



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

May 8, 2022

EASTER

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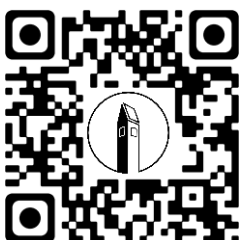
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Scan to give!

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 colors are white and gold. White and gold for the Easter season symbolize divine light, the joy of resurrection, and the glory of God.*

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

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



Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome to Worship

Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (Psalm 23)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: You are my shepherd,

People: I shall not want.

Leader: You make me lie down in green pastures;

People: You lead me beside still waters;

Leader: You restore my soul.

People: You lead me in right paths for your name's sake.

Leader: Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

People: I fear no evil; for you are with me;

Leader: Your rod and your staff—

People: They comfort me.

Leader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

People: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

People: And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long

Invocation

Rev. Spears-Newsome

Gathering Hymn (vv. 1 and 4)

Christ is Alive

(see page 3)

Offertory Prayer

Leta Huntsinger

Christ is Alive

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4. Wo - men and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5. Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Presentation of the Offering

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God all creatures here below! O praise God! Alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
O praise God, O praise God!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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.

Hymn

Soon and Very Soon

(see pages 5-6)

Scripture Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

Rev. Spears-Newsome

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.

Soon and Very Soon



1. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
 2. No more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 3. No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 4. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,



Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
 No more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,



Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
 No more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,



Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, we're

1.-3. 4.

goin' to see the King! Hal - le - lu - jah,

This system contains the first two staves of music. The treble staff begins with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). It features a melody with eighth and quarter notes, followed by a repeat sign. Above the repeat sign are two first endings: '1.-3.' and '4.'. The lyrics 'goin' to see the King!' are aligned under the first ending, and 'Hal - le - lu - jah,' are aligned under the second ending. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le -

This system contains the third and fourth staves of music. The treble staff continues the melody with sustained notes and rests. The lyrics 'Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le -' are written below the staff. The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

This system contains the fifth and sixth staves of music. The treble staff concludes the melody with a final cadence. The lyrics 'lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.' are written below the staff. The bass staff concludes the accompaniment.

Anthem

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

arr. Rollo Dilworth

Hands,
In his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got you and me brother, in his hands,
He's got you and me sister, in his hands,
He's got every person in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the birds and the bees in his hands,
He's got the sun and the moon in his hands,
He's got the woods and the waters in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got everybody here in his hands,
He's got everybody here in his hands,
He's got everybody here in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.

Sermon

Rev. Lauren Efird

Hymn

From All that Dwell Below the Skies

(see page 8)

Benediction

Rev. Efird

Postlude

It Was His Love

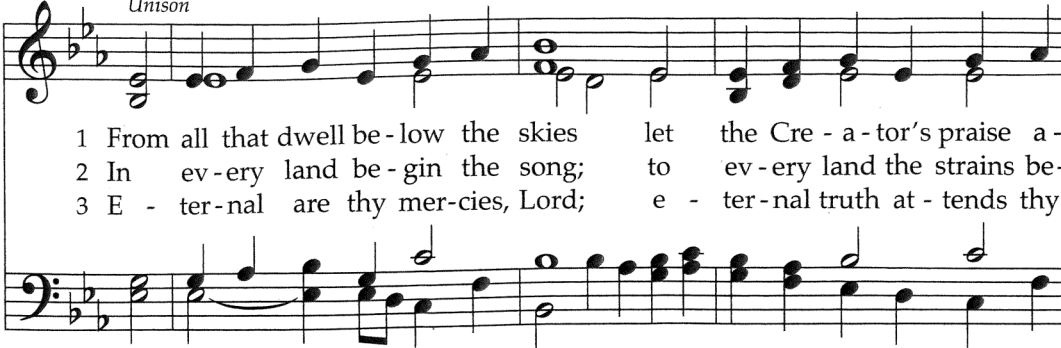
arr. John Arnn

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

The pianist for today is Nancy Whelan.

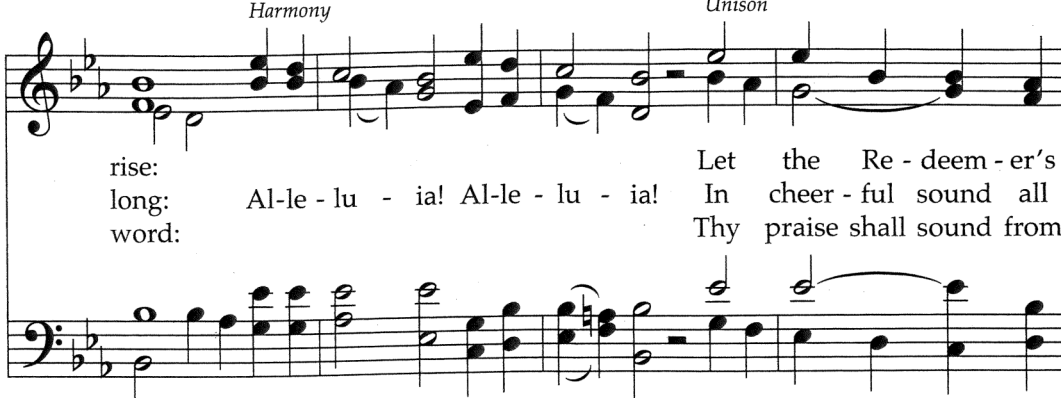
From All that Dwell Below the Skies

Unison



1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
 2 In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery land the strains be -
 3 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy

Harmony *Unison*

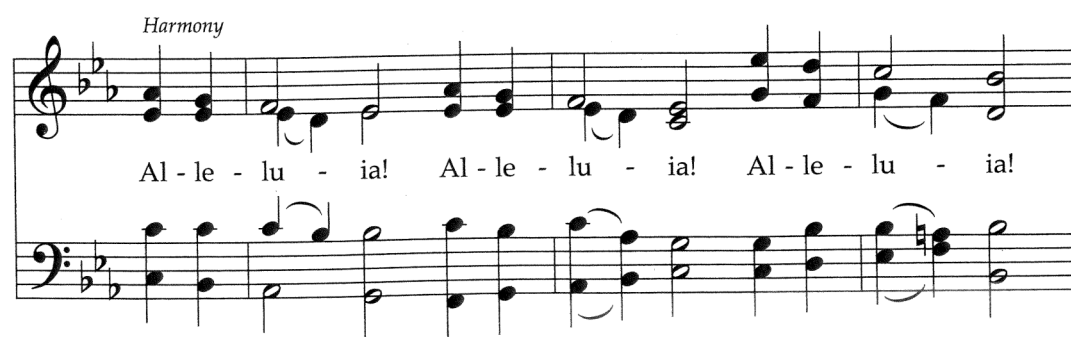


rise: Let the Re - deem - er's
 long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all
 word: Thy praise shall sound from



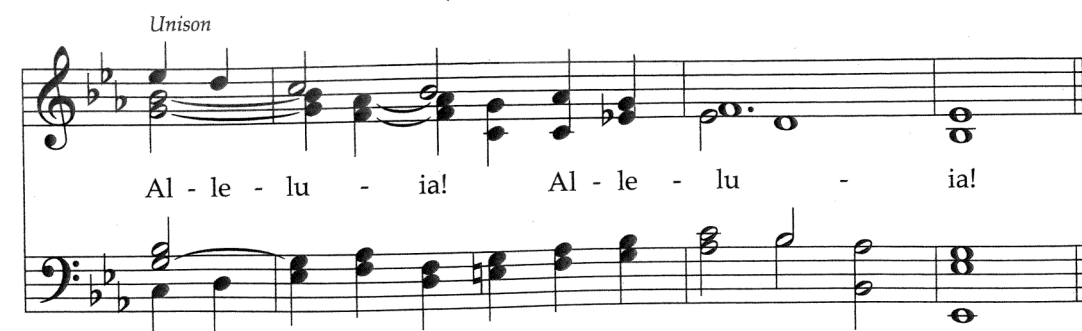
name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.
 voic - es raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

Harmony



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CONNECTCONNECT

► Ministry Monday (5/9)

We will be having Ministry Monday, our committee meetings, on 5/9 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

- **Team A (6:30-7:15pm):** Discipleship, Congregational Care, Fellowship, Finance, Properties, and Youth
- **Team B (7:30-8:15pm):** Children, Outreach, Personnel, and Worship

► Spiritual Life Survey

We know that connecting with God and others has been difficult over the past two years. As the ministerial staff is reflecting about that time and planning for next year, we want to hear from you about where your spiritual life is. What has gone well? What hasn't? Where are you finding life and joy? What's draining you of those things?

At gfbccary.org/survey we have a short survey that we'd love for you to fill out to tell us more about your spiritual life and needs. We'll use responses to shape the next church year. We are excited about the opportunities we have ahead of us for renewed connection with God and each other!

► May 8, 15, and 22: Mean Jesus?

Throughout the year, we like to give our dedicated teachers a break and come together as a church for a churchwide Faith Formation series. This week begins a new series led by Rev. Dr. Stacks.

We will dive into passages in the gospels when Jesus is ... less than pleasant. These passages fly in the face of the sweet, sentimental Jesus we often imagine. What does "mean Jesus" have to teach 21st-century Christians? Is "nice" a synonym for "loving" or not?



► Help us Close the Gap!

Unfortunately, this year saw continued disruption for many of us because of the pandemic. That's been true for our financial life as a church, too. As of the end of April, we have spent \$27,073 more than we've received and we are also \$78,558 behind in projected congregational receipts. **We can still fully subscribe this year's budget and close the gap between our spending and receipts. Can you help us achieve that goal?** Don't forget your church over the next few travel-heavy months and we can end this fiscal year strong!

▶ 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.

▶ March 2022 Finance Update

Updated when the previous months' books close.

	Mar. 2022	YTD
Congregational Giving	\$42,459	\$325,955
Congregational Giving Target	\$51,000	\$395,180
Congregational Giving Under/Over	(\$8,541)	(\$69,225)
Other Receipts	\$8,131	\$77,653
Total Giving and Receipts	\$50,590	\$403,609
Total Disbursements	\$57,549	\$430,682
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	(\$6,959)	(\$27,073)
Together We Build Giving	\$14,305	\$147,947

▶ Prayer List*

Richard Adair (Janice Medford's brother)
 Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
 Gilles Bikindou
 Ruben Cala (Valerie Brooks' friend)
 Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
 Vanna Fox
 James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
 Janet Merriman (Roz Slawson's friend)
 Sylvia Morgan
 Angela Nevils-Harris
 Jennie Pegram
 Fred Seeger
 Greg Upchurch
 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.*



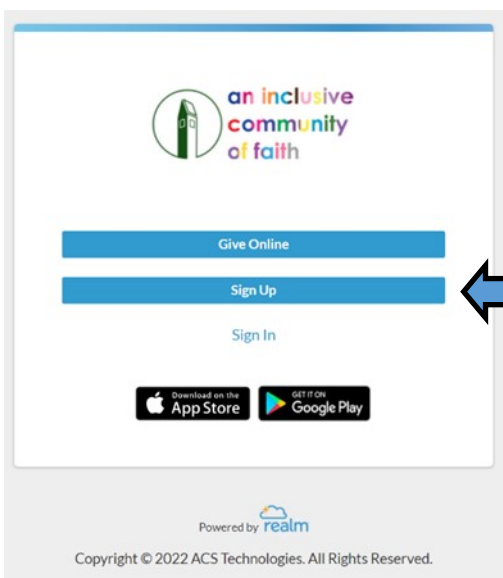
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We have an exciting new resource just for you!

We're excited to share a great new tool and resource with you to interact with your church! Realm is an online platform (either on your computer or your smartphone) that will give you easy access to everything you need at church. Realm will give you access to your Faith Formation and Small Groups, contact information that church members wish to share with you, signups for events and volunteering, and even discipleship resources for retreats and more! Realm will be a one-stop-shop for Greenwood Forest members to access everything they need at church straight from their computer or smartphone.

How can you get a Realm account?

Signing up is really easy. Just go to onrealm.org/GreenwoodForest:



- If you've ever given online and set up an account for that, you already have a Realm account!
- If you don't have an account for giving, just click "Sign Up"! If you're not sure, just click "Sign Up" and it will walk you through the steps to access your account.
- If you have trouble accessing your account or creating one, please email Rev. Spears-Newsome (wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org).

More information, including a tutorial and FAQ document, is in your email inbox. If you need a copy because you didn't receive one, email Rev. Spears-Newsome.

SABBATICAL PREACHING SCHEDULE

After 11 years on our church's staff, six of those as Senior Pastor, Rev. Lauren Efird is taking a well earned Sabbatical this summer (May 22-August 21). Let us all remember to pray for Rev. Efird that this time will be full of rest and spiritual growth. During her absence we are glad to welcome a number of talented guest preachers. We must also thank our other ministers for the extra work they are doing to make Rev. Efird's sabbatical possible. We look forward to hearing sermons from Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks on May 22 and July 3, and Rev. Wes Spears-Newsome on June 12 and August 7.

► May 29 | Rev. LeAnne Ryan



Rev. LeAnne Ryan is a North Carolina native. She earned a BA from Gardner-Webb University, and graduated with Rev. Lauren Efird from the Duke Divinity School in 2009. She has served as minister to students and as a hospice chaplain, and is active in her current congregation at Kathwood Baptist. For the last eight years, she has worked with college students in university housing at Baylor University and now, the University of South Carolina. She currently

lives in Columbia, South Carolina with her husband, Dr. Scott Ryan, two kids, Asher (7) and Ada (4), and their dog, Jubilee.

► June 5 | Rev. Randy Palmer



Rev. Randy Palmer is a native of Arkansas, and was bravely the first child in his area to integrate. He has been on staff at GFBC, as Custodian, since 2004. He and his wife, Zelma, are active members of our church. We have been especially blessed by both of their beautiful singing voices. They have 2 children, Tony and Ondrea, and 7 grandchildren. Rev. Palmer was ordained in June of 1995 by the Second Missionary Baptist Church of Fayetteville, NC. Randy is an Army veteran

and has spent his life serving God and others.

► June 19 | Rev. Kadeisha M. Bonsu



Rev. Kadeisha M. Bonsu is a licensed clinical social worker who enjoys providing individual and group therapy. Kadeisha was ordained at GFBC in January 2019 and has found a loving welcome at GFBC. She is grateful for her church community and her pastors (Lauren, Stephen, and Wes) for continuing to offer spiritual direction, spiritual refuge, and friendship and companionship on her journey. Kadeisha enjoys speaking, writing, dancing, and spending time with her family. Kadeisha hosts her own podcast, Hagar's Daughters, exploring the intersection of Black, Christian Motherhood and what it means to find God on the

margins. She is looking forward to sharing Hagar's story.

Be sure to thank all our talented members for being willing to serve this summer!

► June 26 and July 24 | Rev. Amanda Warren



Rev. Amanda Warren was born and raised in NC. She earned a BA in Religion from Gardner-Webb University and a Masters of Divinity from the McAfee School of Theology. Rev. Warren taught Old Testament at Gardner-Webb as an adjunct processor, and worked as a chaplain, both in the hospital and hospice settings. Amanda and her husband, Anthony have been members of GFBC since 2016. She has served as a deacon and is currently chair of the Worship Committee. Amanda is a stay at home mom to their two sons, Miles, who is 6, and Holden,

who turns 4 in July, which is her craziest ministry yet.

► July 10 | Rev. Bucky Sydnor



Rev. Bucky Sydnor was reared in an Episcopal minister's family and made his personal commitment to Jesus Christ while serving with the U.S. military in Vietnam in 1968. He holds a B.A. from UNC Chapel Hill—Go Tarheels!—and a Masters of Divinity in Theology and Cross Cultural Missions from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. He has undertaken graduate study in anthropology at California State University in Los Angeles. Bucky and his wife, Carole, are retired International Ministries (ABC/USA) missionaries and he is an ordained American Baptist minister. The Sydnors have three adult children and

two grandchildren.

► July 17 and August 21 | Rev. Al Whitehouse



A long time ago, in a Florida far, far away...no wait, that's too far back. Hi, everybody! I'm Al and I'll be one of your preachers this summer! As you can read, I'm unconventional and goofy. It seems to work for me as a husband, father, son and all around human being. I hope that comes through when I have the honor to speak to you later this year. I find that sharing my authentic self is the best way to show the person God created me to be and encourages others to do the same. I look

forward to seeing what God reveals in the coming months for us. Peace and Love!

▶ July 31 | Susan Meador



Susan Meador has spent most of her life in NC. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University, and Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond. She also spent two years in an intentional faith community outside Atlanta and earned a certificate in Non-Profit Management from Duke. Susan's career has spanned working on behalf of older adults and people facing changing abilities, homelessness, or hunger. She is currently the Director of Volunteer Services for Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. Susan and her husband, Henry, and daughter, Hannah, have been part of Greenwood Forest since 2006. Her family at GFBC also includes: Lee and Patti Webb, and Leanne, Scot, Sean, and Catherine Glasgow. She helps facilitate the Crossroads Faith Formation class, sings in the Sanctuary Choir and has served as a deacon.

▶ Aug 14 | Rev. Marie Collins-Maingi



Rev. Collins-Maingi grew up in the small town of Robbins, NC, born and raised in the Baptist church. Rev. Collins-Maingi graduated from Duke Divinity in 2018 where she/they had the opportunity to serve as a pastoral intern at GFBC. Marie currently lives in Durham with her/their wife Emily, dog Brandy, and cat Ravioli. You can find Marie any given day at the thrift store growing her/their collection of vinyl and VHS tapes.



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

