



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

August 13, 2023



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## Current Series: Unassimilated

The Book of Daniel

August 13-27, we'll be diving into stories from the Book of Daniel. Daniel takes place after the Babylonian Empire conquers Jerusalem and deports many of its residents. We'll be hearing the stories of deported Jewish heroes, including Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah and how they rejected the empire's attempts to assimilate them.

August 13: The Royal Rations

August 20: The Fiery Furnace

August 27: The Lion's Den

## Bulletin Art: The Flight of the Prisoners

James Jacques Joseph Tissot (d. 1902);  
extended by Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

This French painting depicts the exile and deportation of the Jewish people from Jerusalem following the Babylonian conquest. Daniel and his companions find themselves in Babylon as a result of this conquest.



**Greenwood Forest**  
Baptist Church

**an inclusive  
community  
of faith**

# Welcome

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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](http://gfbccary.org)



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



[@gfbccary](https://twitter.com/gfbccary)



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# Announcements Church Events and Updates

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## Stories of Vocation and Faith Returns in August

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. Here's who's up next:

Aug. 13: Blair Biser (in Sanctuary)

Aug. 20: Kevin Schaefer (in Fellowship Hall)

Aug. 27: Evan Owoc-Edwards (in Fellowship Hall)

## Cary Council Candidate Assembly at GFBC 9/18

Join hundreds of neighbors across Cary to publicly meet with candidates for Town Council. The fall election represents a major opportunities 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 affordable housing;
- renewing or expanding the \$9 million affordable housing fund we won last year;
- support for ONE Wake member institutions in Cary that are developing affordable housing on church-owned land.

RSVP at [gfbccary.org/onewake](http://gfbccary.org/onewake).

## Budget Presentation

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](mailto:nhpatten@gmail.com)) if you are interested or have questions.

## Backpack Buddies

The Backpack Buddies ministry will again deliver food bags weekly to children at Farmington Woods and Briarcliff Elementary Schools this year. Your donations to the Backpack Buddies fund are appreciated and make this possible.

We will be packing bags the first Tuesday of each month at 11:00am starting on September 5. If you'd like to receive a reminder before each packing date, email Judy Vaccaro at [judyvaccaro@gmail.com](mailto:judyvaccaro@gmail.com). Packing takes about an hour and there is no commitment, just come on the dates that fit your schedule. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.

## Work Anniversary

On August 15th we celebrate Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks 11th anniversary of serving as our Associate Pastor of Worship and Faith Formation. If you've attended a churchwide Faith Formation or retreat led by Stephen, you've experienced his gift of teaching and his value of education in our faith journey. If you've sung in the choir or participated in creating music for worship you've heard his skill at bringing out our best. Stephen is on a well-earned sabbatical the next several weeks. Take a moment to say a prayer of thanksgiving and rejuvenation for Stephen while he is away. We look forward to his return.

# 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  
Bess Averde  
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)  
Brett Guenther (family of Valerie Brooks)  
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](http://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 11th 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** | *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* | arr. Anna Laura Page

**Welcome to Worship** | Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (Ps. 137)** | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down,  
**And there we wept, when we remembered Zion.**

On the willows there we hung up our harps.

**For there our captors asked us for songs,**  
and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,  
**“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”**

How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?

**If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!**

Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do  
not remember you,

**if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.**

**Invocation** | Rev. Spears-Newsome

† **Hymn** | *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* (pg. 7)

**Offertory Prayer** | Carol Carter

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** | *He Leadeth Me* (pg. 8)

**Reading** | *Daniel 1* | *Johnny Jackson*

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

**Anthem** | *His Eye is on the Sparrow* (pg. 10)

**Sermon** | *The Royal Rations* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* (pg. 9) 📖

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efird*

**Postlude** | *Oh, For a Thousand Tongues* | *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.

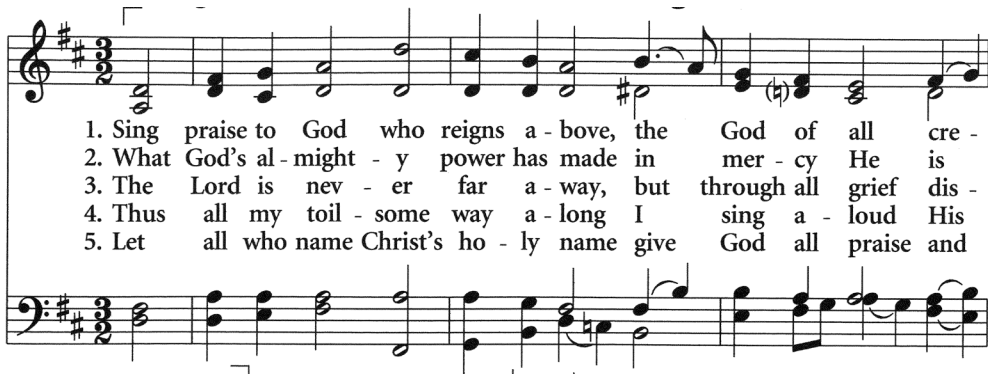
**Final Hymn: An Invitation**

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!

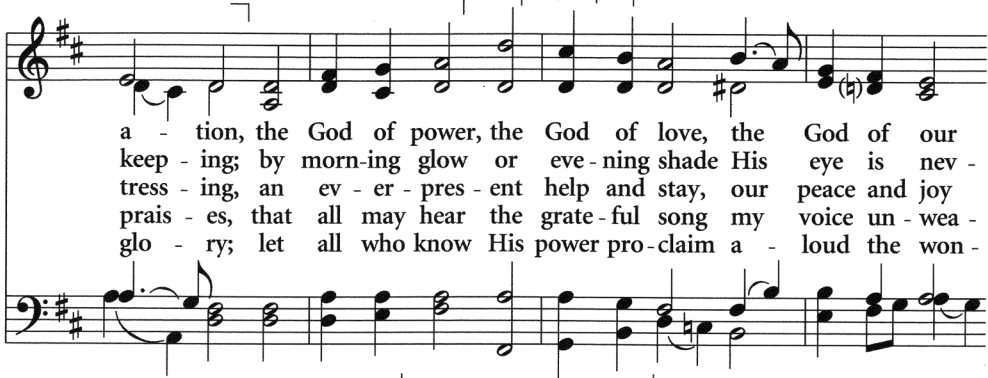
**Flower Dedication**

The flowers are given today in honor of Randy and Janice Medford's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

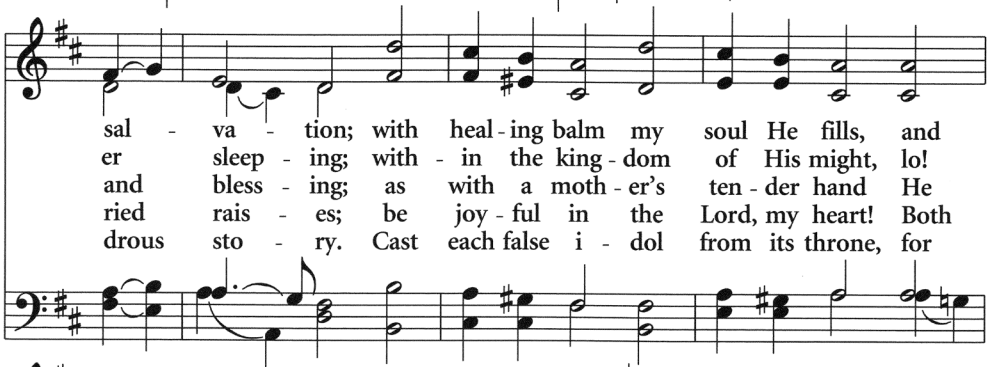
# Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above



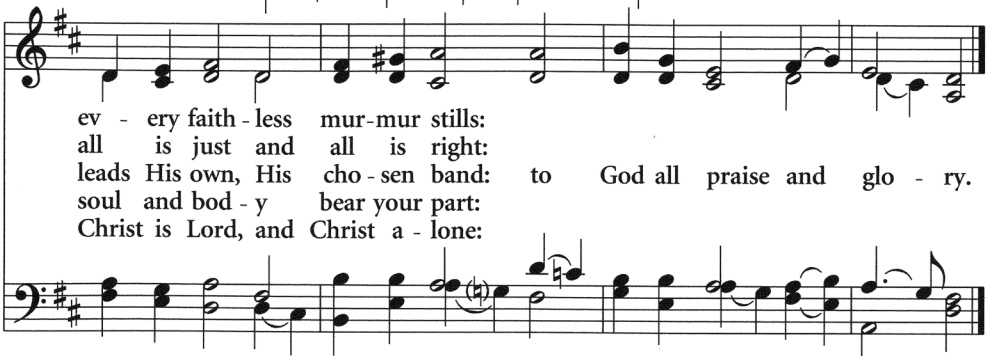
1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -  
2. What God's al - might - y power has made in mer - cy He is  
3. The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but through all grief dis -  
4. Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud His  
5. Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God all praise and



a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our  
keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade His eye is nev -  
tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay, our peace and joy  
prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song my voice un - wea -  
glo - ry; let all who know His power pro - claim a - loud the won -



sal - va - tion; with heal - ing balm my soul He fills, and  
er sleep - ing; with - in the king - dom of His might, lo!  
and bless - ing; as with a moth - er's ten - der hand He  
ried rais - es; be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart! Both  
drous sto - ry. Cast each false i - dol from its throne, for



ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stills:  
all is just and all is right:  
leads His own, His cho - sen band: to God all praise and glo - ry.  
soul and bod - y bear your part:  
Christ is Lord, and Christ a - lone:



1. He lead - eth me! O bless - ed thought! O words with heaven - ly  
 2. Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur  
 3. And when my task on earth is done, when, by Thy grace, the

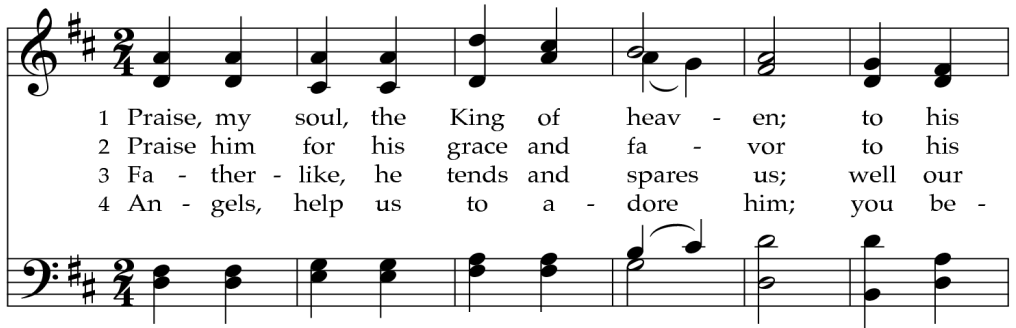
com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I be, still  
 nor re - pine, con - tent, what - ev - er lot I see, since  
 vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since

'tis God's hand that lead - eth me!  
 'tis Thy hand that lead - eth me! He lead - eth me, He  
 God through Jor - dan lead - eth me!


lead - eth me, by His own hand He lead - eth me: His

# He Leadeth Me

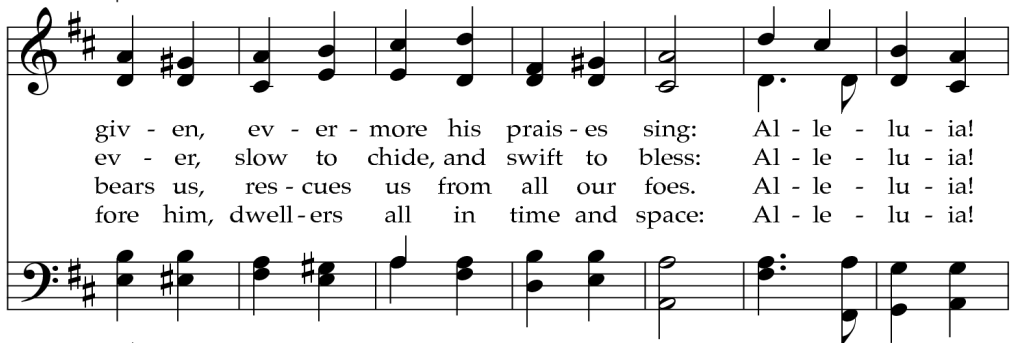
# Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



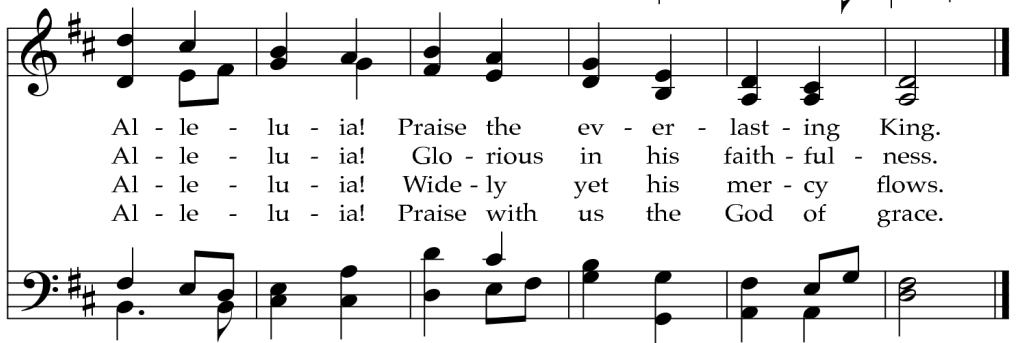
1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his  
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his  
3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our  
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be -



feet your trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for -  
peo - ple in dis - tress; praise him still the same as  
fee - ble frame he knows; in his hands he gent - ly  
hold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be -



giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia!  
ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia!  
bears us, res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!  
fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

# **Anthem** His Eye is on the Sparrow

arr. Evans

Why should I feel discouraged,  
Why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely,  
And long for heav'n and home;  
When Jesus is my portion?  
My constant Friend is he;  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know he watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know he watches me.

*I sing because I'm happy,  
I sing because I'm free;  
For his eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know he watches me.*

"Let not your heart be troubled,"  
His tender word I hear,  
And resting on his goodness,  
I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path he leadeth,  
But one step I may see;  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know he watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know he watches me.

Whenever I am tempted,  
Whenever clouds arise;  
When songs give place to sighing,  
When hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to him,  
From care he sets me free;  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know he watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know he watches me.



## Connect

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🌐 [gfbccary.org](http://gfbccary.org)

🐦 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

[lauren.efird@gfbccary.org](mailto:lauren.efird@gfbccary.org)

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

[wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org)

Helen Bishop, Organist

Dr. Abe Cáceres, Sabbatical Worship Leader

