



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

July 23, 2023



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Bulletin Art Song of Songs (Day)

Elena Kotliarker

"I'm glad to introduce you to my vision of Song of Songs. The composition is divided into two parts: the 'Song of Songs (Day)' and the 'Song of Songs (Night)'. In Scripture, the Song of Songs is unique in its celebration of sexual love. It gives 'the voices of two lovers, praising each other, yearning for each other, proffering invitations to enjoy.' The 'daughters of Jerusalem' form a chorus to the lovers, functioning as an audience whose participation in the lovers' erotic encounters facilitates the participation of the reader." (from Kotliarker's description)

Elena Kotliarker was born in Kiev, Ukraine and studied at the Spiritual Art Academy of Kiev. She currently lives in Israel and regularly exhibits art in Tel Aviv. You can find more of her art at elenakotliarker.com.



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.

CONTENTS

- 3 | Announcements
- 4 | Community Notes
- 5 | Order of Worship
- 7 | Songbook

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

Welcome Dr. Rose Cornelious!



Dr. Rose Cornelious has been a longtime friend of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church since her days at Dorcas Ministries in Cary. Dr. Cornelious is now the President of the Morrisville

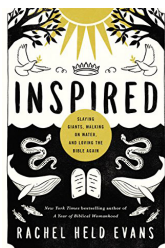
Chamber of Commerce and sits on the Strategy Team for ONE Wake alongside Rev. Spears-Newsome and other Wake County leaders. We're excited to welcome her back into our pulpit today!

Summer Program

The Neighborhood Summer Program happens every summer for local kids. The program offers food (breakfast and lunch) and summer enrichment activities for children of all ages. Greenwood Forest members serve as volunteers to help on Thursdays during the summer and you can sign up at fbccary.org/summer. Ask Wes if you need any more information!

Summer Book Club!

Rev. Lauren Efird will be leading a 4-week summer book club at Bond Brothers Beer



Company on the book *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. Sessions will be on Aug. 9, 16, 23, and Sept. 6 at 4:30pm. If you're interested, please RSVP at fbccary.org/inspired.

Help Stop LGBTQ Discrimination in NC

During the last legislative session, three bills targeting transgender and other LGBTQ people passed the NC General Assembly: a ban on trans athletes in women's sports (HB574), a "Don't Say Gay" bill (SB49), and a ban on gender-affirming care (HB808). All three were vetoed by the governor. If you'd like to help prevent those bills from overcoming the veto, write or call your state senator **and** state representative (regardless of party) and urge them to vote against these bills. You can find your legislators and how to contact them at ncleg.gov/findyourlegislators. If you need a form letter to guide you, you can find one at ncisready.org/2023bills.

Christmas in July

We are participating with a Christmas in July donation drive with our partner Dorcas Ministries. Each week you can bring a different item with you to church to donate to Dorcas! **This week, we are collecting toothpaste and toothbrushes.** There's a festive box outside the office for you to drop off your donations on Sundays!

Budget Presentation

Mark your calendars! We will have a budget presentation over lunch on August 20 at 12 pm, following worship. We will have a regular business meeting to vote on the budget on August 27 at 2pm.

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
Laura Crook
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Debra Davis (friend of Susan Beck)
Elaine Dodson
Stephanie Fancher (friend of Gerry Ritter)
Vanna Fox
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)
Aaliyah Murray
Fred Seeger
Our partners at Ebenezer Baptist in Cuba

Thank You Note

Dear GFBC Friends,

Your many cards, emails, stops by the office, and even attendance at my mother's funeral brought me so much comfort. I am so grateful to work for this warm and caring church family. I will always remember your love for me during this difficult time in my family's life.

Karen Burden,
GFBC Church Office Administrator



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:

Neighborhood Summer Program

The Neighborhood Summer Program meets the needs of neighborhood children through both food and summer enrichment. For children on the traditional school calendar, summer can be a time without food provided at school as well as learning. This year, over 100 participants are benefiting from this partnership between GFBC, the Kirk of Kildaire, Cary Presbyterian, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Without your gifts, none of this work is possible!

Order of Worship 8th Sunday after Pentecost

✝ 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 | *Jesus Loves Me* | arr. Sandy Wilkinson

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (1 Cor. 13) | Rev. Spears-Newsome

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love,

I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love,

I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love,

I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind;

love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way;

it is not irritable;

it keeps no record of wrongs;

it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

Invocation | Rev. Spears-Newsome

✝ **Hymn** | *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* (pg. 7)

Today's color is **green**, representing growth and new life.

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 | *Andy Jarrell*

† **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. 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** | *The King of Love* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Song of Songs 1* | *Jazzmone Sutton*

The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *I Will Arise* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Dr. Rose Cornelious*

† **Hymn** | *Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

Postlude | *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* | *arr. Berry*

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!

Flower Dedication

The flowers are given today in honor of Fred and Marie Seeger's 70th wedding anniversary by the JOY Faith Formation Class.

O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

1. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, vast, un - meas - ured,
2. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, spread His praise from
3. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, love of ev - ery

bound - less, free, roll - ing as a might - y o - cean
shore to shore! He who loves us, ev - er loves us,
love the best, vast the o - cean of His bless - ing,

in its full - ness o - ver me! Un - der - neath me, all a - round me
chang - es nev - er, nev - er - more; He, who died to save His loved ones,
sweet the ha - ven of His rest! O the deep, deep love of Je - sus —

is the cur - rent of His love, lead - ing on - ward,
in - ter - cedes for them a - bove; He, who called them
for my heaven of heavens is He; this my ev - er -

lead - ing home - ward to that glo - rious rest a - bove.
His own peo - ple, watch - es o - ver them in love.
last - ing glo - ry — Je - sus' might - y love for me!

1. The King of love my Shep - herd is, whose
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
 3. Per - verse and fool - ish, oft I strayed, but
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill with
 5. And so through all the length of days Thy

good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 ran - somed soul He lead - eth, and, where the ver - dant
 yet in love He sought me, and on His shoul - der
 Thee, dear Lord, be - side me; Thy rod and staff my
 good - ness fail - eth nev - er: good Shep - herd, may I

I am His and He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gen - tly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.
 sing Thy praise with - in Thy house for - ev - er.

The King of Love

Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

Unison

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire, and have the
2. Though I may give all I pos - sess, and striv - ing
3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol, our spir - its

gift to all in - spire, and have not love,
so my love pro - fess, but not be given
long to be made whole. Let in - ward love

my words are vain, as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
by love with - in, the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
guide ev - ery deed; by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

Anthem | Will Arise

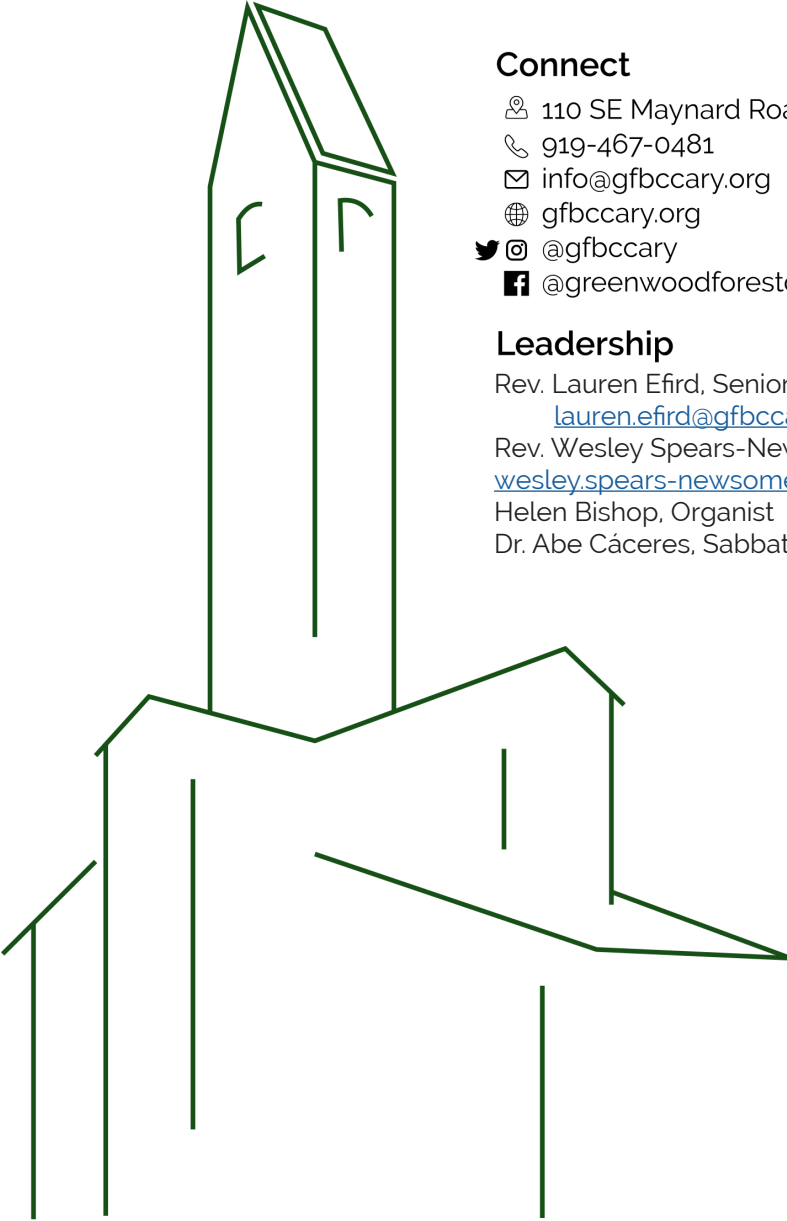
arr. Parker/Shaw

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in his arms,
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms!

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above,
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of thy redeeming love!

Come, thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace,
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise!

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in his arms,
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O, there are ten thousand charms!



Connect

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Leadership

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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Helen Bishop, Organist

Dr. Abe Cáceres, Sabbatical Worship Leader

