



**Greenwood Forest**  
Baptist Church



**Bulletin Art:**

*Circumpolar AZ81* by LCGS Russ  
(Photograph, Taken in Arizona)

This photograph was taken over the period of 7+ hours of the night sky in Northern Arizona. The long exposure created star trails as opposed to single points of light. The circles are because the camera was focused on Polaris, the North Star.

Stories passed down from freed Black people in the nineteenth century attest that the song “Follow the Drinking Gourd” was about the North Star, which is part of the “Little Dipper.” The song conveyed instructions to follow Polaris to the North to escape slavery in the South. To focus on this star was to focus on liberation and freedom.

Watchnight as a tradition in Christian churches gained significance after New Year’s Eve in 1862 when many Black people, enslaved and free, gathered in churches to await the hour when President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation was to take effect. The holiday was also called “Freedom’s Eve.” Gathering on Watchnight has since become a sacred and vital tradition in the Black Church in the United States.

Today, as we celebrate on the day after Freedom’s Eve, may our focus be on the North Star; that is, may our focus be on freedom for all God’s children.

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome





**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.

---

## CONTENTS

3 | Community Notes

4 | Order of Worship

6 | Songbook

## 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)



[@gfbccary](https://www.instagram.com/gfbccary)

# 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.*

Nell Allen  
Bess Averre  
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)  
Gilles Bikindou  
Kate Buchanan (Pat and Tom Brooks' niece)  
Louann Clarke (Felice Parent's sister)  
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)  
Elaine Dodson  
Teri Edwards  
Vanna Fox  
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)  
Annie Poe  
Jerry Poe  
The Reinert Family at the death of Dick Reinert  
Harold Ritter  
Fred Seeger  
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.

## ***Next Teaching Series:***

### **Coffeehouse Theology (Jan. 15, 22, & 29)**

*Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, "The world is charged with the grandeur of God." In this series, we'll test the hypothesis that every thing is sacred by looking at "secular" music and how it speaks to our spiritual lives. Each week, Rev. Dr. Stacks will select and perform a song and we will break down the song and discuss its resonance with our faith journeys.*

*The original date for this series was Jan. 8, but it will start on Jan. 15.*



# Order of Worship

## Second Sunday of Christmas

✝ 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** | *Sweet Little Jesus Boy* | arr. Bober  
Sally Shaver

**Lighting of the Christ Candle** | Jeff and Lynn McLaughlin

**Welcome to Worship** | Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (Adapted from Nancy Townley)** | Rev. Efird

This morning we are keeping watch.

**Today we say goodbye to the old year and  
look hopefully into the new year.**

Though the darkness is deep, the Light of the  
World guides our way.

**Even though we don't really know what is to  
come, we know that God is with us.**

We open our hearts to you, God

**Praise be to you, who was and is and is to be.**

Praise be to the God who sets us free.

**Hallelujah! Amen.**

**Invocation** | Rev. Efird

✝ **Gathering Hymn** | *Jesus, the Light of the World* (pg. 7-8)

Today's color is **white**,  
signifying an emphasis on  
the glory of God.

### 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.

**Offertory Prayer** | *Steve Denning*

† **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** | *Go! Tell it on the Mountain* (pg. 6)

**Scripture Reading** | *Matt. 25:1-13 & Gal. 5:1, 13-16* | *Rev. Efird*

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

**Anthem** | *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* (pg. 10)

**Sermon** | *Freedom's Eve* | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

† **Hymn** | *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* (pg. 9) 

**Benediction** | *Rev. Dr. Stacks*

**Postlude** | *In Dulci Jubilo* | *arr. Edwin McLean*

## **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!

# Go! Tell it on the Mountain

## Refrain

Go tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills and ev-'ry-where,

Go tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born.

## Verses

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si-lent flocks by night,  
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a-bove the earth,  
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger The hum-ble Christ was born,

Be-hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho-ly light.  
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus That hailed our Sav-ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal-va-tion That bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

# Jesus, the Light of the World



1. Hark the her - ald an - gels sing.  
2. Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise.  
3. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored.  
4. Hail, the heav'n - born Prince of Peace.

The second system includes vocal parts. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are written between the staves. The music includes a repeat sign at the beginning and rests for the vocalists.

Je - sus, the light of the world.

The third system continues the vocal and piano accompaniment. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are written between the staves. The music includes a repeat sign at the beginning and rests for the vocalists.

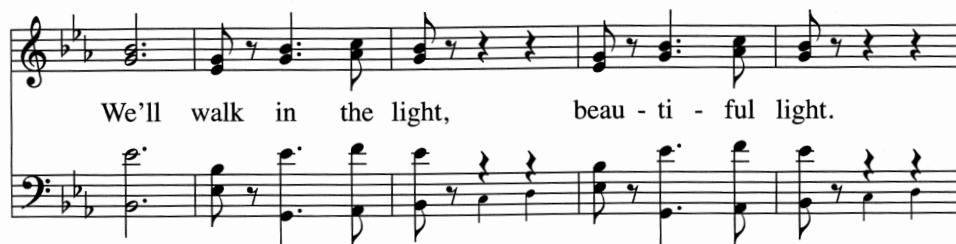
Glo - ry to the new - born King,  
Join the tri - umph of the skies.  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
Hail, the Sun of right - eous - ness!

The fourth system continues the vocal and piano accompaniment. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are written between the staves. The music includes a repeat sign at the beginning and rests for the vocalists.





Je - sus, the light of the world.



We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light.



Come where the dew-drops of mer - cy shine right. Oh,



shine all a - round us by day and by night.



Je - sus, the light of the world.

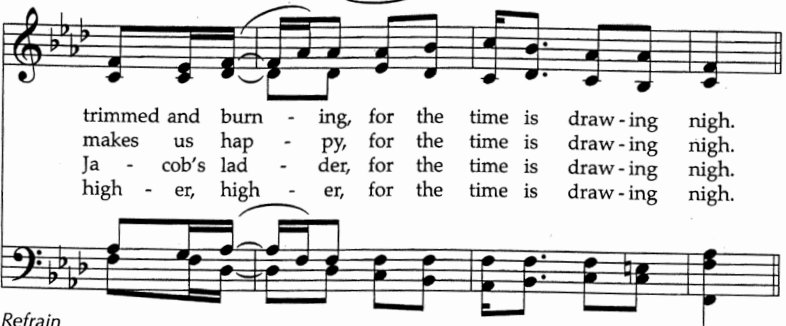
# Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing; keep your  
 2 It's our faith makes us hap - py; it's our  
 3 We are climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der; we are  
 4 Ev - ery round goes high - er, high - er; ev - ery

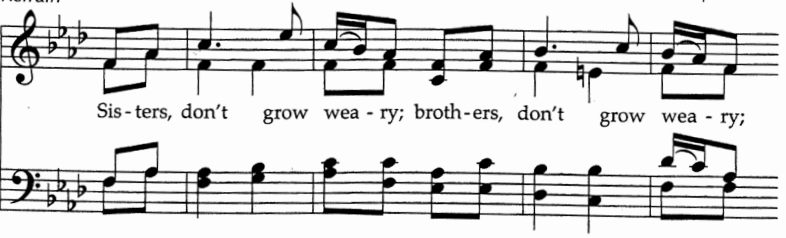


lamps trimmed and burn - ing; keep your lamps  
 faith makes us hap - py; it's our faith  
 climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der; we are climb - ing  
 round goes high - er, high - er; ev - ery round goes



trimmed and burn - ing, for the time is draw - ing nigh.  
 makes us hap - py, for the time is draw - ing nigh.  
 Ja - cob's lad - der, for the time is draw - ing nigh.  
 high - er, high - er, for the time is draw - ing nigh.

## Refrain



Sis - ters, don't grow wea - ry; broth - ers, don't grow wea - ry;



chil - dren, don't grow wea - ry, for the time is draw - ing nigh.

# **Anthem** | Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

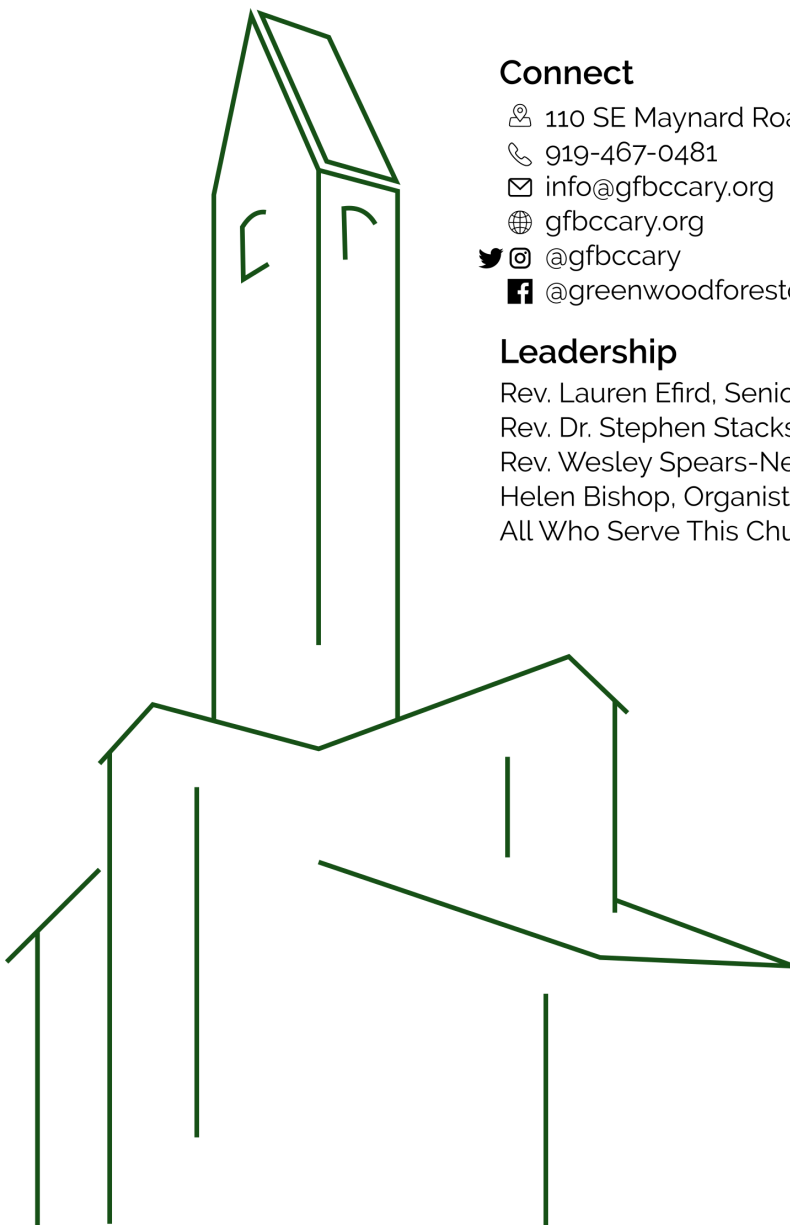
The Civil Wars

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along the unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
There is no peace on earth, I said,  
For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
God is not dead, nor does he sleep  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.



## 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

---

*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.*