



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

May 21, 2023



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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



[greenwoodforestcary](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodforestcary)



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 visit [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and search "greenwood"

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](https://www.redcrossblood.org). Use the sponsor code "Greenwood" on the website to find the blood drive hosted at the church.

Bulletin Art The Rabbula Gospels

Illuminated Manuscript

The Rabbula Gospels manuscript is an ancient Syriac Gospels Book by unknown artists and the scribe Rabbula at the Monastery of St. John of Zagba, a location now lost to history. The illumination of the Ascension on the cover of the bulletin mixes imagery from across the Bible. At Jesus' feet are angels as depicted in Isaiah and later in Revelation; the spinning wheels are reminiscent of Ezekiel's visions, and the brown hand of God descends from within the eye-covered angel wings perhaps referencing the writing on the wall in Daniel. Later Christian imagery is also present in the lion, man, eagle, and ox in the midst of the angel wings. These represent the four evangelists who wrote the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

Jesus stands at the apex of the scene entering something of a portal to heaven. He holds in his hands parchment, perhaps the instructions he gives to the disciples in Acts 1. Below, Mary stands flanked by two angels, the preeminent interpreter of her son's words here. The angels lecture the disciples (six on each side), though we don't know what they're saying. The scene as a whole is one of shock and perhaps pleading on the part of the disciples. Perhaps they do not understand why Jesus is leaving or where he is going. Mary stands serene and untroubled, however.

What are we to think about where Jesus is now? What implications does that have for our lives?

Announcements Church Events and Updates

Easter Egg Fundraiser

This is the last Sunday to grab an egg!

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!

Calling All Graduates!

Graduation Sunday is on June 11! We want to recognize all our graduates alongside our high school seniors, so please email Wes (wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org) and let him know your school and degree if you've graduated since last summer.

Vacation Bible School

We're joining forces with our friends at the Kirk of Kildaire for Vacation Bible School this summer! The program will run June 19-22 (6-8pm) with a free dinner available at 5:30pm each day. VBS is for ages 4-years to those who have finished 5th grade this year. You can register to attend at gfbccary.org/vbs and you can register to volunteer at tinyurl.com/kirkvbsvolunteer. The theme will focus on Joseph and Egypt this year!



Come to

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



June 19-22
6pm-8pm
Free dinner at 5:30pm
For ages: 4-years-old to finished 5th grade

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
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
Stephanie Fancher (friend of Gerry Ritter)
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Angela Patton (Leta Huntsinger's cousin)
Diedre Scofield Queen (friend of Valerie Brooks)
Fred Seeger
Lee and Patti Webb
Our partners at Ebenezer Baptist in Cuba



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 fbccary.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:

Music Ministry

Music is a vital part of spiritual and communal life. Here at GFBC, we strive to express the diversity of God's beloved community by using a wide variety of music many different traditions.

This month, we presented pieces from Broadway musicals at a Dinner Theater to benefit the completion of the organ renovation. Thank you to everyone who came out in support! We had a great time!

Order of Worship Ascension 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

Prelude

Welcome to Worship | *Rev. Lauren Eford*

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Ps. 47) | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

Clap your hands, all you peoples!

Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,

A great king over all the earth.

God has gone up with a shout,

The Lord with the sound of a trumpet!

Sing praises to God, sing praises;

Sing praises to our king, sing praises.

For God is king of all the earth;

Sing praises with a psalm.

God is king over the nations;

God sits on the holy throne.

For the shields of the earth belong to God;

God is highly exalted!

Invocation | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

✝ **Hymn** | *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (pg. 7)*

Offertory Prayer | *Steve Denning*

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

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 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: 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 | *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (pg. 8)

† **Reading** | *Luke 24:36-53* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Brother, I'm Getting Ready to Go* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Go Out in Joy* (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!

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate
 2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the
 3. Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial
 4. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at His feet may

fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and
 fall, hail Him who saves you by His grace, and
 ball, to Him all maj - es - ty as - crite, and
 fall! We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and

crown Him Lord of all; bring forth the roy - al
 crown Him Lord of all; hail Him who saves you
 crown Him Lord of all; to Him all maj - es -
 crown Him Lord of all; we'll join the ev - er -

di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all.
 by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.
 ty as - crite, and crown Him Lord of all.
 last - ing song, and crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him with Many Crowns

1. Crown Him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on His throne;
2. Crown Him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave,
3. Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
4. Crown Him the Lord of love! Be - hold His hands and side,

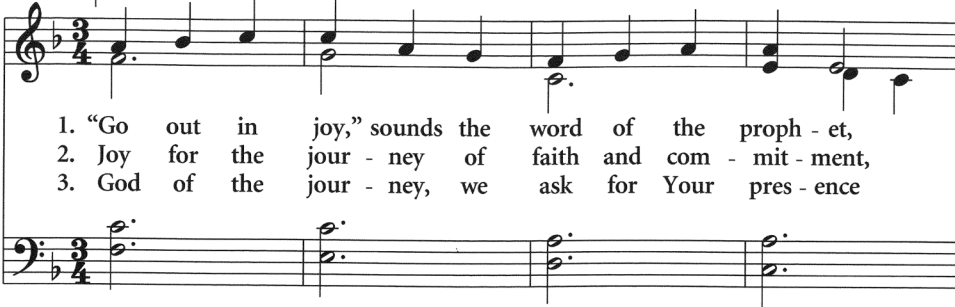
hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own:
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those He came to save;
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise:
those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:

a - wake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
His glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high,
His reign shall know no end, and round His pierc - ed feet
all hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for Thou hast died for me!

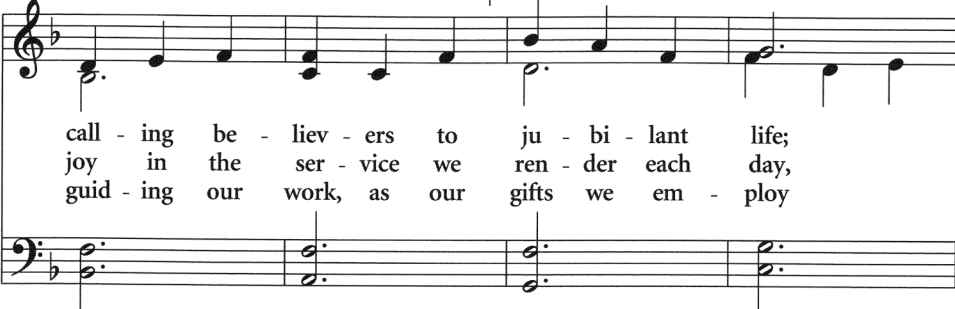
and hail Him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
Thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Go Out in Joy

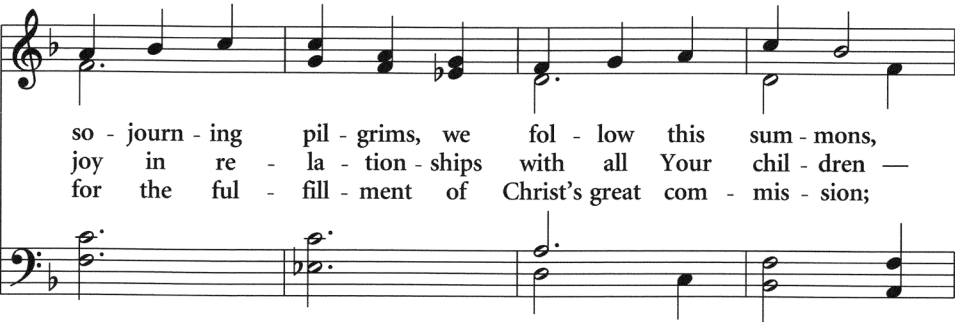
Unison



1. "Go out in joy," sounds the word of the proph - et,
2. Joy for the jour - ney of faith and com - mit - ment,
3. God of the jour - ney, we ask for Your pres - ence



call - ing be - liev - ers to ju - bi - lant life;
joy in the ser - vice we ren - der each day,
guid - ing our work, as our gifts we em - ploy



so - journ - ing pil - grims, we fol - low this sum - mons,
joy in re - la - tion - ships with all Your chil - dren —
for the ful - fill - ment of Christ's great com - mis - sion;



of - fer - ing hope to a world marred by strife.
Giv - er of joy, for these bless - ings we pray.
sing - ing Your prais - es, we go out in joy.

Anthem Brother, I'm Getting Ready to Go

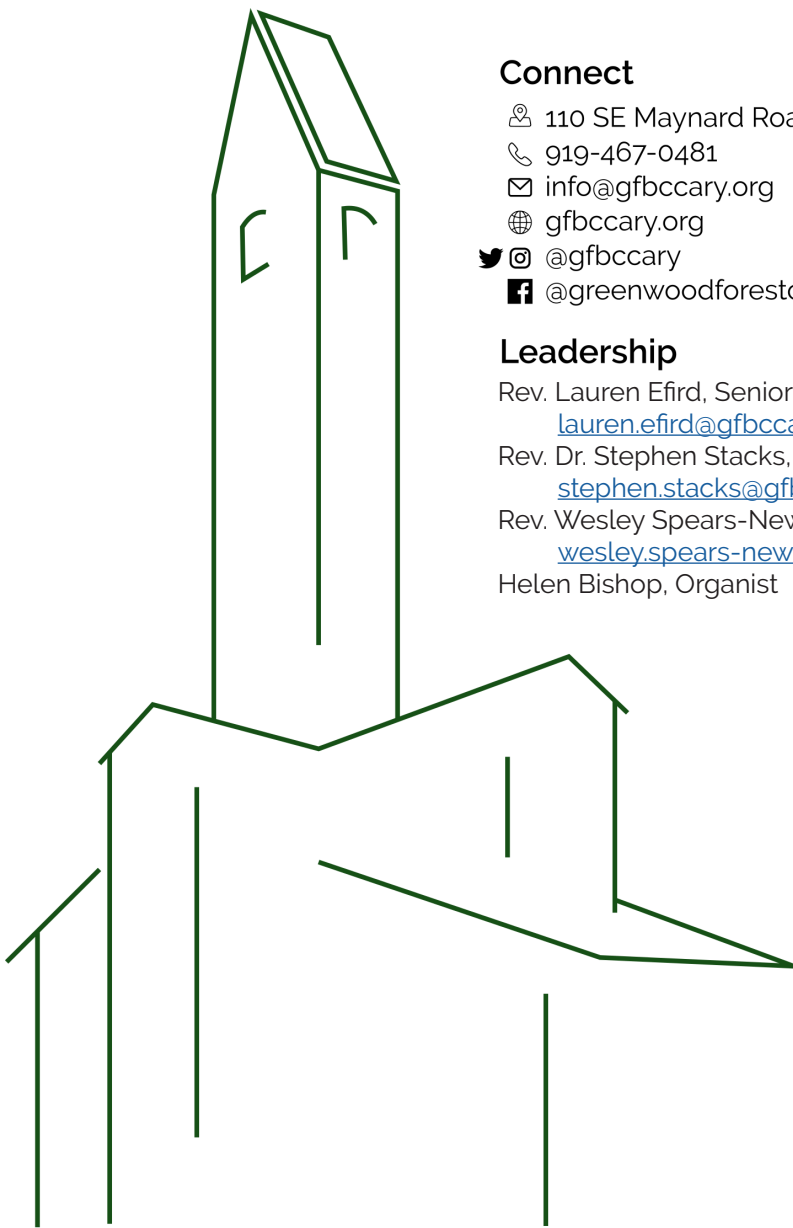
Flatt and Scruggs

The Lord's saved me I want the world to know
I'm on my way to glory land
There I'll see Jesus and take him by the hand
Brother I'm getting ready to go

*I'm getting ready to go I know
I'm leaving this world here below
Ain't nothing in this world can turn me back I know
Brother I'm getting ready to go*

Say there wake up while yet you have time
Get in the glory land wave
Jesus will hear you and answer your call
Get ready to meet him today

Brother, don't wait till it is too late
Jesus might call for you today
It's awful to know when you leave this old world below
If you are not ready to go



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Leadership

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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Helen Bishop, Organist
