

April 2, 2023



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

Invite a Friend to Easter!

The most effective way for more people to find our inclusive community of faith is for you to invite them personally. Consider inviting a friend or neighbor to church this Easter Sunday, which is a great entry point for new visitors who want to find out what we're about! We hope to see some new faces as we celebrate the resurrection on April 9!

Easter Lilies for Sale

You can now purchase Easter Lilies and dedications in the bulletin at gfbccary.org/lilies! Lilies can be taken home after worship on Easter Sunday (April 19).

You may pay for your lilies by going to gfbccary.org/give and selecting "Poinsettias/Lilies" from the drop down menu.



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

Holy Week Events

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!

Children's Egg Hunt

April 2, 12pm following worship

Following worship on April 2, the Children's Ministry Team will host an egg hunt for preschool through elementary school children. Make plans to join us!

Trans Day of Visibility

March 31, 7-8pm in the Sanctuary

Trans Day of Visibility is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and their contributions as well as highlighting the ways discrimination affects their lives. PRIDE of Cary, a local LGBTQ-supportive group that meets at GFBC, will be hosting a special event that includes a Q&A on Trans Day of Visibility. We hope that you'll join us as we celebrate trans people and raise awareness of the issues facing them today.

GFBC Dinner Theatre

On May 19, the Music Ministry will host a Dinner Theater to benefit the organ fund and we are looking for Broadway stars! If you would like to audition, please prepare a 1-minute excerpt of a song of your choice. We will hold auditions on April 5 from 6:30 to 7pm and 8 to 8:30pm.

Announcements Church Events and Updates

Thank the Town of Cary

It's budget season! Last season the Cary Town Council voted for an historic \$9 million investment in affordable housing. \$5 million of this investment was from one-off federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. \$4 million of this investment was local funding, which could be continued into FY 23/24 if the Council decides to continue funding.

ONE Wake is running a letter/email campaign to make sure that our current Town Council knows that there is a broad base of support for their past decision on affordable housing funding, as well as support for continued funding into the next fiscal year.

Please join us in sending Town Council a THANK YOU for last year's allocation, and a request to continue the local \$4 million in new local funding for affordable housing. Visit https://www.onewake.org/cary_email_action for a sample email and form to contact the Cary Town Council. Make your voice heard!

Save the Dates: ONE Wake Listening Sessions

ONE Wake's organizing priorities depend 100% on the concerns and feedback of its member institutions, including us! We'll be hosting listening sessions on April 18 (in the evening) and May 21 (in the afternoon/evening) to hear directly from you what pressures you're experiencing in your daily life and what you'd like to see change where you live. Mark your calendars to join us!

Thank You for Your Help!

Thanks to everyone who helped with last Sunday's lunch. A special thanks to the following folks: Carol and Greg (the baker) Carter for the wonderful pound cakes and cookies; Janice Wilson for the coconut cake for Randy Palmer's birthday; the amazing Randy Medford for doing a lot of everything; Janice Medford, and her grandchildren Alyssa, Wyatt and Sarah Medford; and Greg Upchurch and Faye Beal. We missed Steve Denning and hope he gets well soon. Thanks to all who enjoyed the meal with us!

Jill and Franz Bryant

Building A Clean Out

If you have been storing any personal items in Building A, they need to be removed by the end of April. Please contact Randy Medford or Rev. Stephen Stacks if you have any questions or need to access the building to retrieve anything.

Blood Drive Appointments Available

The annual blood drive will be on June 2, 2023. You can mark your calendars now and even make appointments at the [Red Cross website](#). Use the sponsor code "Greenwood" on the website to find the blood drive hosted at the church.

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

The Family of Barboriak at the death of Peter Barboriak

Gilles Bikindou

Katie Buchanan (Pat and Tom Brooks' niece)

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)

Barbara Sawyer (friend of Terry Allen)

Fred Seeger

Lee and Patti Webb

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:

Media Center

The Greenwood Forest Media Center is a curated collection of progressive and inclusive Christian theology. If you've wanted to dive deeper into any special topics we've talked about in the past several years, we have books for you! You can reserve books online at gfbccary.org/mediacenter using your username (first initial and last name). On Sunday, it will be ready for you in the Narthex!

Your gifts to Greenwood Forest make this ministry possible!

Order of Worship Palm Sunday

✝ 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

Processional Hymn | *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* (pg. 7)

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship (Psalm 118) | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

"God's steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness,

That I may enter through them and give thanks to God.

This is the gate of the LORD;

The righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me

And have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected

Has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing;

It is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

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.

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.

Our pianist today is Mike Harris.

Invocation | *Rev. Dr. Stacks*

Hymn | *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (pg. 8)*

Offertory Prayer | *Carol Carter*

† **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.**

† **Scripture Reading** | *Matthew 21:1-11* | *Johnny Jackson*
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *O, Savior of the World* | *John Goss (pg. 10)*

Sermon | *Where Are You Headed?* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Go to Dark Gethsemane (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.

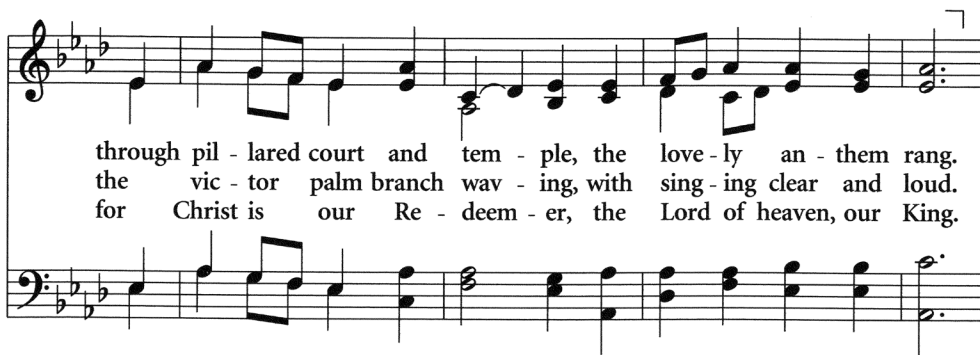
Final Hymn: An Invitation

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!

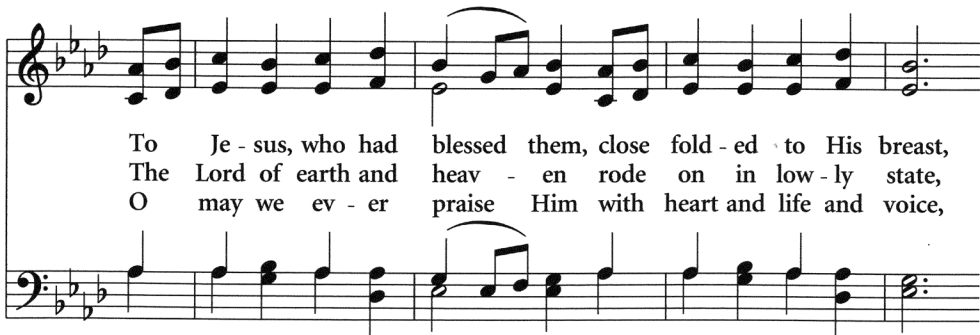
Hosana, Loud Hosanna



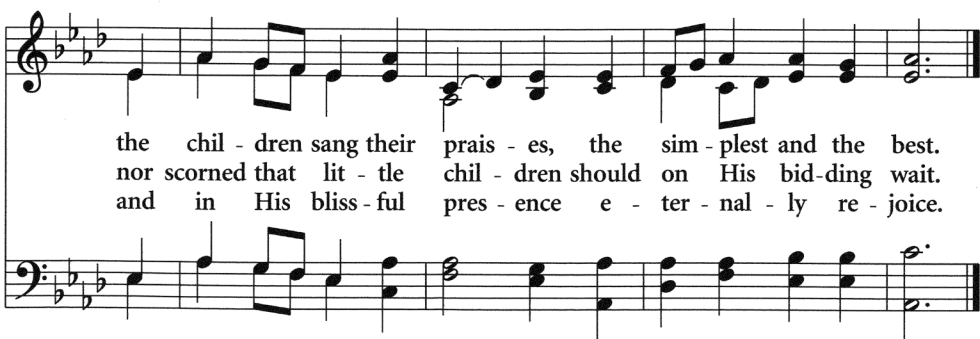
1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mong the joy - ful crowd;
3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" that an - cient song we sing;



through pil - lared court and tem - ple, the love - ly an - them rang.
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, with sing - ing clear and loud.
for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven, our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to His breast,
The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
O may we ev - er praise Him with heart and life and voice,



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on His bid - ding wait.
and in His bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -
 2. Though none go with me, I still will fol - low; though none go
 3. My cross I'll car - ry, till I see Je - sus; my cross I'll
 4. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 with me, I still will fol - low; though none go with me, I still will
 car - ry, till I see Je - sus; my cross I'll car - ry, till I see
 hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be - hind me, the cross be -

Je - sus; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fol - low; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 Je - sus; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fore me; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

Go to Dark Gethsemane

1. Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, you who feel the tempt-er's power;
 2. Fol - low to the judg-ment hall; view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
 3. Cal-vary's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor-ing at His feet,
 4. Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid His breath-less clay;

your Re-deem - er's con-flict see; watch with Him one bit - ter hour;
 O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sus-tained!
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom; who has tak - en Him a - way?

turn not from His griefs a - way; learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.
 Shun not suf-fering, shame, or loss; learn of Him to bear the cross.
 "It is fin - ished!" Hear the cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.
 Christ is risen! He meets our eyes: Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Anthem O, Savior of the World

John Goss

O Savior of the World,
who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us.
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.
Amen.

Cover Artist Statement Power Play

Lisle Gwynn Garrity | Inspired by Matthew 21:1-11

Silk painting with digital drawing and collage

In their book, *The Last Week*, theologians Marcus Borg and John Crossan assert that there were actually two parades occurring simultaneously in Jerusalem on this day. From the east, Jesus entered on a donkey. From the west, the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, entered with an imperial guard. They write: "Jesus' procession proclaimed the kingdom of God; Pilate's proclaimed the power of empire. The two processions embody the central conflict of the week that led to Jesus' crucifixion."^{*}

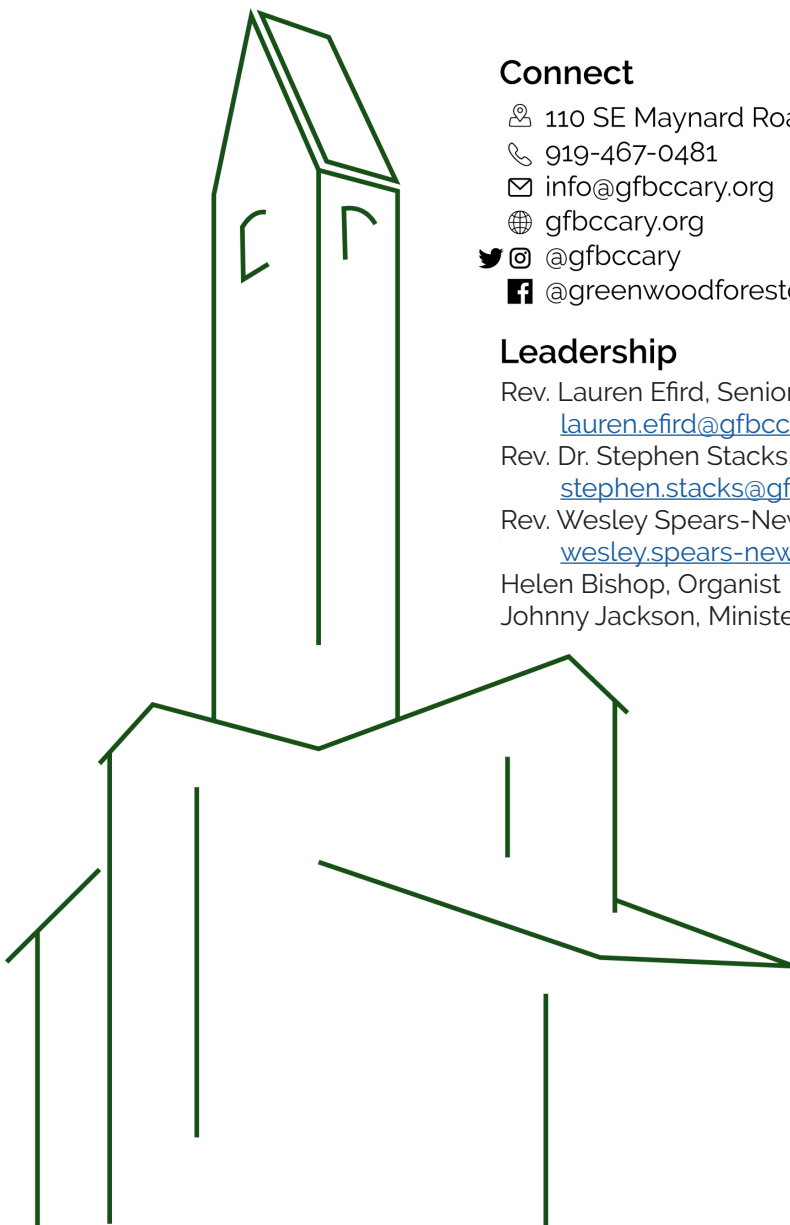
This image is a meditation on these opposing processions and the embodiment of power. Pilate processes with a pompous display of armor, accompanied by soldiers. For him, power is displayed by superiority, elitism, and weaponry. Later in the week, he will use his power to satisfy the crowds willing Jesus to be crucified, despite not finding any offense to justify it (read John 18 & 19). He uses his power for violence, to appease the status quo.

Jesus enters the city on a donkey with her young colt in tow. He wears no armor, only soft linens. In this image, I imagine if the composition were expanded, Jesus would be kneeling, humbling himself before his disciples as he washes their feet. In Jesus' processional, members of the crowd lay down their coats as a display of humility and honor. This foreshadows the way Jesus will take off his outer robe and tie a towel around his waist to wash his friends' feet. Jesus embodies power through a posture of vulnerability, through caring for those who desperately need love.

Which parade you would join in Jerusalem has a lot to say about your definition of power. If you are quick to place yourself in Jesus' parade, I encourage you to pause and consider these questions honestly: When have you aligned yourself with systems or people who have used their power for violence or to uphold the status quo? When have you embodied power through vulnerability and love for your neighbor?

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

^{*} Borg, Marcus J. and John Dominic Crossman. *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem*. (New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006), 2.



Connect

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