

Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

February 26, 2023

Artist Statement Tune In

Lisle Gwynn Garrity | Inspired by Matthew 4:1-11

Silk painting with digital drawing and collage

In this image, the words of the Tempter hover in the background. The Tempter's voice lingers like a ringing in Jesus' ears, saying: "Take charge. Hoard your power. Dominate. Control."

Somehow, Jesus has deciphered that these words are simply background noise. He closes his eyes and goes inward, wrapping himself in a posture of self-embrace. From this introspective perspective, Jesus essentially says, "Get behind me, Satan."

The backdrop of this piece resembles the dust of the desert. Like sand washing along a beach, the sediment shifts into water in the top left, hinting at what bolsters Jesus in his ministry: his belonging to God. His belovedness washes over him, giving him the courage to defy the deception of the Tempter and tune into his inner wisdom. In this way, he is given a new song to carry with him, a lullaby from God that goes, "You, my child, in you, I am well-pleased." This is a melody for singing, a song for dancing.

What are the voices that linger with you like a ringing in your ears? What are the messages that try to deceive or devour you? Let those voices buzz and fade into the background. Close your eyes, tune in, and embrace yourself. From your belovedness, what song will you sing?





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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seeking:

honest questions for deeper faith

Lent began on February 22 with Ash Wednesday, and this season we'll be exploring stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking. In each of these stories, someone is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Join us throughout this season of reflection and repentance to discover what God has for those who are seeking.

Key Events in Lent:

March 19 | The Cry of Jeremiah Performance (11am)

*Our choir will be reuniting with the NCCU Choir to present a piece this year called *The Cry of Jeremiah* by Rosephanye Powell. Based on Jeremiah 29, the piece will draw on a variety of musical traditions from Europe, Africa, and North America.*

April 2 | Palm Sunday (11am)

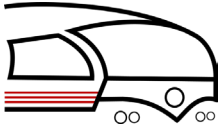
On Palm Sunday, we commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which sets off the series of events that leads ultimately to his execution.

April 7 | Good Friday (7pm)

We gather on Good Friday for a Service of Tenebrae, a solemn recounting of Jesus' execution.

April 9 | Easter Sunday (11am)

We begin the Easter season and celebrate the resurrection and Jesus' defeat of death!



FREEDOM RIDE '23

July 2-8

Join us on a pilgrimage of transformation and discovery.

Explore the history of the Civil Rights Movement and the struggle for freedom where it happened.

Meet experts and even eye-witnesses and participants in the Movement.

Discover what the freedom struggle means for your life now.

Join us on the 2023 Freedom Ride to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma.

\$500/person; includes transportation, lodging, and meals in Alabama.

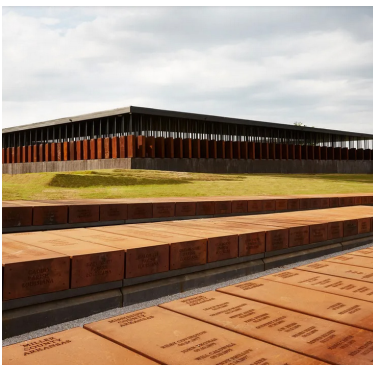
Note: This trip is deliberately intergenerational and based on the needs and abilities of participants. If you have reservations about your ability to attend, please contact Rev. Spears-Newsome.



Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (Birmingham, AL)



Sixteenth Street Baptist Church (Birmingham, AL)



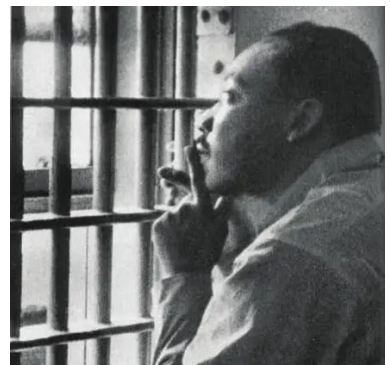
National Memorial for Peace and Justice (Montgomery, AL)



Edmund Pettus Bridge, Site of Bloody Sunday (Selma, AL)



Voting Rights Institute (Selma, AL)



Martin Luther King, Jr. in Prison in Birmingham, AL

Announcements Church Events and Updates

Cry of Jeremiah (3/19)

Join us on Sunday, March 19 for an unforgettable and moving performance by the GFBC Sanctuary Choir and the NC Central University Choir of Rosephanye Powell's *The Cry of Jeremiah*. The piece features a narrator speaking as the prophet Jeremiah, known as the "crying prophet," as he rages and grieves over the sins and injustice of his people, wrestles with his calling to speak truth, and ultimately praises God in the midst of his struggle. The music is arresting and inspiring, expressing beautifully the fire and hope at the heart of Jeremiah's vision. This is the second year of our collaboration with NCCU and it promises to be a special day—you will not want to miss it!

Fellowship Meal (2/26)

Our second Fellowship Meal is after worship this Sunday, hosted by Franz and Jill Bryant. The cost for the meal (Italian pasta dishes) will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids, with all proceeds going to the organ fund. There will also be Bluebird Houses for sale for \$20 (contact Diana Morde for more information at 919-801-7433) to benefit the organ.

Business Meeting (3/12)

Mark your calendars for a church business meeting on March 12 to discuss matters related to the property and other regular business. We'll hold the meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45am before worship.

Offering Enevelopes

The company that supplies our offering envelopes is experiencing supply chain issues. All issues should be resolved shortly, but your March envelopes could be affected.



The Prophet Jeremiah from the Maesta Altarpiece of Siena by Duccio di Buoninsegna.

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
Peter Barboriak (Valerie Brooks' friend)
Gilles Bikindou
Katie Buchanan (Pat and Tom Brooks' niece)
Greg Clawson (friend of Rick Chappell)
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Charles Dial (Carol and Greg Carter's brother-and-law)
Elaine Dodson
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Kathy Seeger Rhoades (Fred and Marie Seeger's daughter)
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
- 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:

Youth Ministry

Our youth ministry shapes the lives and faith of our young people through weekly activities and unique experiences. Youth meet regularly on Sunday mornings, Sunday afternoons at Alpha & Omega, and go on special retreats and trips. The Freedom Ride was also born out of our youth ministry! Our youth led us in worship on Youth Sunday this February, as well.

Your gifts to Greenwood Forest make this ministry possible!

Order of Worship

First Sunday of Lent

✝ 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 (A Sanctified Art) | Rev. Efird

Listen!

There is hope to be found here.

Listen!

God calls you by name here.

Listen!

There is love that abides here.

This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen.

God is speaking.

Let us worship.

Invocation | Rev. Efird

✝ **Gathering Hymn** | *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (pg. 9)

Offertory Prayer | Sally Shaver

Today's color is **purple**, representing repentance and reflection.

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.

Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, our worship services during February will feature music from Black composers and artists.

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: OLD HUNDREDTH* 📖

Praise God, who forms us from the dust.
Praise Christ, who frees us through the cross.
Praise Holy Ghost who drives us on
To meet God in the wilderness. Amen.

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 | *Amazing Grace* (pg. 11)

Scripture Reading | *Matthew 4:1-11* | *Johnny Jackson* The word of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem | *I Ain't Got Weary Yet* (pg. 13)

Sermon | *Who Will You Listen To?* | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

† **Hymn** | *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (pg. 12) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Dr. Stacks*

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.

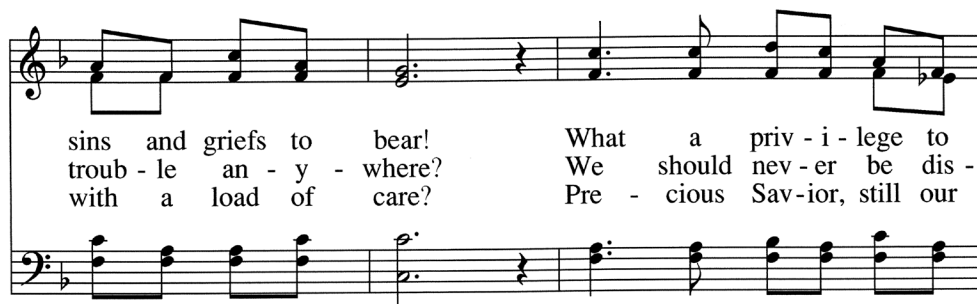
Final Hymn: An Invitation

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!

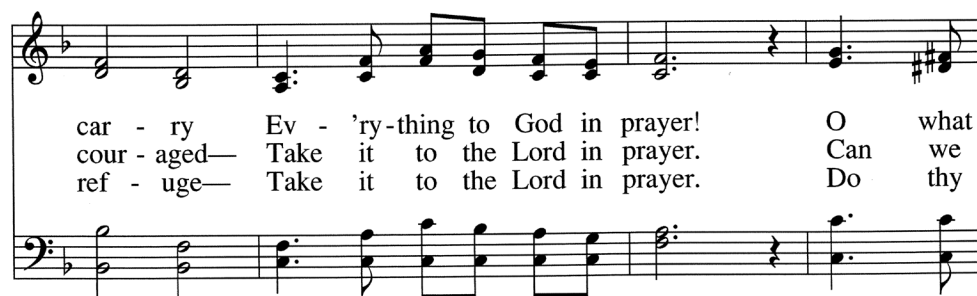
9 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1. What a Friend we have in Je - sus, All our
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there
3. Are we weak and heav - y - la - den, Cum - bered



sins and griefs to bear! What a priv - i - lege to
trou - ble an - y - where? We should nev - er be dis -
with a load of care? Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our



car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer! O what
cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we
ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy

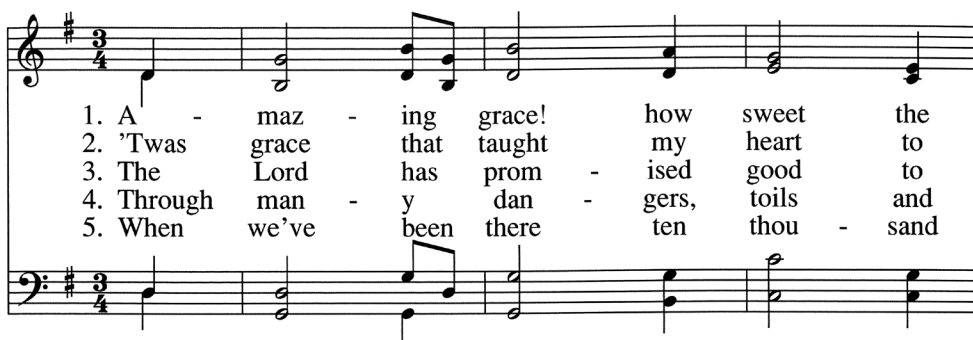


peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we
find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows
friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in

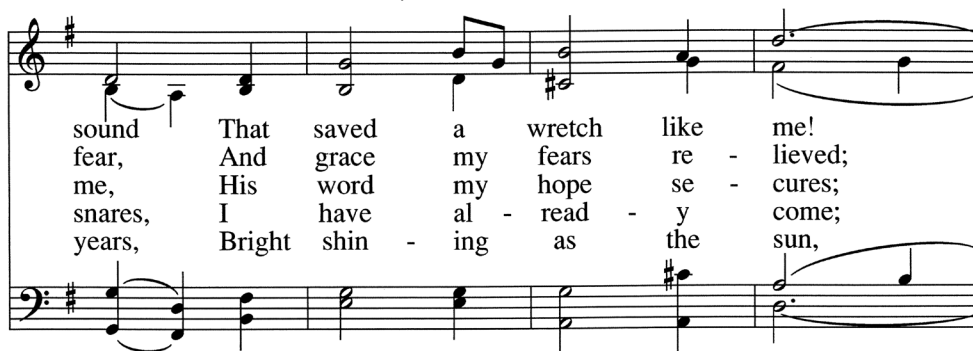
bear, share? prayer; All Je - In be - sus His - cause knows arms we do our ev - 'ry He'll not weak - ness— shield thee—

Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Amazing Grace



1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to
 3. The Lord has prom - ised good to
 4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils and
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand



sound That saved a wretch like me!
 fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
 me, His word my hope se - cures;
 snares, I have al - read - y come;
 years, Bright shin - ing as the sun,



I once was lost but now I'm
 How pre - cious did that grace ap -
 He will my shield and por - tion
 'Twas grace hath brought me safe thus
 We've no less days to sing God's



found, Was blind but now I see.
 pear, The hour I first be - lieved.
 be As long as life en - dures.
 far, And grace will lead me home.
 praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me,
2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me,

I want Je - sus to walk with me,
In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me,

All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
When the shades of life are fall - ing,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Anthem I Ain't Got Weary Yet

Courtney Carey

Soloist: Evan Owoc-Edwards

I ain't got weary yet,
I ain't got weary yet,
I've been in the wilderness a mighty long time,
And I ain't got weary yet.

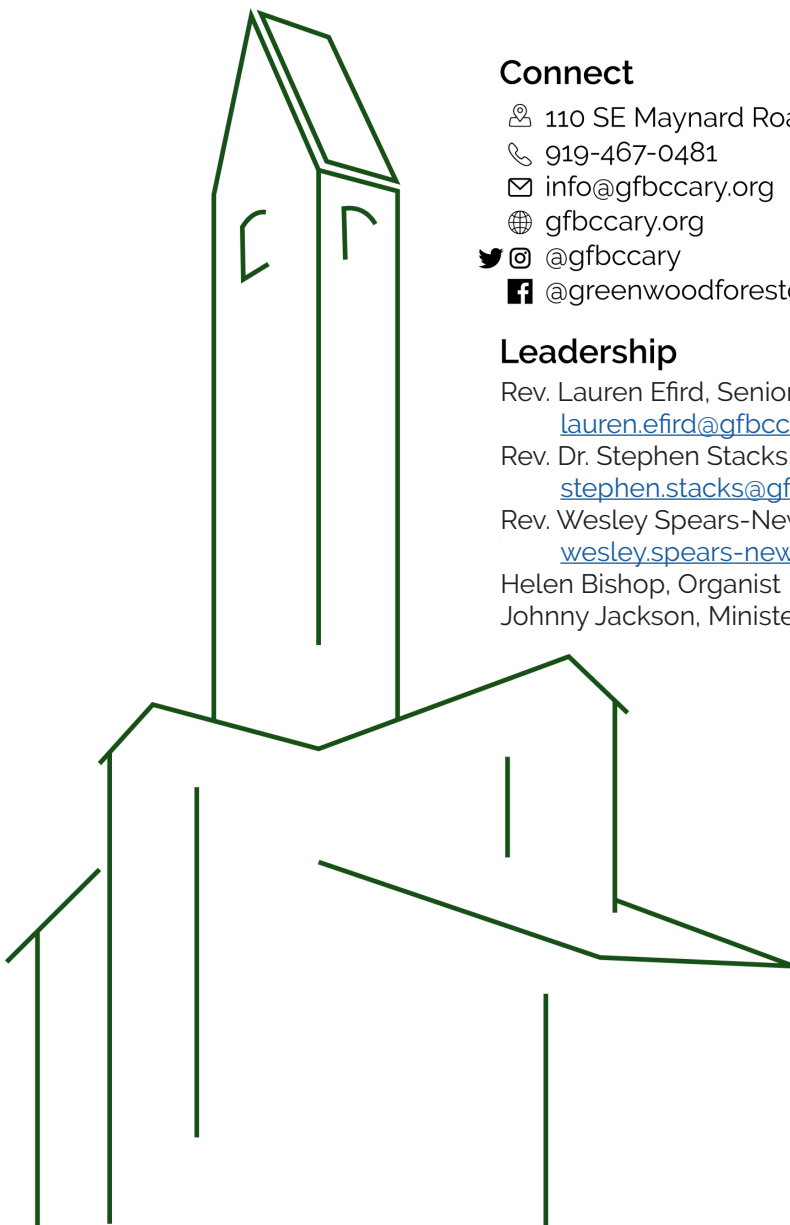
Oh, I've been praying like Silas (Lord!),
I've been praying like Paul,
I've been serving my Lord a mighty long time,
And I ain't got weary yet.

Oh I've been talking with my Savior,
I've been talking with my Lord,
I've been in the wilderness a mighty long time,
And I ain't got weary yet.

I've been in the wilderness,
I've prayed a mighty long time,
Walked and talked with Jesus,
Won't he bring you over?

I've been in the wilderness a mighty long time,
And I ain't got weary yet!

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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Helen Bishop, Organist

Johnny Jackson, Ministerial Intern