



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

August 6, 2023



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art A Season for Everything

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome using Adobe Firefly

The tree stands with an impossible array of different leaves all in different stages of growth representing the seasons of the year and the seasons of the tree's lifecycle. The branches grow and express each season, experiencing all of them and shunning none of them, as the Teacher in Ecclesiastes describes our lives.



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

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

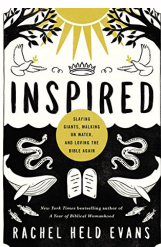
Aug. 27: Evan Owoc-Edwards

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.

Budget Presentation

Mark your calendars! We will have a budget presentation over lunch on 8/20 at 12 pm, following worship. We will have a regular business meeting to vote on the budget and nominating slate on 8/27 at 2pm.

Join the Handbell Choir!

The handbell choir is recruiting new ringers for the Fall! All levels of experience and musical abilities are welcome. Rehearsals will start in September. Please contact Natalie Patten (nhpatten@gmail.com) if you are interested or have questions.

Cary Council Candidate Assembly at GFBC 9/18

Join hundreds of leaders from religious institutions, non-profits, and neighborhoods across Cary to publicly meet with candidates for Cary Town Council. The fall election represents a major opportunity to win commitments from candidates, including:

- supporting fair compensation for the 140+ families likely to be displaced from the Chatham Estates mobile home community;
- ensuring that the redevelopment of town campus includes a substantial percentage of affordable housing;
- renewing or expanding the \$9 million affordable housing fund that ONE Wake was instrumental in winning last year;
- support as needed for ONE Wake member institutions in Cary that are developing affordable housing on church owned land.

RSVP at gfbccary.org/onewake.

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
Mary George Brewer
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)
Anjar Hossain (friend of Kevin Schaefer)
Tony Izador (family of Roz Slawson)
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)
Fred Seeger
Eddie Stewart (friend of Diana Morde)
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:

Faith Formation at GFBC

Faith Formation at GFBC takes many forms. We gather on Sunday mornings for regular Faith Formation classes. Sometimes, like this month of August, we come together for churchwide Faith Formation. Our children gather in the Rainbow Room, Wonder Room, and Youth House for their own special times of discipleship. Small groups and special studies also provide opportunities, like the one Rev. Efirid is leading on Rachel Held Evans' book *Inspired* the next several weeks. **Without your gifts, none of this work is possible!**

Order of Worship 10th 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 | *Touch the Earth Lightly* | arr. Albert Mendoza

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efirid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Ps. 145:14-21) | Rev. Spears-Newsome

The LORD upholds all who are falling,

And raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you,

And you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand,

Satisfying the desire of every living thing.

You are just in all your ways,

And kind in all your doings.

You are near to all who call on you,

To all who call on you in truth.

You fulfill the desire of all who fear you;

You also hear their cry, and save them.

You watch over all who love you,

But all the wicked you will destroy.

My mouth will speak your praise,

And all flesh will bless your holy name forever and ever.

Invocation | Rev. Spears-Newsome

† **Hymn** | *For the Beauty of the Earth* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Tim Carr

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.

† **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** | *In the Bulb There is a Flower* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Ecclesiastes 3* | *PJ Harris*

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

Anthem | *Turn! Turn! Turn!* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *For Everything There is a Season* | *Rev. Efir*

Communion | *Rev. Efir* 📖

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** | *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* (pg. 9)

Benediction | *Rev. Efir*

Postlude | *This is my Father's World* | *arr. Lloyd Larson*

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.

For the Beauty of the Earth

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in six numbered lines, with the first line of each system containing the first two lines of the numbered text.

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
4. For the church that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
5. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
6. For Thy - self, best Gift Di - vine! to our world so free - ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
of - fering up on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
for that great, great love of Thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the Bulb There is a Flower

Unison

1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2. There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

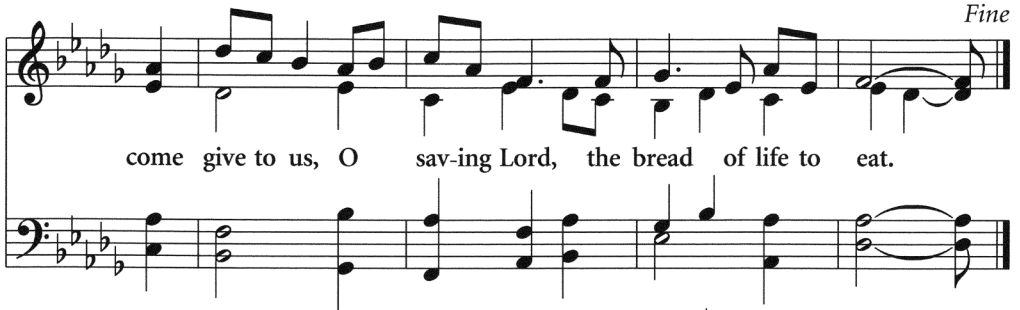
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Unison

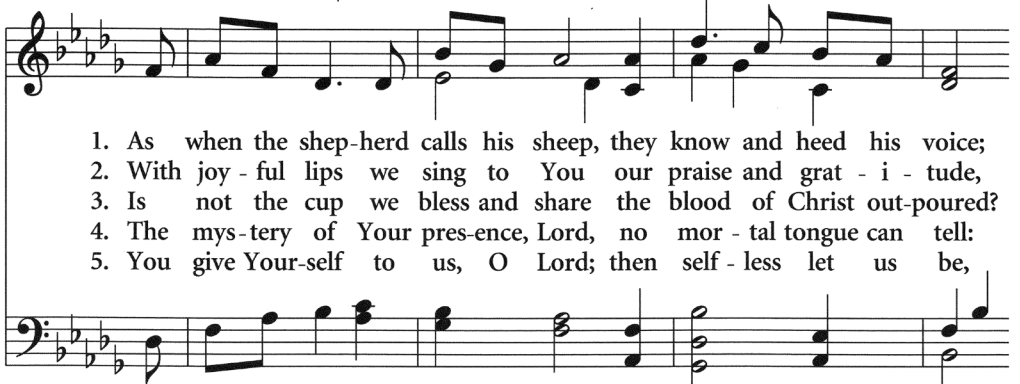


You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin-est wheat;

Fine

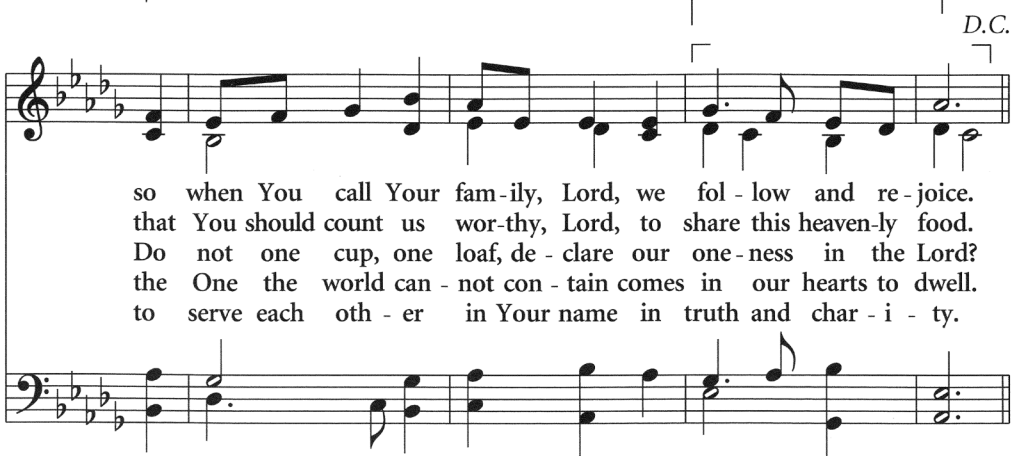


come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



1. As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
2. With joy-ful lips we sing to You our praise and grat-i-tude,
3. Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
4. The mys-tery of Your pres-ence, Lord, no mor-tal tongue can tell:
5. You give Your-self to us, O Lord; then self-less let us be,

D.C.



so when You call Your fam-ily, Lord, we fol-low and re-joice.
that You should count us wor-thy, Lord, to share this heav-en-ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de-clare our one-ness in the Lord?
the One the world can-not con-tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth-er in Your name in truth and char-i-ty.

Anthem Turn! Turn! Turn!

Pete Seeger // The Byrds

*To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose under heaven*

A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep

A time to build up, a time to break down
A time to dance, a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones
A time to gather stones together

A time of love, a time of hate
A time of war, a time of peace
A time you may embrace
A time to refrain from embracing

A time to gain, a time to lose
A time to rain, a time to sow
A time for love, a time for hate
A time for peace, I swear it's not too late



Connect

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Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Dr. Abe Cáceres, Sabbatical Worship Leader

