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Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

December 11, 2022

Handwritten signature and date: Howard L. ... by 2019



WHAT CAN'T WAIT

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?

Week 3:

Joy Can't Wait

Bulletin Art:

A Dance by Hannah Garrity
(Acrylic on Canvas, Inspired by Luke 1:46b-55)

Artist Statement:

Somehow, Mary is thankful. How is she doing that? How can she genuinely appreciate her situation? Her perspective amazes me.

Carrying a baby is difficult even in the best of circumstances. The physical and psychological weight grows quickly. Society changes its view of you, you change your view of yourself. Like Advent, it is a time of waiting. It is also a time of anticipation, dread, concern, excitement, pain, fear, and confusion.

Mary is carrying a child out of wedlock. Her fiancé is considering leaving her. She has nothing but her word to explain this circumstance to him, to her family, to her community. All of the typical and difficult pregnancy feelings must have been multiplied, yet Mary is thankful.

In this painting, I cast Mary's hands in a ballerina's dance. She reaches up in prayer, in praise. She reaches up to glorify our God. She reaches up in thanks for the most challenging thing she has possibly ever had to deal with.

Should I be counting my challenges as well as my blessings? Should I be glorifying God for the pain in life as well as the joy? Perhaps, I should.



Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

an inclusive
community
of faith

Welcome

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



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Announcements Church Events and Updates

Staff Love Offering

We have an Advent tradition of collecting a love offering for our staff. The offering is distributed to the staff as an expression of our gratitude for their hard work, dedication, leadership, and faithful service to our church throughout the year. If you would like to contribute to this offering, please mail your gifts to the church and make out checks payable to Andy Jarrell. Alternatively, you can Venmo gifts to Andy Jarrell at @Andy-Jarrell (919-749-3662). Donations will be collected now through December 18. If you have questions please contact either Andy Jarrell or Steve Denning.

Poinsettias for Sale

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia and a dedication listed in the bulletin, please visit gfbccary.org/poinsettias. Cost is \$15. Any profits from poinsettia sales will go to the Organ Fund. Deadline is Dec. 11.

Town Hall & Business Meetings

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.

We will also have a brief business meeting following worship on December 11.

EOY Donations

If you plan to make an end-of-year or stock donation to the church, please do so as soon as possible as it takes time for transfers to process. The donated stock must be in the church's account by Dec. 30 to receive tax credit for 2022.

Advent and Christmas at Greenwood Forest

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

Dec. 4: Youth Advent Party (5pm)

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



PRAY

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.

Nell Allen
Bess Averre
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
Gilles Bikindou
Louann Clarke (Felice Parent's sister)
Joe Crook (at the death of his father)
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Elaine Dodson
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Karen Peter (Virgil and Gail Jones' friend)
Annie Poe
Jerry Poe
Dick Reinert
Harold Ritter
Fred Seeger
Sara Beck Jordan at the death of her grandmother-in-law
Our partners at Ebenezer Baptist in Cuba

Thank You from Greg Upchurch

Thank you for your prayers, cards, calls and visits during my recent illness and prolonged recovery. Your messages were encouraging, supportive, loving and compassionate. You were Christ to me.

Love and Peace, Greg Upchurch



GIVING

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
- 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:

Neighborhood Partnership

For many years, Greenwood Forest Baptist Church has been in a partnership with the Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church to serve alongside our neighbors. The Backpack Buddies Program, Neighborhood Summer Program (a feeding and summer enrichment program), and more activities all support the children and families that live near our churches. Right now, you can contribute to Christmas gifts for our neighbors at gfbccary.org/gifts.

Order of Worship Third 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 | *Caroling, Caroling* | Alfred Burt
Helen Bishop and Terry Edwards, Duet

Lighting of the Joy Candle | Leta Huntsinger

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efirid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Sanctified Art) | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

When the sun rises what shall we sing?

"My soul magnifies the Lord."

And when chaos and violence echo on the screen?

"My soul magnifies the Lord."

For our God is a God of justice and peace.

"My soul magnifies the Lord."

So when all is wrong, or all is right,

"My soul magnifies the Lord."

Yes, when all is wrong, or all is right,

We will sing with joy and delight, of the God of justice and love and peace.

"My soul magnifies the Lord."

Invocation | Rev. Dr. Stacks

† **Gathering Hymn** | *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* (pg. 9)

Offertory Prayer | Tim Carr

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

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** | *Canticle of the Turning (pg. 7-8)*

Scripture Reading | *Luke 1:46b-55* | *Rev. Dr. Stacks*

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

Anthem | *The Kingdom is Coming (pg. 8)*

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

† **Hymn** | *Joy to the World (pg. 10)* 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* | *arr. Victor Labenske*

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!

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



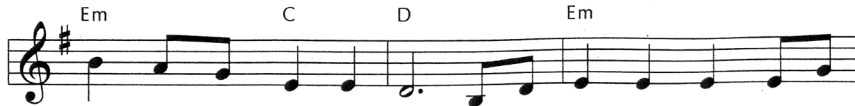
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
 fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
 dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Anthem The Kingdom is Coming

*The kingdom is coming
 We are praying for it
 The kingdom is coming
 We are waiting for it
 The kingdom is coming
 We are working for it
 The kingdom is coming*

All creation groans

Fire in the sky, we watch it burn
 The waters that keep rising up, the floods that come
 Put your hope in the Lord, put your hope in the Lord
 He will lead us on the way

All you nations, all you judges, all you kings
 Come and join the work, He's restoring all things
 Put your hope in the Lord, put your hope in the Lord
 He will lead us on the way

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us;
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear de - sire of
Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by Thine all - suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her King;
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let men their songs em - ploy;
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground;
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove

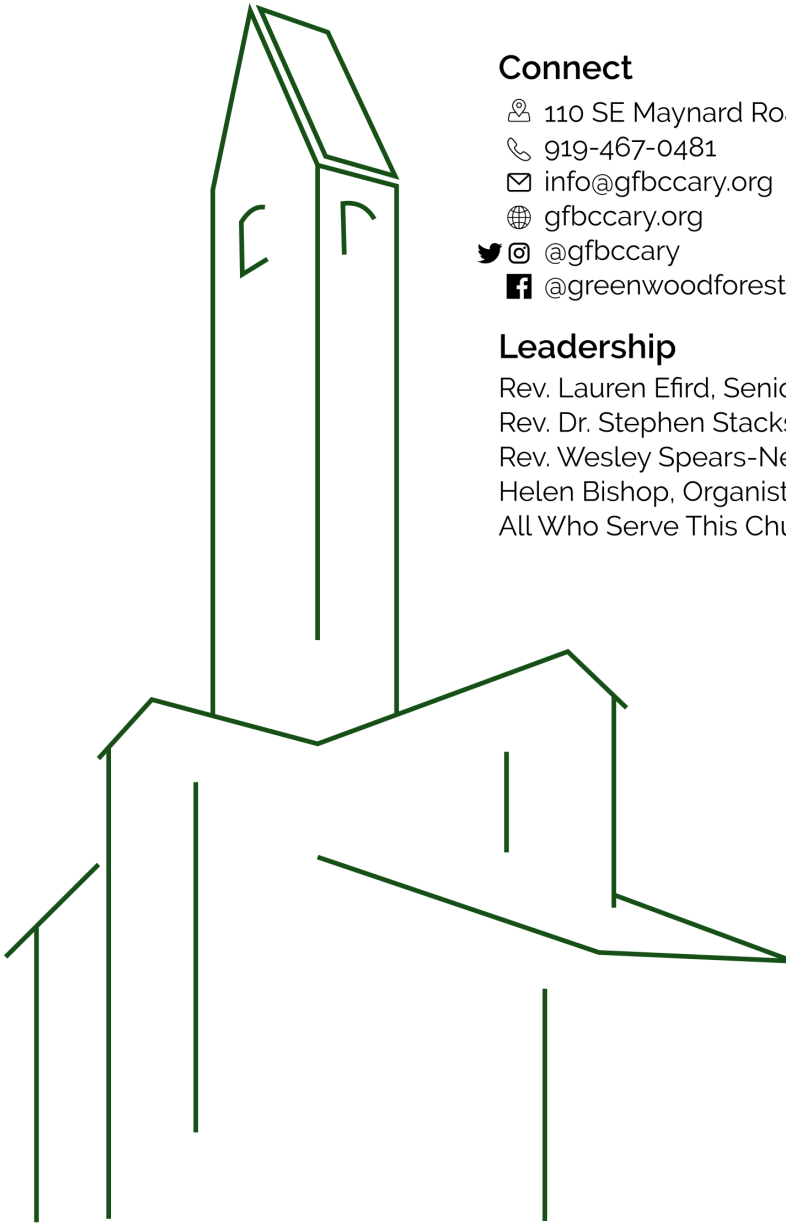
let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 the glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of His love, and won - ders of His

1. And heaven and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heaven and na - ture sing,



Connect

📍 110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

☎ 919-467-0481

✉ info@gfbccary.org

🌐 gfbccary.org

🐦 @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

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Additional Resources for Advent and Christmas come from A Sanctified Art.