will be a business meeting at 3pm. The meeting will include a distribution of the final proposed bylaw changes (based on your feedback; no vote this meeting).

This meeting will be held in-person in the Fellowship Hall at GFBC, but there will also be online access available. We have some exciting updates to share and important matters to attend to together, so we look forward to seeing you there!

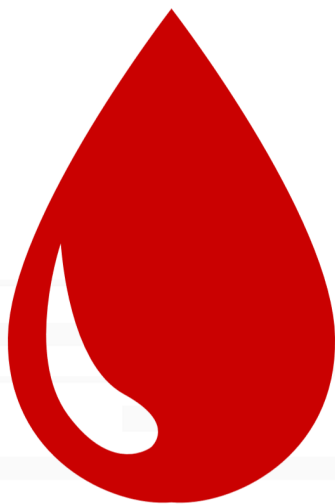




## Blood Donations Needed

We are currently facing a national blood crisis. It's the worst blood shortage in over a decade. You can pledge to give and sign up to give blood at [gfbccary.org/blood](https://gfbccary.org/blood). At the link, you can schedule an appointment at a local, convenient donation center or a local blood drive. **Your single blood donation can save as many as three lives!** Imagine the impact our collective generosity will have on the families of the recipients and our community. Additionally, giving now allows you to give for Lent and give again at our annual "Be a Hero" blood drive hosted at GFBC on 6/3.

# THERE'S POWER IN THE BLOOD



**Donate Blood This Lent**

Appointments at [gfbccary.org/blood](https://gfbccary.org/blood)

## 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](https://gfbccary.org/give).

## February 2022 Finance Update

*Updated when the previous months' books close.*

	Feb. 2022	YTD
Congregational Giving	\$45,572	\$283,497
Congregational Giving Target	\$51,000	\$344,180
Congregational Giving Under/Over	(\$5,428)	(\$60,683)
Other Receipts	\$11,105	\$69,522
Total Giving and Receipts	\$56,677	\$353,019
Total Disbursements	\$57,942	\$373,133
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	(\$1,265)	(\$20,114)
Together We Build Giving	\$11,325	\$133,642

# COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance Update

This past week, the CDC introduced a new metric for determining COVID-19 risk: "COVID-19 Community Levels." The Community Level metric is an attempt to balance community spread and positive case count with vaccination rates and healthcare capacity in one's area. **Based on this new metric, Wake County's COVID-19 Community level is low**, which comes along with a loosened set of recommendations for public gatherings.

You can find out more about the Community Level metric at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html).

**In light of this new metric, we are updating our COVID-19 precautions as of Monday, March 14.** Our new guidance/precautions are as follows:

## Masking

- ♦ Well-fitting masks are recommended indoors until Wake County's Community Transmission Rate is no longer high, but are no longer required.
- ♦ If you are isolating or have been exposed to COVID-19, you are required to mask according to the CDC's isolation/exposure guidelines (visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html)).

## Distancing

- ♦ Physical distancing between those of separate households is no longer required.
- ♦ We ask that you respect the personal boundaries of those who wish to remain cautious. As a general rule, if someone continues to mask inside, we will assume they also wish to continue to distance from those outside their household unless they tell us otherwise.

## Symptoms/Exposure

- ♦ 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)
- ♦ Do NOT come to church if you are within isolation/quarantine time frame even if you are asymptomatic. Follow all CDC/NCDHHS isolation guidelines (see Masking section) if you have been, or think you may have been, exposed to COVID.

## Vaccination

- ♦ We strongly encourage all eligible people who engage with our community to stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations. If you need resources or information on vaccination, please contact the church office.

## Ventilation

- ♦ We will continue to monitor and maintain good ventilation in all areas of our building but especially in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall where the largest gatherings occur.

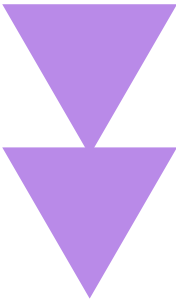
## Nursery

- ♦ Nursery workers are still required to mask around unvaccinated children until the Community Transmission is no longer high. Although this is not required by the new CDC guidance, we feel it is a reasonable precaution that prioritizes the safety of those who cannot choose to be vaccinated yet.

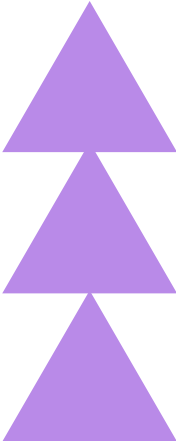
Find out more about community transmission levels at [covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view).

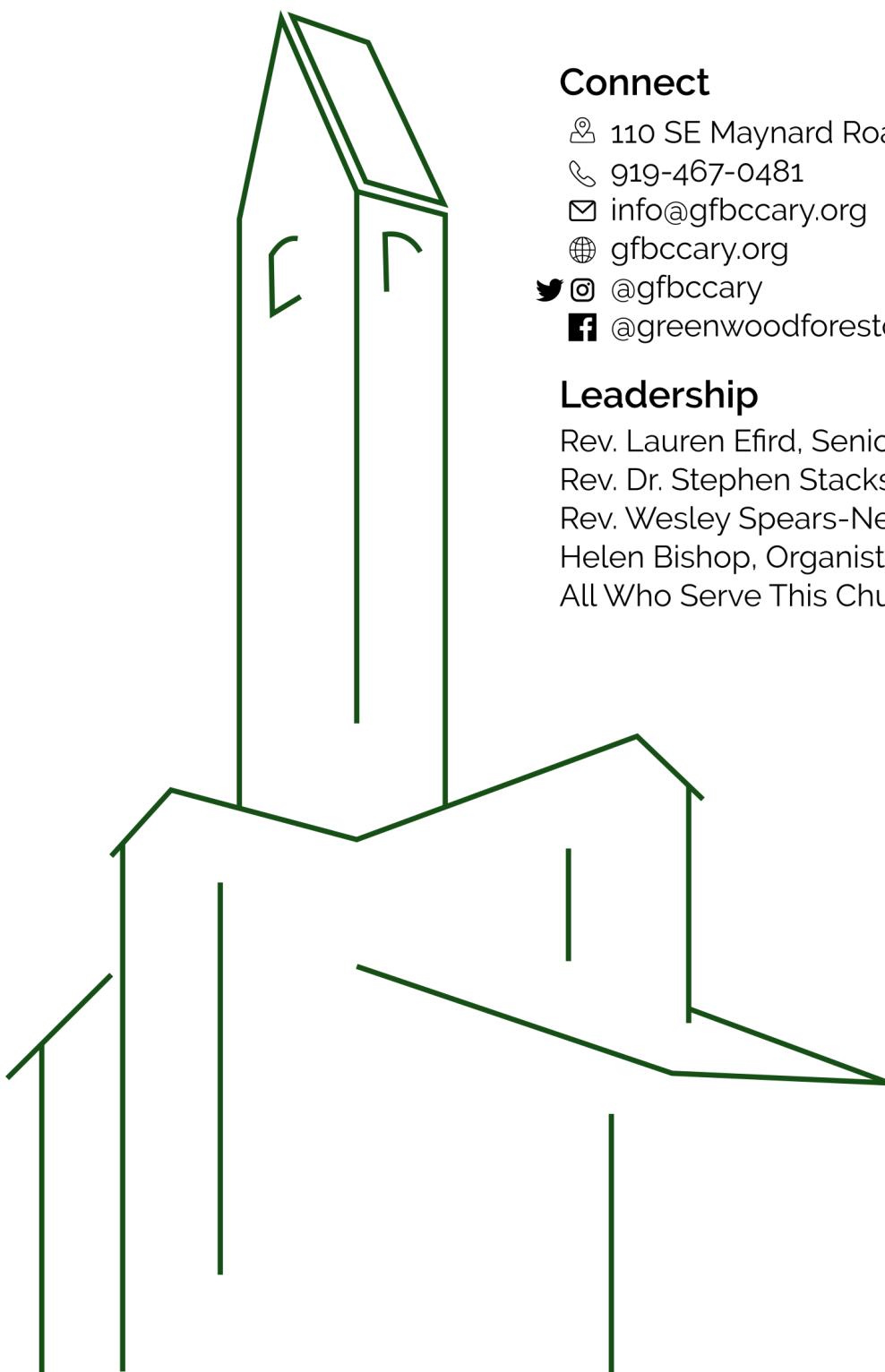
## Omicron-Specific Precautions

- ♦ We are lifting the omicron-specific precautions we put in place in January 2022. The following activities can resume and these adjustments have been made to worship:
  - ⇒ in-person visitation
  - ⇒ communion during worship
  - ⇒ the singing of multiple hymns during worship
  - ⇒ we have removed the separate lectern for lay speakers
  - ⇒ food and drink can now be offered at indoor gatherings



Overall, we want to emphasize that we have operated in keeping with the best available scientific data and public health recommendations throughout the pandemic and will continue to do so. If there are signs of an impending surge or if it appears these loosened precautions become a risk for vulnerable people at GFBC, we will quickly move to reinstate stricter precautions. Even as we loosen required precautions, we encourage all individuals to continue engaging in the ways that make them feel safe and included, and to act in ways that prioritize the health and wellbeing of all within our community.





## Connect

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🐦 @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