



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

July 30, 2023



Scan for Digital

***Bulletin Art* Vanitas Still Life**

Edwaert Collier

Just in front of the globe you see the Latin rendition of a word key to our biblical text for today: VANITAS. Vanitas, or vanity, is a theme in Ecclesiastes, which is known for its claim that "all is vanity." The painting by Edwaert Collier in 1662 is part of a sub-genre of still life paintings meant to express the principles of Ecclesiastes. The goal is to emphasize the limits of human life, the inevitability of death, and the futility of our activities. You'll notice that the table in the painting is strewn with the aspirations of the subject: a thick tome, musical instruments, finery, a quill, and a globe. Did the subject of the painting have ambitions of world travel? A musical career? A desire to write? Zeal for the finer things in life? In the end, none of it mattered, as the skull tucked behind the book suggests. In the end, all of it came to nothing because death comes for him. What does it mean to live in light of the inevitability of the end of life? What does it mean to find peace, satisfaction, and contentment in ephemeral things? Those are the kinds of questions these painters sought to provoke alongside the author of Ecclesiastes.



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

Stories of Vocation and Faith Returns in August

Back by popular demand! We are reprising the Stories of Vocation and Faith series by hearing more incredible lay people reflect on the intersection of their faith and work. This series was deeply meaningful in 2022 and we look forward to hearing from our friends in August:

Aug. 6: Susan Meador and Meg Spears-Newsome

Aug. 13: Blair Biser

Aug. 20: Kevin Schaefer

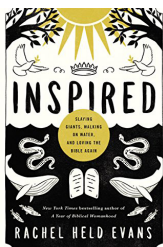
Aug. 27: Evan Owoc-Edwards

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 gfbccary.org/summer. Ask Wes if you need any more information!

Summer Book Club!

Rev. Lauren Efrid 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 gfbccary.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.

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.

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 cat and dog food.** There's a festive box outside the office for you to drop off your donations on Sundays!

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)
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



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 9th 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 | *Praise God the Lord* | Johann Gottfried Walther

Welcome to Worship | *Rev. Lauren Efrid*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Lam. 3:19-25) | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall!

My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind,

And therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

God's mercies never come to an end;

They are new every morning;

Great is your faithfulness!

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,

"Therefore I will hope in God."

God is good to those who wait for the Lord

God is good to the soul that seeks the Lord.

Invocation | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

† **Hymn** | *Great is Thy Faithfulness* (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 | *Anthony Warren*

† **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** | *O God, in a Mysterious Way (pg. 8)*

Reading | *Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8* | *Susan Meador*

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

Anthem | *To Love Our God (pg. 10)*

Sermon | *Everything is Vanity* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Just As I Am (pg. 9)* 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *Just As I Am* | *Philip Landgrave*

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 memory of Dean Ritter by Gerry Ritter.

Great is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God, my Fa-ther, there is no
2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with Thee; Thou chang-est not, Thy com-
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou for-ev-er wilt be.
man-i-fold wit-ness to Thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed, Thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

O God, in a Mysterious Way

1 O God, in a mys - te - rious way great won - ders you per - form.
2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill,
3 O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take. The clouds you so much dread
4 Our un - be - lief is sure to err and scan your work in vain.

You plant your foot - steps in the sea and ride up - on the storm.
you trea - sure up your bright de - signs and work your sov - ereign will.
are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
You are your own in - ter - pret - er, and you will make it plain.

Just As I Am

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,
4 Just as I am, thy love un-known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me
con - flict, man - ya doubt, fight - ings and fears with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise
ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

come to thee,
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!
I be - lieve, thine a - lone,

Anthem To Love Our God

arr. Mark Hayes

Where does the wind come from?
Where does it go?
Blowing north and south
How does it know?

Oh, where does the wind come from?
Oh, where does it go?
Blowing north and south
How does it know?

The rain flows gently to the sea
Yet the sea is never full
How can these things be?
How can these things be?
How can they be?

Humanity works hard to make a name
Toiling in the sun yet nothing gained
We all return to dust from whence we came
All is empty
All is vain

To love our God
The reason we live
To love our God
The highest call

Nothing satisfies our soul
Gives life meaning, makes us whole
For this purpose we were made
To love our God
To love our God
The reason that we live is to love our God

To love our God
The reason we live
To love our God
The highest call

Nothing satisfies our soul
Gives life meaning, makes us whole
For this purpose we were made
To love our God!



Connect

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Leadership

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Helen Bishop, Organist

Dr. Abe Cáceres, Sabbatical Worship Leader
