



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

June 4, 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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Bulletin Art: *"The mission to the world" by JESUS MAFA; an African Art collective based on Cameroon. Each painting is based on a dramatic interpretation of a New Testament story performed in their community. This painting was completed in 1973.*

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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Come to

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



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

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!

Summer Choir Begins This Week (6/4)!

Every summer, the Greenwood Forest Sanctuary Choir meets more occasionally instead of weekly. If you'd like to participate in this summer choir, the first potluck and rehearsal will be today, Sunday, June 4 immediately following worship. Join us in the Fellowship Hall!

GFBC Merch Available Now

If you want a GFBC Mug, Journal, or Apparel, visit gfbccary.org/merch! We now have a wide range of shirts, including Pride-themed ones, a special "Organ-Donor" t-shirt, and more! Check it out today. Any proceeds go toward ministries of the church.

Announcements Church Events and Updates

ONE Wake Assembly Thursday

Every three years, ONE Wake conducts a long listening session to set its priorities for the next several years. ONE Wake leaders (including GFBC leaders!) have engaged over 1,200 people in Wake County this year to identify what pressures they're feeling and what they'd like to see change in our area.

Come out on Thursday (6/8) to Baptist Grove Church (Raleigh) at 7:00pm to hear the results and vote on what ONE Wake's new priorities should be!

You can register to attend at gfbccary.org/onewake. Baptist Grove Church is located at 7109 Leesville Road Raleigh, NC 27613.

Everyone is invited to attend! Whether you have been to ONE Wake events before or not, your voice deserves to be heard. Come and join us on Thursday night!

Summer Program Begins 6/20!

The Neighborhood Summer Program (formerly Food, Friends, and Fun) happens every summer for kids in the neighborhood. The program offers food (breakfast and lunch) and summer enrichment activities for children of all ages. You can bring your child to the Kirk of Kildaire Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from June 20 to August 17 from 9am to 1pm. Greenwood Forest members serve as volunteers to help on Thursdays during the summer and you can sign up at gfbccary.org/summer. Ask Wes if you need any more information!

Freedom Ride Postponed

The 2023 Freedom Ride has been postponed and in its place Riders will go on local excursions the week of July 2. Any donations for the Freedom Ride will be reserved only for future Freedom Rides and this year's Riders will receive their deposits back. In addition to the local Freedom Ride, there will be film screening of *Just Mercy*, which details the life of civil rights leader Bryan Stevenson, open to the whole congregation on July 2. We hope you'll join us!

Congregational Surveys

During the summer months, we take a step back and try to figure out the answers to two questions:

First, how is the spiritual health of the congregation? Has the past year seen positive spiritual growth for you or have you experienced some difficulties in your spiritual life this year?

Second, where is your place at Greenwood Forest? Maybe you've already found your niche or maybe you're still searching. Regardless, we want to know where your gifts are and what you'd like to be doing at church this year.

To that end, we have two surveys we'd like everyone to fill out, one focused on each of those questions. You can find the Spiritual Life survey at gfbccary.org/life and the Find Your Place survey at gfbccary.org/place.

Your responses shape the life of the church in important ways because we wouldn't be who we are without you. These surveys will be open for responses for the next few weeks and we want to hear from you soon!

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
Gilles Bikindou
Valerie Brooks
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Elaine Dodson
Stephanie Fancher (friend of Gerry Ritter)
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Tony Izydor (Roz Slawson's nephew-in-law)
Angela Patton (Leta Huntsinger's cousin)
Diedre Scofield Queen (friend of Valerie Brooks)
Fred Seeger
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 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:

Outreach Ministry

Outreach at Greenwood Forest takes many different forms, including hospitality, charitable work, and simply inviting people to church! A few examples: In early June, we hosted a Blood Drive to help the sick. On Transgender Day of Visibility, we partnered with Pride of Cary to host an event around trans identity, rights, and more. Every week, we host groups in our church who need places to meet to advance recovery and community. Without your gifts, none of this work is possible!

Order of Worship Trinity 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 | *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* | arr. Bozard

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efirid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 8) | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

O Lord, our Sovereign,

How majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants,

You have founded a bulwark because of your foes,

To silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look to your heavens, the work of your fingers,

The moon and the stars that you have established;

What are human beings that you are mindful of them,

Mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,

And crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

You have put all things under their feet,

All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea.

O Lord, our Sovereign,

How majestic is your name in all the earth!

Invocation | Rev. Spears-Newsome

† Hymn | *Holy, Holy, Holy* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Sally Shaver

Today's color is **white**, representing God's glory and holiness. Clergy stoles are **rainbow** in honor of Pride Month and the inclusive love 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.

† **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** | *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* (vv. 1-3; pg. 8)

Reading | *Matthew 28:16-20* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *If Ye Love Me* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Rev. Efird*

Communion | *Rev. Efird* 📖

Prayer of Confession: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be obedient disciples. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we've not loved our neighbors, and we've not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us for what we have done and for what we've left undone, and free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mystery of Faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

† **Hymn** | *We Are One in Christ* (pg. 9)

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *We Will Go Out with Joy* | *arr. Andrew and Hillary Seraph Donaldson*

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.

Communion

During Communion, we gather around the table as Christ showed us, to remember and give thanks. We have an open table—all who wish to take Communion are invited. We practice intinction, which means you receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. A gluten-free option is available on the altar.

Holy, Holy, Holy

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide Thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see;
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

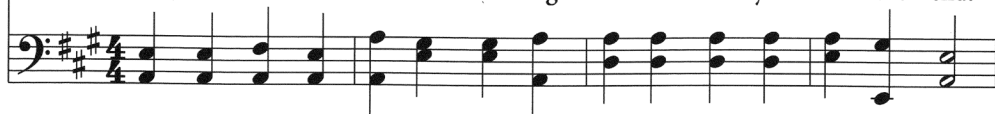
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
on - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1. Lord, You give the great com-mis-sion: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
2. Lord, You call us to Your ser-vice: "In my name bap-tize and teach."
3. Lord, You make the com-mon ho-ly: "This My bod-y, this My blood."
4. Lord, You show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa-ther, what they do, for-give."
5. Lord, You bless with words as-sur-ing: "I am with you to the end."



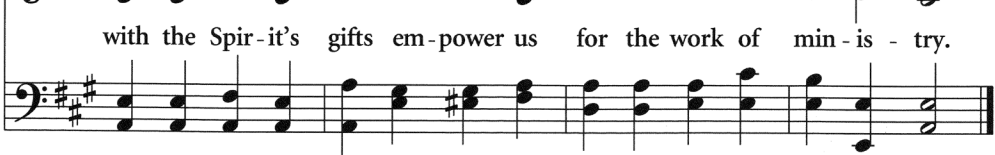
Lest the church ne-glect its mis-sion, and the gos-pel go un-heard,
That the world may trust Your prom-ise, life a-bun-dant meant for each,
Let us all, for earth's true glo-ry, dai-ly lift life heav-en-ward,
Yet we hoard as pri-vate trea-sure all that You so free-ly give.
Faith and hope and love re-stor-ing, may we serve as You in-tend,



help us wit-ness to Your pur-pose with re-newed in-teg-ri-ty;
give us all new fer-vor, draw us clos-er in com-mu-ni-ty;
ask-ing that the world a-round us share Your chil-dren's lib-er-ty;
May Your care and mer-cy lead us to a just so-ci-e-ty;
and, a-mid the cares that claim us, hold in mind e-ter-ni-ty;

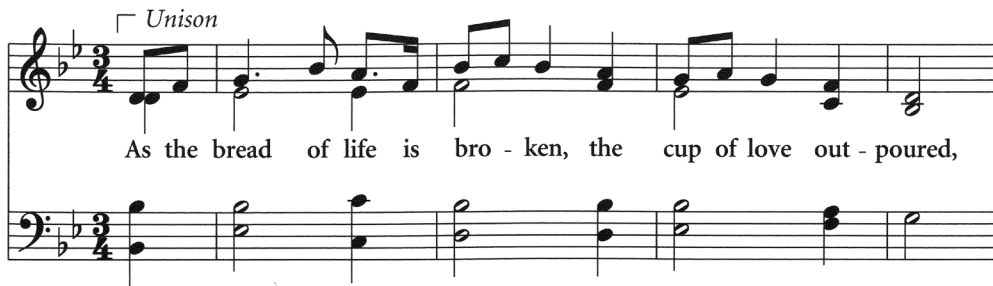


with the Spir-it's gifts em-power us for the work of min-is-try.



We Are One in Christ

Unison

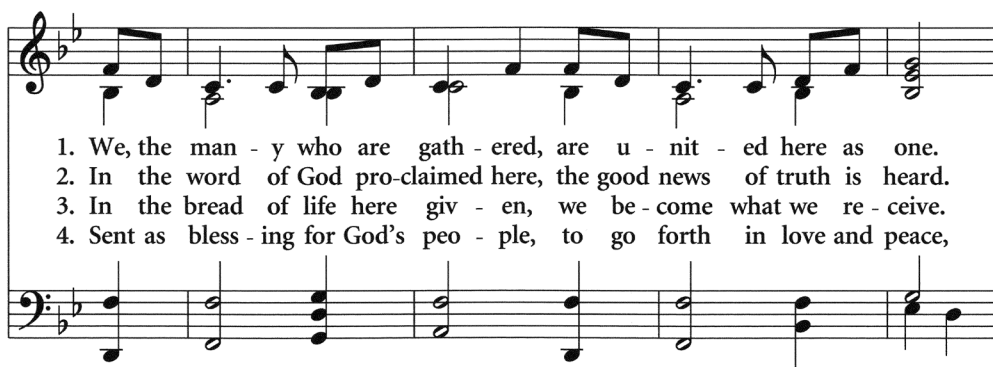


As the bread of life is bro - ken, the cup of love out - poured,

Fine

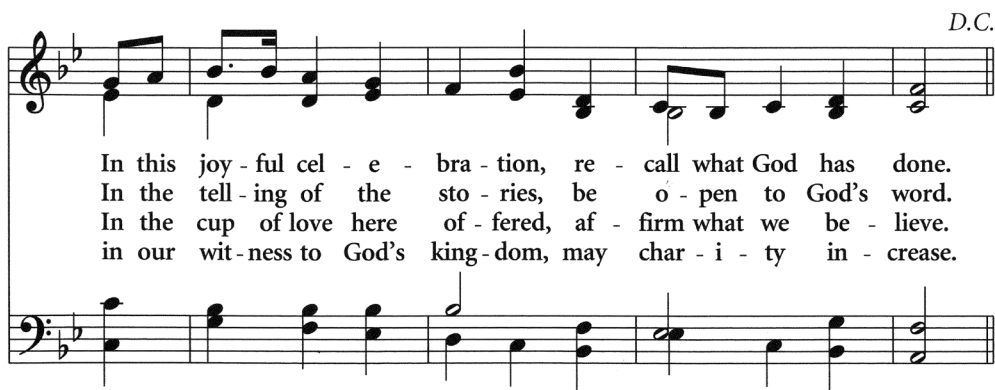


we are one in Christ, our Sav - ior, and sent to serve the Lord.



1. We, the man - y who are gath - ered, are u - nit - ed here as one.
2. In the word of God pro-claimed here, the good news of truth is heard.
3. In the bread of life here giv - en, we be - come what we re - ceive.
4. Sent as bless - ing for God's peo - ple, to go forth in love and peace,

D.C.

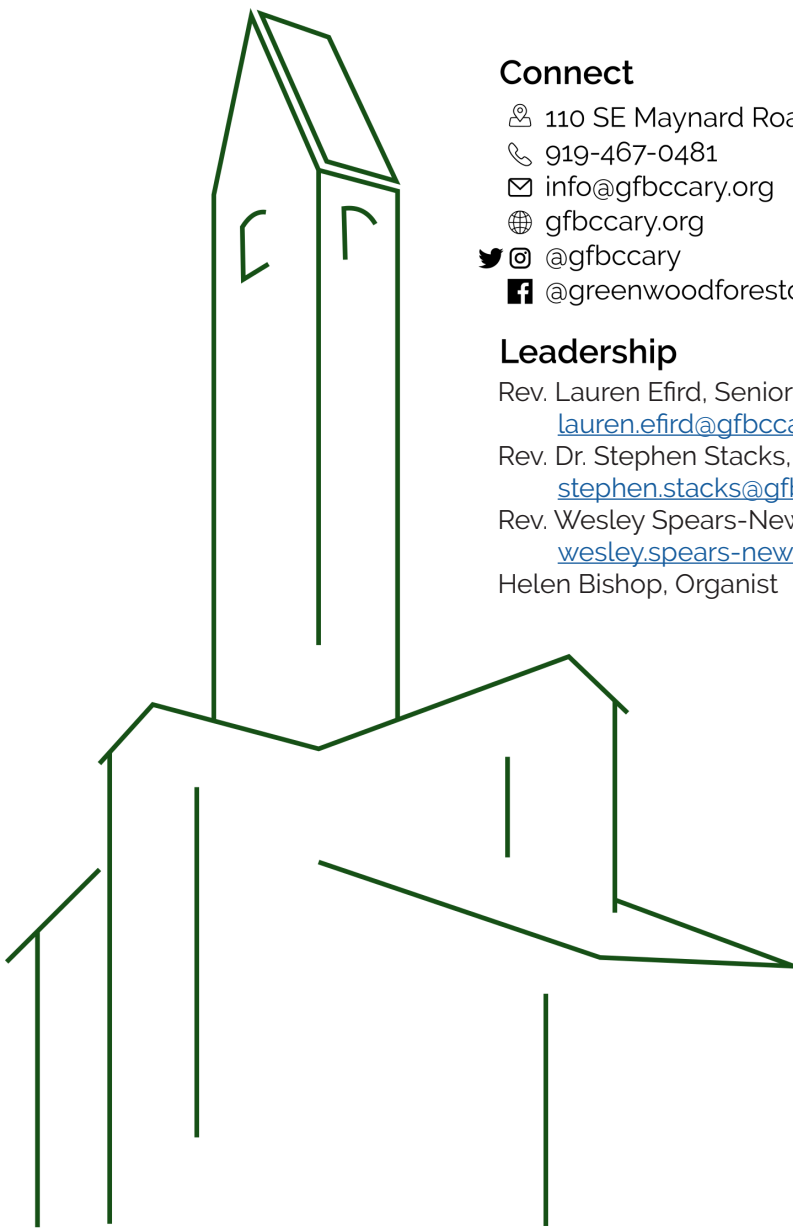


In this joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion, re - call what God has done.
In the tell - ing of the sto - ries, be o - pen to God's word.
In the cup of love here of - fered, af - firm what we be - lieve.
in our wit - ness to God's king - dom, may char - i - ty in - crease.

Anthem If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me,
keep my commandments,
and I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may bide with you forever,
e'en the spirit of truth.



Connect

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Leadership

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Helen Bishop, Organist

