



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church





Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

May 15, 2022

EASTER

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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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Cornerstone Medley

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 148)

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Leader: Praise God from the heavens!

People: Praise God in the heights!

Leader: Praise God, all you angels;

People: Praise God, all you host!

Leader: Praise God, sun and moon;

People: Praise God, all you shining stars!

Leader: Praise God, you highest heavens,

People: And you waters above the heavens!

Leader: Let them praise the name of God,

People: For God commanded and they were created.

Leader: God established them forever and ever;

People: God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Leader: Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

People: Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

Leader: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

People: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples,

People: Princes and all rulers of the earth!

Leader: Young men and women alike,

People: Old and young together!

Leader: Let them praise the name of God, for God's name alone is exalted;

People: God's glory is above earth and heaven.

Leader: God has raised up a horn for the people,

People: Praise for all God's faithful, who draw close.

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Gathering Hymn

Farewell Babylon

Andrew Ehrenzeller

Leaving Egypt behind
It's more than a place it's all in your mind
God makes all things new

Farewell Babylon
when morning comes I will be gone
God makes all things new

No more prison bars
around my heart anymore
For the body is the temple of the Lord

*By the rivers we sang
Watching as the world was swept away
Out of darkness we came
Singing that the Lord
will build the house
Or else we do it in vain*

So goodbye Roman rule
You left me in ruins but I am no fool
God makes all things new

Take me to the river
wash me in the water
Take me to the river
and lay me down lay me down

Take me to the river
wash me in the water
Take me to the river and raise me up,
raise me up with you
Take me to the river
wash me in the water

Offertory Prayer

Anthony Warren

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. 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.

Hymn

Steal Away to Jesus

(see page 5)

Scripture Reading

Revelation 18:1-3

Rev. Dr. Stacks

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

Wayfarin' Stranger

arr. Jack Schrader

I'm just a poor wayfarin' stranger
A travelin' through this world of woe;
But there's no sickness, toil or danger
In that bright land to which I go.

I'm goin' there to meet my mother;
I'm goin' there no more to roam.
I'm just a-goin' over Jordan,
I'm just a-goin' over home.

I'm just a poor wayfarin' stranger
A travelin' through this world of woe;
But there's no sickness, toil or danger
In that bright land to which I go.

I'm goin' there to meet my Savior.
He said he'd meet me when I come.
I'm just a-goin' over Jordan,
I'm just a-goin' over home.

Sermon

Leaving Babylon Behind

Rev. Lauren Efird

Hymn

The Solid Rock

(see page 6)

Sabbatical Commissioning

Andy Jarrell

Benediction

Rev. Efird

Postlude

The Church's One Foundation

arr. Mark Hayes

*Hymns come from Celebrating Grace and The African American Heritage Hymnal.
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The pianist for today is Nancy Whelan.*

Steal Away to Jesus

Refrain

Steal a-way, steal a-way, steal a-way to Je - sus!

The Refrain is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass line features chords and single notes.

Steal a-way, steal a-way home, I ain't got long to stay here.

This line continues the Refrain melody and bass line. The melody includes a half note and a quarter note, while the bass line continues with chords and single notes.

Verses

Unison

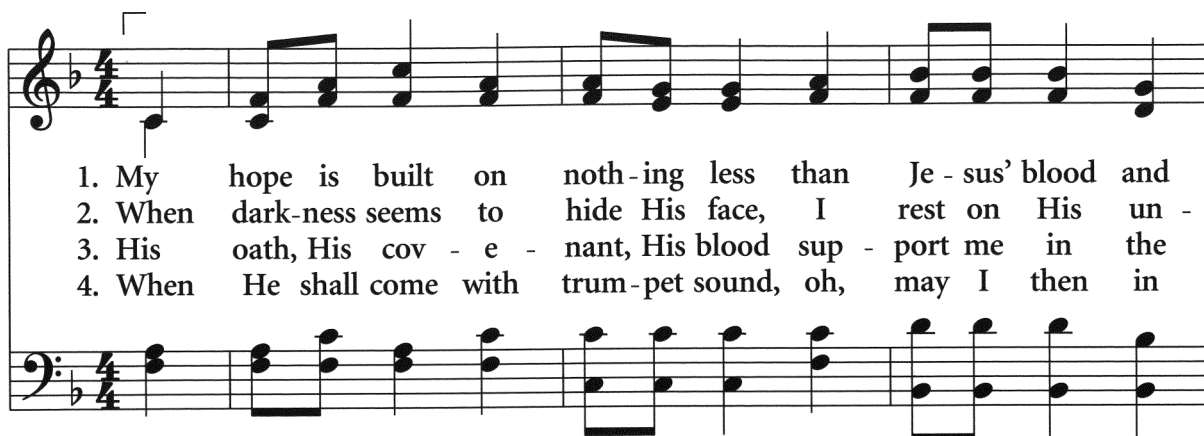
1. My Lord, He calls me, He calls me by the thun - der;
2. Green trees are bend-ing, Poor sin - ners stand a trem-ble;
3. My Lord, He calls me, He calls me by the light - ning;

The Unison Verses are written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The melody consists of quarter and half notes, while the bass line features chords and single notes.

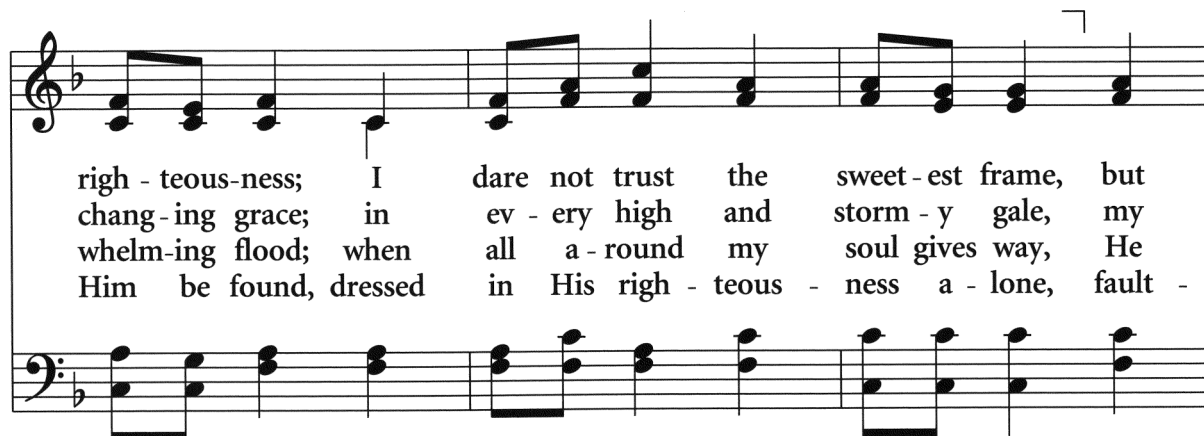
The trum-pet sounds with - in my soul; I ain't got long to stay here.

The final line of the song is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The melody includes a half note and a quarter note, while the bass line continues with chords and single notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

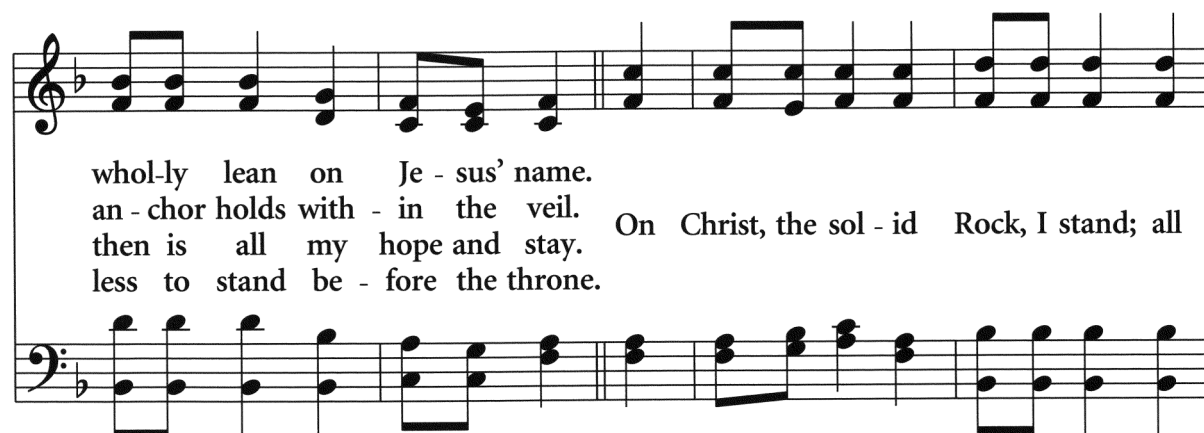
The Solid Rock



1. My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2. When dark-ness seems to hide His face, I rest on His un -
 3. His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood sup - port me in the
 4. When He shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in



right - teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang-ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, He
 Him be found, dressed in His right - teous - ness a - lone, fault -



whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.



oth - er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

CONNECTCONNECT

► Senior Pastor Sabbatical Begins

This Sunday is Rev. Lauren Efird's last Sunday before her sabbatical, which will begin on May 22 and last until August 21. During her absence, we will hear from several guest preachers, most of whom are members of Greenwood Forest (see pages 11-13). Please be in prayer for Rev. Efird in this time of renewal and rejuvenation!

► 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 your spiritual life. What has gone well? What hasn't? Where are you finding life and joy?

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!

► Mean Jesus? Teaching Series

Throughout the year, we like to give our dedicated teachers a break and come together as a church for a churchwide Faith Formation series. 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 \$74,598 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!



runs from 9:00-12:30 on Thursdays during the summer. If you can volunteer for any Thursday morning between June 23 and August 18, email Rev. Spears-Newsome (wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org) to sign up. We need folks who can work in the kitchen and who can play with elementary-school-aged kids. GFBC kids are also welcome to attend the program.



▶ Blood Drive

Start off the summer by being a hero and donating blood at Greenwood Forest! We'll be hosting a blood drive on June 3rd from 2:30-7pm. Blood donations are still needed as the country continues to recover from the devastation of the worst days of the pandemic. You can make your appointment today by scanning the QR code above or visiting gfbccary.org/blood (redirects to the Red Cross website).

▶ Summer Program

Every summer, we join with other area churches in hosting a summer program with nutrition assistance and educational enrichment for neighborhood children. The program

▶ Don't Forget to Vote!

Greenwood Forest and ONE Wake members want to drive up turnout for this year's municipal elections in Cary! Election Day is May 17 if you haven't cast your ballot during the early voting period. Don't forget to vote!

If you'd like to hear more from the candidates and their commitments made to ONE Wake members, visit https://www.onewake.org/cary_candidate_responses.

PRAYPRAYPRAYPRAY

▶ 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 (Martha Soyars' cousin)
 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.*

GIVEGIVEGIVEGIVE

▶ 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.

▶ April 2022 Finance Update

Updated when the previous months' books close.

	Apr. 2022	YTD
Congregational Giving	\$45,626	\$371,582
Congregational Giving Target	\$51,000	\$446,180
Congregational Giving Under/Over	(\$5,374)	(\$74,598)
Other Receipts	\$3,463	\$81,116
Total Giving and Receipts	\$49,089	\$452,698
Total Disbursements	\$62,029	\$492,751
Under/Over Receipts vs. Disbursements	(\$12,940)	(\$40,053)
Together We Build Giving	\$7,650	\$155,597



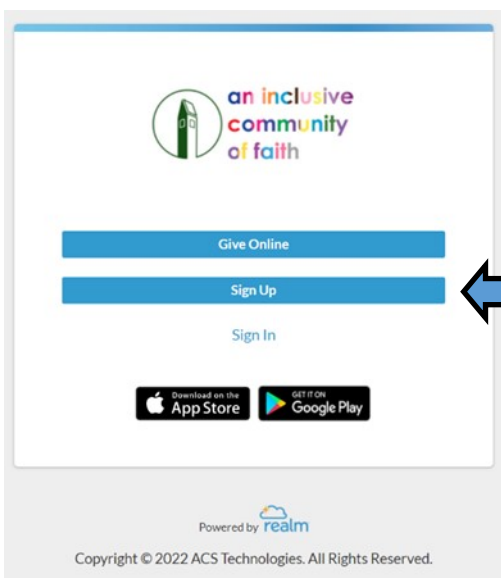
Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

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.

► **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.

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



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

