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Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

April 30, 2023

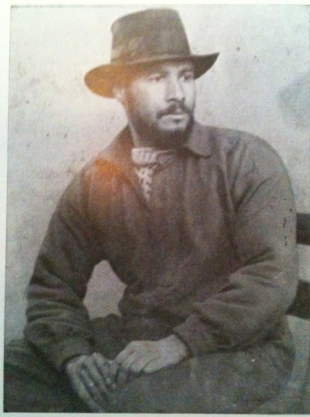
Bulletin Art Underground Railroad

William H. Johnson (c. 1945); oil on paperboard

In 1872 a Pennsylvania freedman named William Still (1821–1902) published *The Underground Railroad*, a book that told the personal stories of almost three hundred travelers, many of whom he had sheltered on their dangerous journey north. Johnson selected thirty-six figures and seven vignettes that he traced from engravings in Still's book. Each boat, train, wagon, even the scene of the man climbing out of a shipping crate, signifies the arduous journey of a specific individual. Maria Weems, for example, in a hat and purple jacket at the upper right corner, was separated from her mother and sister at a Virginia slave auction when she was just thirteen. Abolitionists “purchased” her mother and sister, who were soon living as free women in New York. Two years later, an anti-slavery activist rescued the still-enslaved Maria and gave her boy's clothing. The two traveled north where she was reunited with her family. We don't know why Johnson chose these particular people to feature in his painting, but collectively their stories tell of lives oppressed by cruel masters, of pursuit by brutal slave catchers, and of assistance offered to the sick and exhausted by caring individuals, both Black and white.

— From the Smithsonian American Art Museum

About the Artist:



Born in South Carolina to a poor African-American family, [William H. Johnson (d. 1970)] moved to New York at age seventeen. Working a variety of jobs, he saved enough money to pay for an art education at the prestigious National Academy of Design. [...] Johnson spent the late 1920s in France, absorbing the lessons of modernism. As a result, his work became more expressive and emotional. During this same period, he met and fell in love with Danish artist Holcha Krake, whom he married in 1930. The couple spent most of the '30s in Scandinavia, where Johnson's interest in primitivism and folk art began to have a noticeable impact on his work.

Returning with Holcha to the U.S. in 1938, Johnson immersed himself in the traditions of Afro-America, producing work characterized by its stunning, eloquent, folk art simplicity. A Greenwich Village resident, he became a familiar, if somewhat aloof, figure on the New York art scene. He was also a well-established part of the African-American artistic community at a time when most black artists were still riding the crest of the Harlem Renaissance.

Although Johnson enjoyed a certain degree of success as an artist in this country and abroad, financial security remained elusive. Following his wife's death in 1944, Johnson's physical and mental health declined dramatically. In a tragic and drawn-out conclusion to a life of immense creativity, Johnson spent his last twenty-three years in a state hospital on Long Island. By the time of his death in 1970, he had slipped into obscurity. After his death, his entire life's work was almost disposed of to save storage fees, but it was rescued by friends at the last moment. Over a thousand paintings by Johnson are now part of the collection of the Smithsonian Institution's Smithsonian American Art Museum.

— From *Homecoming: The Paintings of William H. Johnson*



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

Business Meeting Sunday

There will be a Business Meeting on April 30 at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall. Relevant topics were discussed at the April 16 Town Hall and materials will be available for review.

Fellowship Lunch (4/30)

We'll have another Fellowship Meal after worship on April 30 hosted by Franz and Jill Bryant. The cost for the meal is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids with proceeds going to the Organ Fund. We hope to see you there!

Dinner Theater (5/19)

You are cordially invited to be our guest at a special night of music and fine food at GFBC on May 19 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall! Steve Denning (head chef) and Stephen Stacks (sous chef) will prepare a multiple course meal and the evening will feature a Broadway Revue put on by B.J. Facemire and the GFBC Music Ministry. Tickets are available for a suggest donation of \$75 and all proceeds will go to the organ fund as we prepare to complete our long-awaited renovation. You can purchase tickets at gfbccary.org/dinnertheater. Do not miss this incredible evening—register now!

Blood Drive (6/2)

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.

Easter Egg Fundraiser

In the Narthex, you'll find 100 Easter Eggs that are a part of raising funds for our Freedom Riders' trip to Alabama this summer. Here's how it works: all the eggs have a dollar amount in them between \$1 and \$100 (no repeated amounts). Draw an egg and donate that money to the Freedom Ride at gfbccary.org/give or by check. Either way write "Freedom Ride Egg" in the memo line. But wait, there's more! Each egg contains a prize from a Freedom Ride sticker and some candy up to a GFBC mug or a Freedom Ride t-shirt. You can donate more than once to increase your shot at a bigger prize!

The Greenwood App

A greenwood is a forest that is filled with life and abundance and that is what we hope for in your spiritual life. As a tool for you, we've developed an app called The Greenwood that you can use on your spiritual journey. The Greenwood includes most of the practices and disciplines we explored together on the Discipleship Retreat this year, daily prayer for each day of the week, and access to all of our available discipleship resources. The Greenwood is available in the Google Play store and coming soon to the Apple App Store (Apple users can access a preview right now at gfbccary.org/app).

Freedom School

We'll be hosting a special Faith Formation series on faith and freedom movements May 7, 14, 21, and June 4. The curriculum is designed to prepare Freedom Riders for their trip this summer, but everyone in the church is invited to attend if they are interested! Freedom School will meet in Room C221.

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
Dan Barboriak (friend of Valerie Brooks)
Gilles Bikindou
Valerie Brooks
Katie Buchanan (Pat and Tom Brooks' niece)
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Elaine Dodson
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Diedre Scofield Queen (friend of Valerie Brooks)
Fred Seeger
Lee and Patti Webb
Our partners at Ebenezer Baptist in Cuba

Note of Thanks

Dear GFBC,

I want to thank you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and sweet comments you all expressed to me on the passing of my momma. Momma always saw to it that I was in church, but more importantly, she spoke of God daily.

Thank you all,

Tonya Rankin



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 Fourth Sunday of Easter

† 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 | *My Shepherd is the Living God* | arr. Mendoza

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 23) | Johnny Jackson

You are my shepherd,

I shall not want.

You make me lie down in green pastures;

You lead me beside still waters;

You restore my soul.

You lead me in right paths for your name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

Your rod and your staff—

They comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of

my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy

Shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

My whole life long.

Invocation | Johnny Jackson

† Hymn | *Christ is Alive* (v. 1 & 4; pg. 7)

Today's color is **white**, representing the glory of the resurrection.

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 | *Tim Carr*

† **Doxology** | *Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN* 📖

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
O praise God. Alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
O praise God! O praise God!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Prayers of the People | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks* 📖
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** | *In Christ There is No East or West* (pg. 8)

Scripture Reading | *Acts 17:1-9* | *Rev. Efird*
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *The Beatitudes* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Off the Beaten Path with Jason* | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

† **Hymn** | *All Creatures of Our God and King* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

Postlude | *Now the Green Blade Riseth* | *arr. Butler*

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!

Christ is Alive

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4. Wo - men and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5. Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

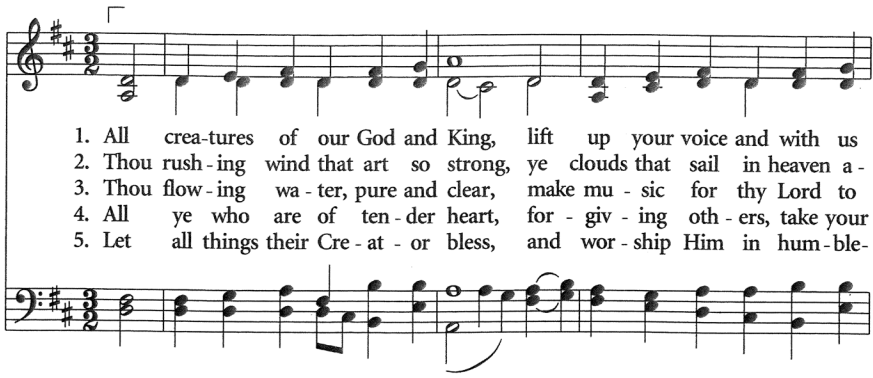
In Christ There is No East or West

1. In Christ there is no East or West, in
2. In Him shall true hearts ev - ery - where their
3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
4. In Christ now meet both East and West, in

Him no South or North; but one great fel - low -
high com - mun - ion find; His ser - vice is the
e'er your race may be; who serves my Fa - ther
Him meet South and North: all Christ - like souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
gold - en cord, close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
as His child is sure - ly kin to me.
one in Him through - out the whole wide earth.

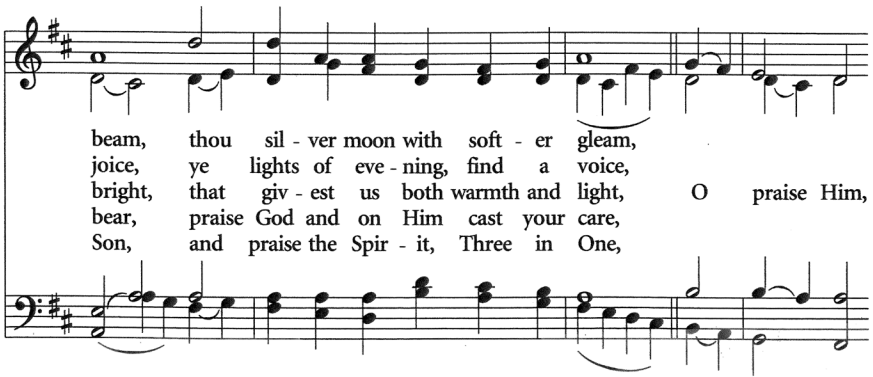
All Creatures of Our God and King



1. All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
2. Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven a-
3. Thou flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, make mu-sic for thy Lord to
4. All ye who are of ten-der heart, for-giv-ing oth-ers, take your
5. Let all things their Cre-at-or bless, and wor-ship Him in hum-ble-



sing Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gold-en
long, O praise Him, al-le-lu-ia! Thou ris-ing morn, in praise re-
hear, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Thou fire so mas-ter-ful and
part, O sing ye, al-le-lu-ia! Ye who long pain and sor-row
ness, O praise Him, al-le-lu-ia! Praise, praise the Fa-ther, praise the



beam, thou sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam,
joyce, ye lights of eve-ning, find a voice,
bright, that giv-est us both warmth and light, O praise Him,
bear, praise God and on Him cast your care,
Son, and praise the Spir-it, Three in One,



O praise Him, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Anthem The Beatitudes

arr. Roman Hurko

Remember us, O Lord, in your kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek
for they will inherit the land.

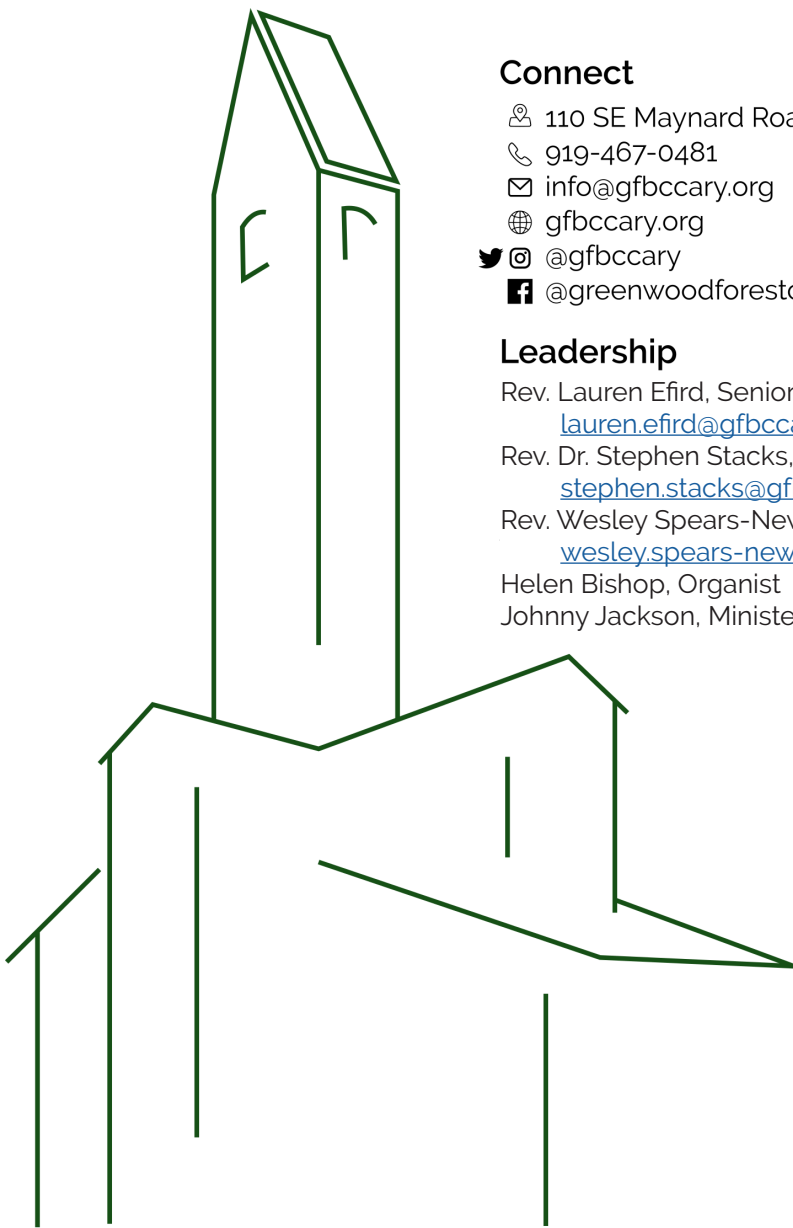
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers
for they will be called sons of God.

Rejoice and be glad
for your reward will be great in heaven!



Connect

📍 110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

☎ 919-467-0481

✉ info@gfbccary.org

🌐 gfbccary.org

🐦 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

lauren.efird@gfbccary.org

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Johnny Jackson, Ministerial Intern
