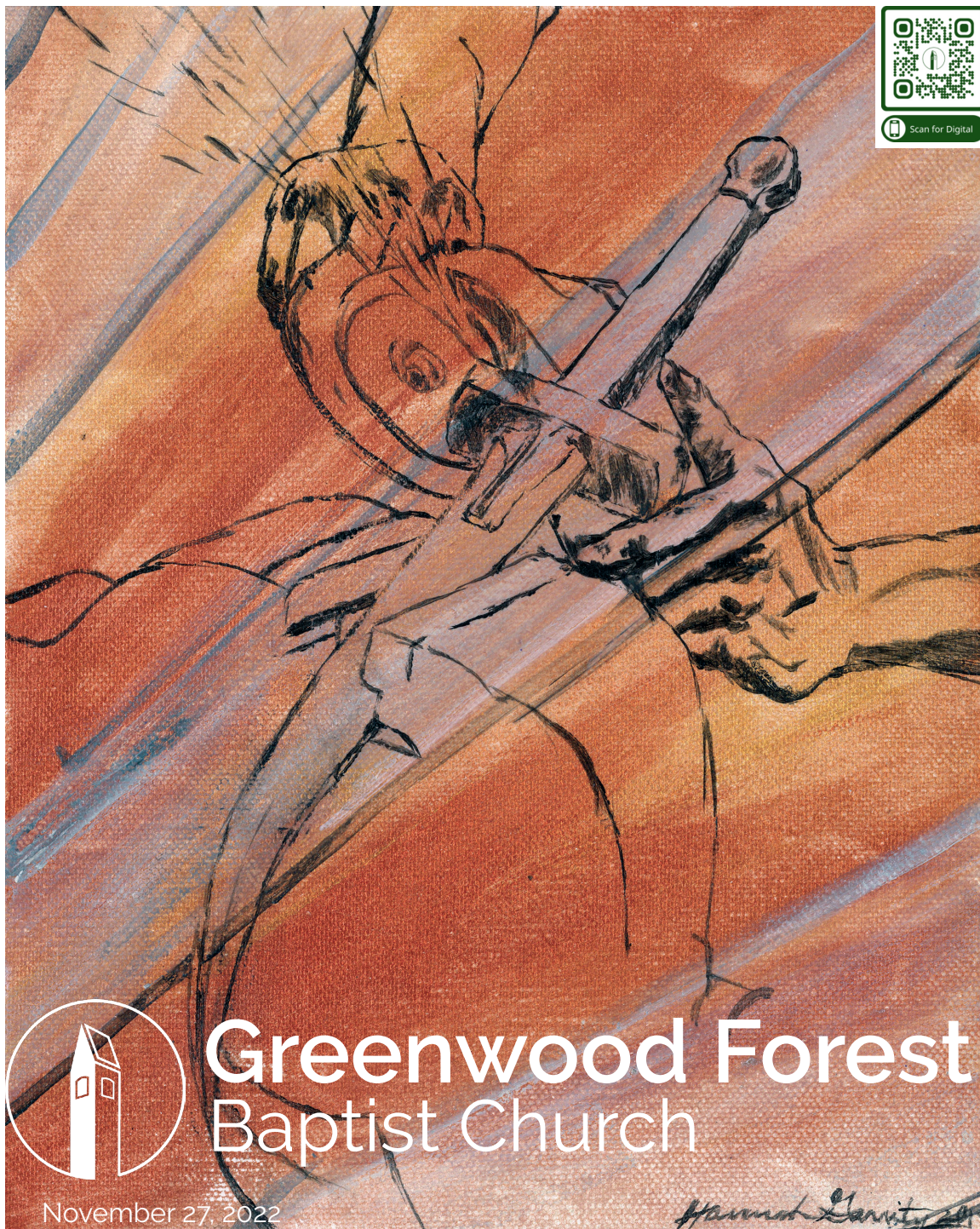




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# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

November 27, 2022

*Harold Davis*



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Our Advent and Christmas theme this year is "What Can't Wait." Advent is a season of waiting, but is mere idle waiting what God wants for us? Let's wonder together: What can't wait? What demands our immediate attention? What requires our work and preparation? What is it that God can't wait for? Is it our praise? Reconciliation? Is it the end of suffering? Isolation? Fear? This Advent we invite you to join us in imagining, prioritizing, and preparing. As we wait, what can't?

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Week 1:

## *Hope Can't Wait*

### **Bulletin Art:**

*Swords into Ploughshares* by Hannah Garrity  
(Acrylic on Canvas, Inspired by Isaiah 2:1-5)

### **Artist Statement:**

What is God's view of the world? What does God plan for this world? This text is all about God's vision for the earth becoming a reality. It's all about beating swords into plowshares. It's all about building peace. [...]

Here, in acrylic on canvas, a man wields a grinder, burnishing the edges of a sword that has been reformed into a plow. Growth, not death; care, not fear. The simple analogy of the sword transformed into the plowshare reminds us that peace is at the heart of all that God envisions for this world. How might you make God's vision come into reality?





**Greenwood Forest**  
Baptist Church

**an inclusive  
community  
of faith**

# Welcome

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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 exactly as you are.

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## REMINDERS



Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers. There is also a glider in the back of the sanctuary if you need to rock your little ones.



Hearing assistance devices are available at the back of the sanctuary along with a transcript of the sermon.



Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera.



Gender-neutral, single-occupant bathrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary in the Narthex.



[gfbccary.org](http://gfbccary.org)



[greenwoodforestcary](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodforestcary)



[@gfbccary](https://twitter.com/gfbccary)



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# Announcements Church Events and Updates

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## ***Poinsettias for Sale***

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for the sanctuary adornment and a dedication listed in the bulletin, please visit [gfbccary.org/poinsettias](http://gfbccary.org/poinsettias). Poinsettias and dedications are \$15. Any profits from poinsettia sales will go to the Organ Fund.

## ***Town Hall Meeting***

Mark your calendar for a Town Hall meeting for updates on the church's property repurposing effort. We'll be meeting in the Fellowship Hall during the Faith Formation hour (9:45-10:45am) on December 11.

## ***Business Meeting***

Mark your calendar for a brief business meeting following worship on December 11.

## ***Staff Love Offering***

If you would like to contribute to this year's staff love offering, please mail your gifts to the church and make out checks payable to Andy Jarrell. You can also venmo gifts to Andy at @Andy-Jarrell (919-749-3662).

## ***Advent and Christmas at Greenwood Forest***

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Mark your calendar for all of these community gatherings this holiday season:

### **Dec. 4: Youth Advent Party**

Our youth gather for a fun time of fellowship and holiday games!

### **Dec. 14: Service of Lament (6pm)**

A time reserved to acknowledge the grief and sadness that can come in around the holidays.

### **Dec. 18: Christmas Breakfast (9:45am)**

Potluck breakfast in the Fellowship Hall for the whole church!

### **Dec. 18: Lessons & Carols (11am)**

Traditional service of readings and Christmas Carols on Sunday morning.

### **Dec. 24: Christmas Eve**

#### ***Children's Christmas Eve (11am)***

A kids-oriented service where we assemble a nativity together!

#### ***Candlelight Christmas Eve (8pm)***

Our traditional Christmas Eve service.

### **Dec. 25: Christmas Day Livestream**

A special online event for us to enjoy with our families on Christmas morning!



# Community Notes Prayer Requests and Giving



*Please keep in prayer these members of our community and their friends and family. To add a name to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Names rotate off and can be re-added upon request.*

Richard Adair (Janice Medford's brother)  
Nell Allen  
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)  
Gilles Bikindou  
Louann Clarke (Felice Parent's sister)  
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)  
Elaine Dodson  
Vanna Fox  
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)  
Karen Peter (Virgil and Gail Jones' friend)  
Harold Ritter  
Fred Seeger  
Joyce Spencer (Leta Huntsinger's mother)  
Our partners at Ebenezer Baptist in Cuba



*All of the ministries of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church are supported by members of our community like you. Thank you! Supporting us is easy. You can:*

- Give online at [gfbccary.org/give](http://gfbccary.org/give)
- Place your gift in the offering plate before or after worship.
- Set up an automated bank draft through the church office.
- Set up a recurring gift through your bank's "bill pay" function.

A monthly finance update is available in the weekly church email. If you're not receiving our weekly email and would like to, please contact the church office.

## Monthly Ministry Highlight:

### Congregational Care

*In the early church, one of the first ministries the community established was one of caring for one another. Church members visit and care for each other through the Congregational Care Ministry, seeing each other in hospitals, homes, and elsewhere. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Carol Carter on the Deacon Board. This ministry and many others would not be possible without your support. Sign up to give at [gfbccary.org/give](http://gfbccary.org/give) today!*

# Order of Worship First Sunday of Advent

✝ This icon indicates an invitation to stand or express reverence however you see fit.

📖 This icon indicates a worship aid is available in the righthand column.

🎵 Hymns and song lyrics are available in the songbook following the Order of Worship.

## Chiming of the Hour

### Prelude

### Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

### Passing of the Peace 📖

### Call to Worship (Psalm 46) | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Hope is gravity for the broken—

**Pulling us up.**

Hope is manna in the wilderness

**When we want to give up.**

Hope is seeing stars in the city

**When we forget the sky is there.**

Hope is the anthem of faith

**And the reason we're here.**

So come to this place with your hopes and your fears,

**For the God of new life is drawing near.**

Let us worship Holy God.

### Invocation | Rev. Dr. Stacks

✝ **Gathering Hymn** | O Come, O Come Emmanuel (pg. 7)

### Offertory Prayer | Sally Shaver

Today's color is **purple**, signifying an emphasis on penitence and preparation.

November is Native American Heritage Month. This month, we'll be reading from the First Nations Version of the New Testament, a translation of Scripture done by indigenous scholars and leaders.

### The Passing of the Peace

The passing of the peace is a symbolic enactment of the reconciling love and mercy of God in our midst. We express it through a peace sign, a handshake, a wave, or many other expressions of peace. Be mindful and considerate of others' desire for physical space or distance.

### Prayer in Worship

We use many kinds of prayers in worship. The Call to Worship is a communal prayer using call and response. The Invocation is a single individual inviting (or invoking) God into our worship this morning. The Prayers of the People uses intercessory prayer to ask God to come to the world's aid. The benediction is a blessing offered over those gathered in worship.

† **Doxology** | *Tune: CRANHAM*



What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a wise man I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.



**The Prayers of the People** | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

**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** | *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vv. 1, 3, & 4; pg. 8)

**Scripture Reading** | *Isaiah 2:1-5 & Romans 13:11-12* |  
*Rev. Dr. Stacks*

The word of God for us, the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | *Let Hope In* (pg. 10)

**Sermon** | *Hope Can't Wait* | *Rev. Efird*



† **Hymn** | *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* (pg. 9)

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efird*

**Postlude**

**The Doxology**

A "doxology" is a short hymn that usually praises the Trinity. We sing the doxology as we symbolically present our offerings back to God.

**The Prayers of the People**

This prayer typically has five parts: a confession, prayers for the earth, prayers for the world, prayers for the church, and prayers for those with needs in our own community.

**Final Hymn: An Invitation**

During the final hymn, if you'd like to join our community at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, we invite you to come forward to the altar. When you come forward, you'll be greeted by a minister and a deacon who will then introduce you to the congregation after the hymn. Welcome!



# O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive  
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir-its by Thine  
3. O come, Thou Wis-dom from on high, and or-der all things,  
4. O come, De-sire of na-tions, bind all peo-ples in one

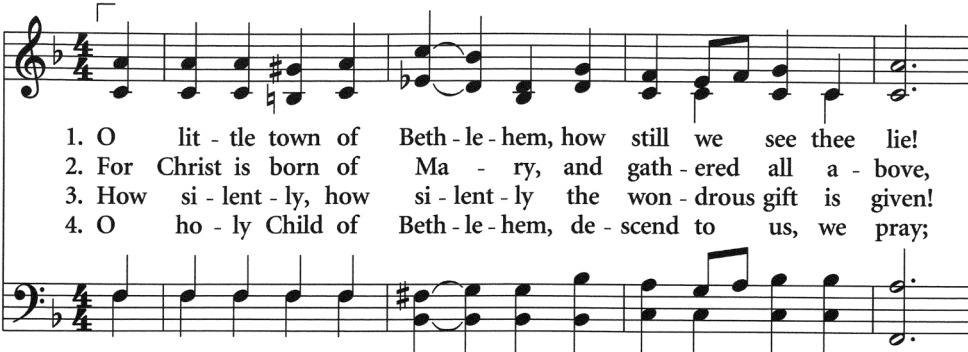
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -  
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and  
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and  
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; fill

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
cause us in her ways to go.  
all the world with heav - en's peace.

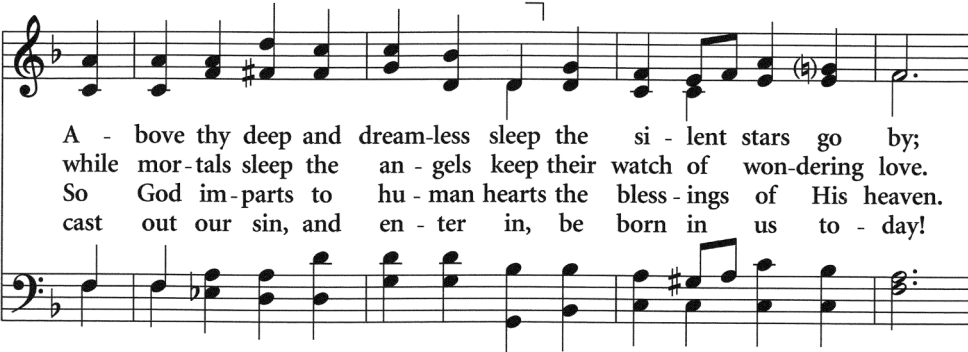
man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody. The piece concludes with a final chord in the piano part.

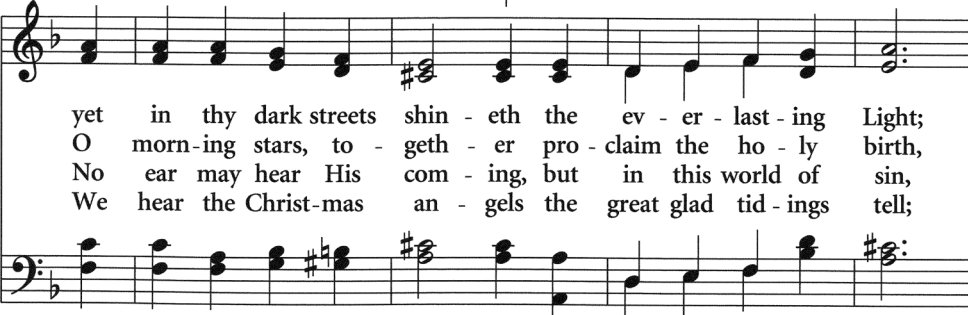
# O Little Town of Bethlehem



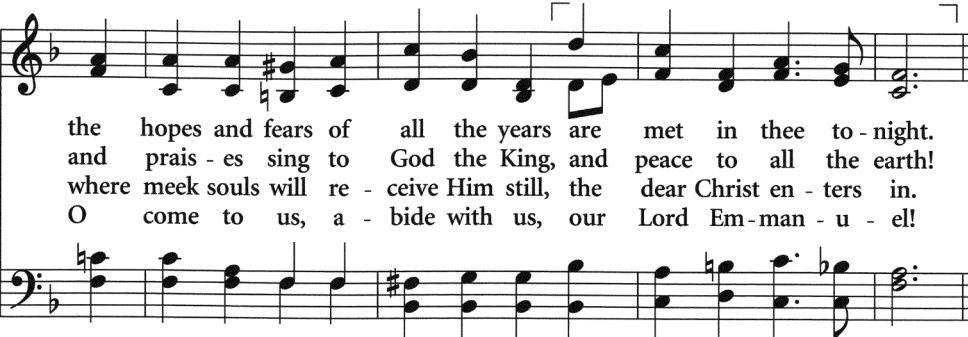
1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!  
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor - tals sleep the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of His heaven.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day!

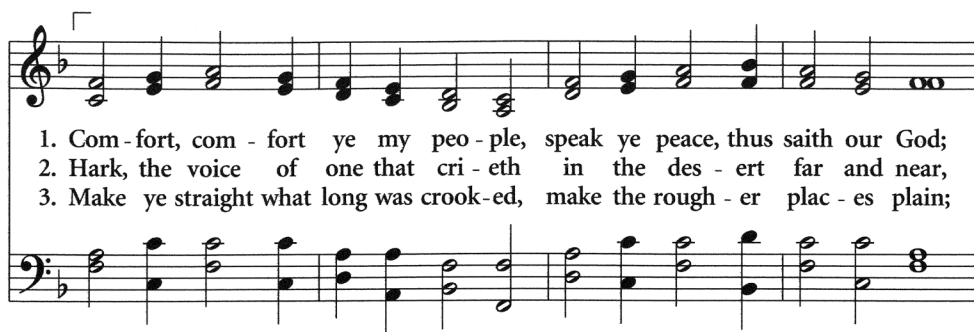


yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear His com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

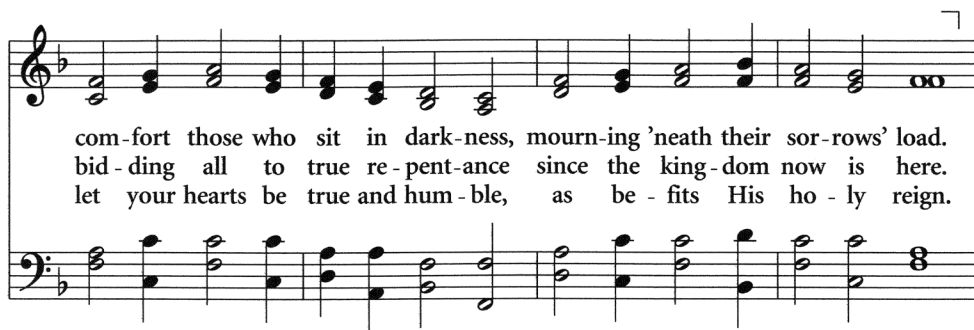


the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive Him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

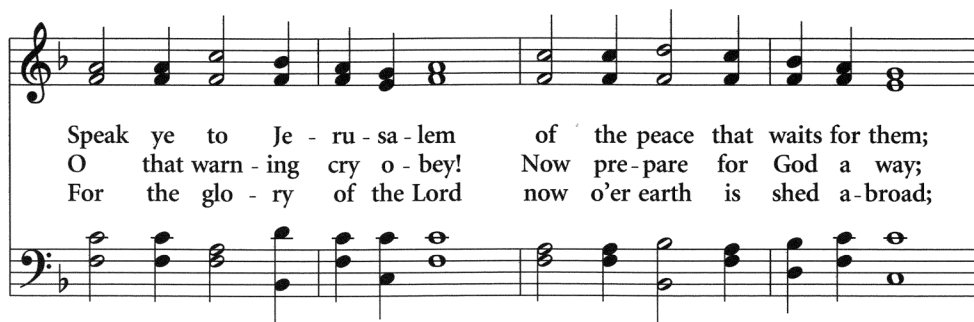
# Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



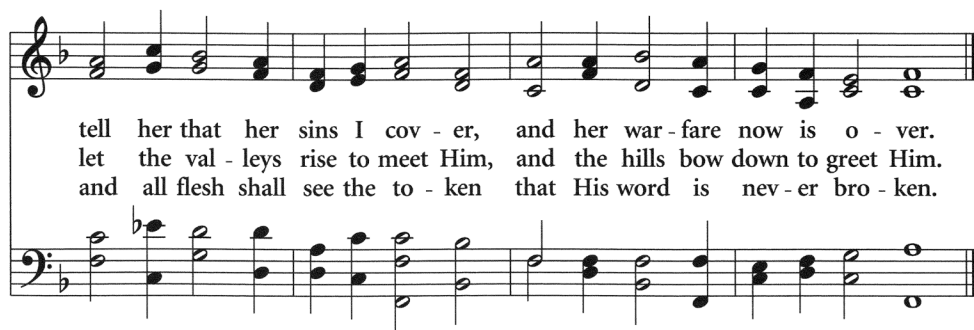
1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,  
3. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.  
bid - ding all to true re - pent - ance since the king - dom now is here.  
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits His ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
let the val - leys rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that His word is nev - er bro - ken.



# **Anthem** Let Hope In

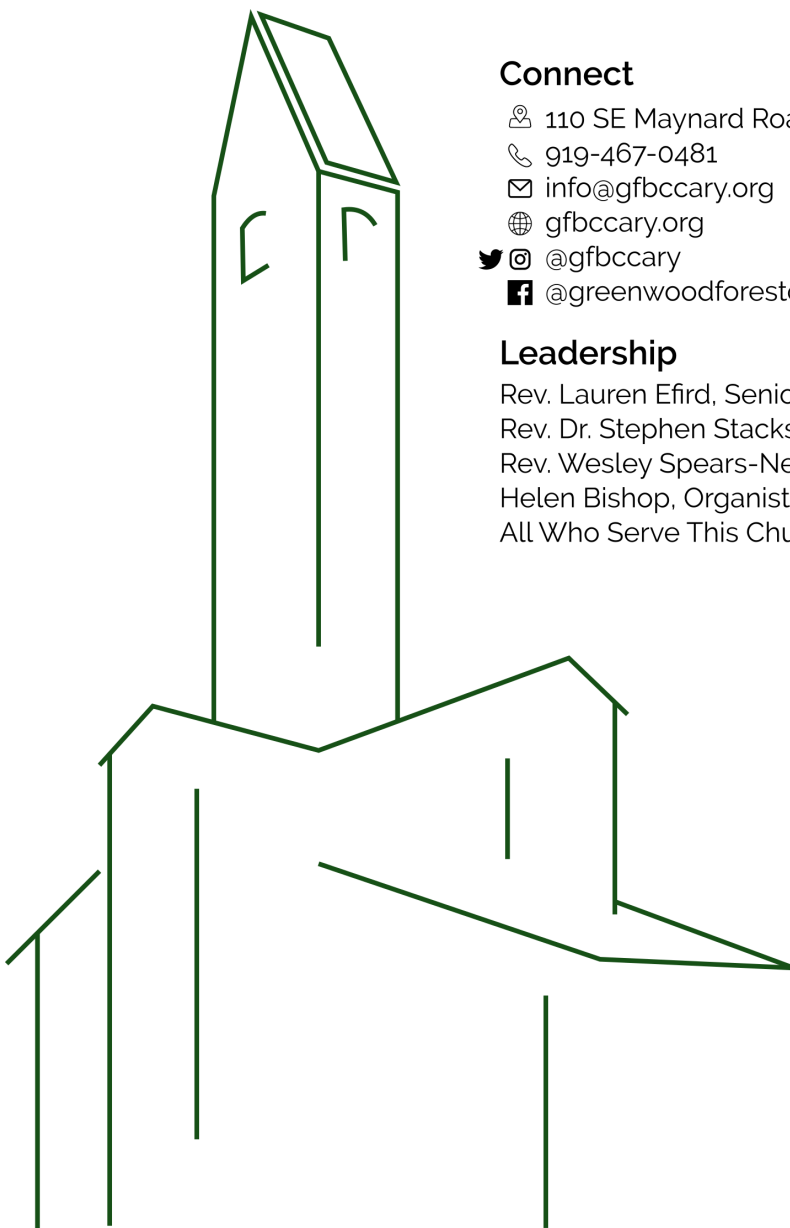
Daniel Bashta

I speak to barrenness  
I command life within  
Come live you desolate  
Spring up you living well

I speak to barrenness  
I command life within  
Come live you desolate  
Fling wide you ancient gates

Healing power flow like a river  
Reveal your mending heart  
To every tormented soul  
Emmanuel come quick to deliver  
So let hope in  
Open your walls  
Hope conquers all

*Reprinted hymns come from Celebrating Grace, Glory to God, or the The African American Heritage Hymnal unless otherwise noted. Copyrighted music use covered by CCLI License #1243530, OneLicense #A-721397.*



## Connect

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📘 @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