



# Greenwood Forest

## Baptist Church

August 27, 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***

Lions painted in the Chauvet Cave (Ardèche, France). This is a replica of the painting from the Brno museum Anthropos (Czech Republic).



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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## 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](http://gfbccary.org)



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



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# Announcements Church Events and Updates

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## Vocation & Faith Series

We'll conclude our Vocation and Faith series in the Fellowship Hall this Sunday (8/27) with Evan Owoc-Edwards. Join us downstairs at 9:45am!

## Business Meeting at 2pm

We will have a regular business meeting to vote on the budget and nominating slate on 8/27 at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 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 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).

## Wonder Room and Rainbow Room Open House (September 17)

We'll have a special open house for new families with children in the Rainbow Room (preschool and nursery) and the Wonder Room (K-5) on September 17th at 9:45am! If there's been someone you've wanted to invite to church with children, this would be a great week to do that! We'll have donuts available and a picnic lunch after worship (12pm) for families to play and get to know each other.

# 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)  
The Family of Vanna Fox at her death  
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](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 13th 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** | *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* | arr. Labenske

**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. 46)** | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

God is our refuge and strength,

**A very present help in trouble.**

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

**Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

Though its waters roar and foam,

**Though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

**The holy habitation of the Most High.**

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

**God will help it when the morning dawns.**

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;

**God speaks, the earth melts.**

The LORD of hosts is with us;

**the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

God makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

**God breaks the bow, shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.**

"Be still, and know that I am God!

**I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."**

The LORD of hosts is with us;

**the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

**Invocation** | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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.

**Backpack Blessing** | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *A Mighty Fortress is Our God (pg. 7)*

**Offertory Prayer** | *Steve Denning*

† **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** | *Guide My Feet (pg. 8)*

**Reading** | *Daniel 6 | Al Whitehouse*

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

**Anthem** | *The Storm is Passing Over (pg. 10)*

**Sermon** | *The Lion's Den | Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *God of Grace and God of Glory (pg. 9)* 📖

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efird*

**Postlude** | *Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit | arr. Mendoza*

## 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.

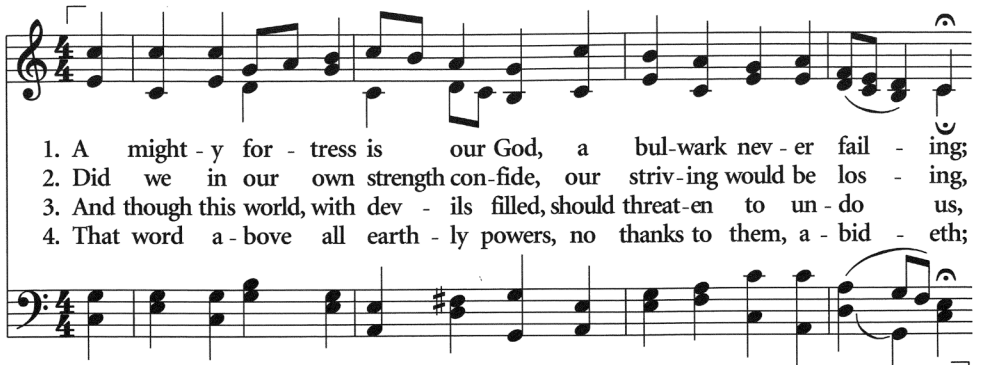
## The Prayers of the People

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.

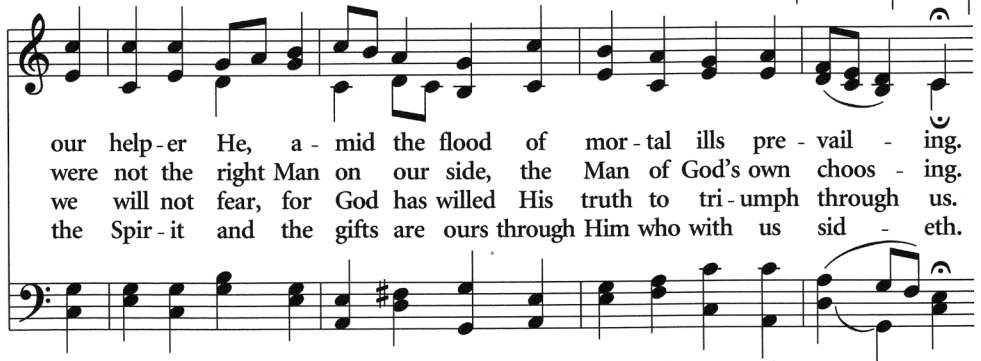
## Final Hymn: An Invitation

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!

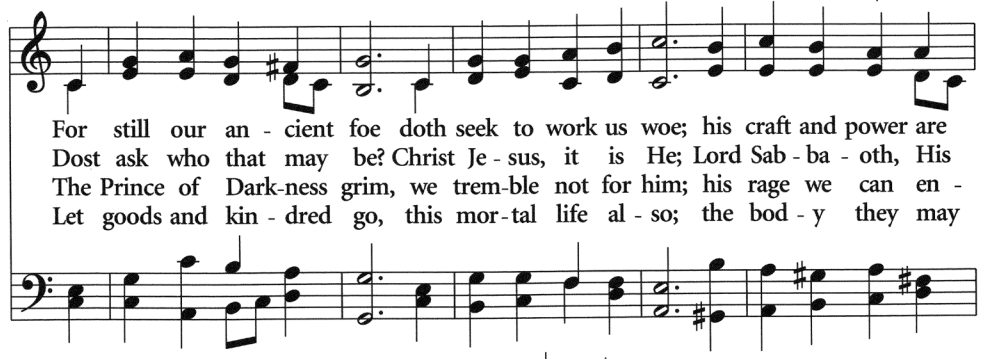
# A Mighty Fortress is Our God



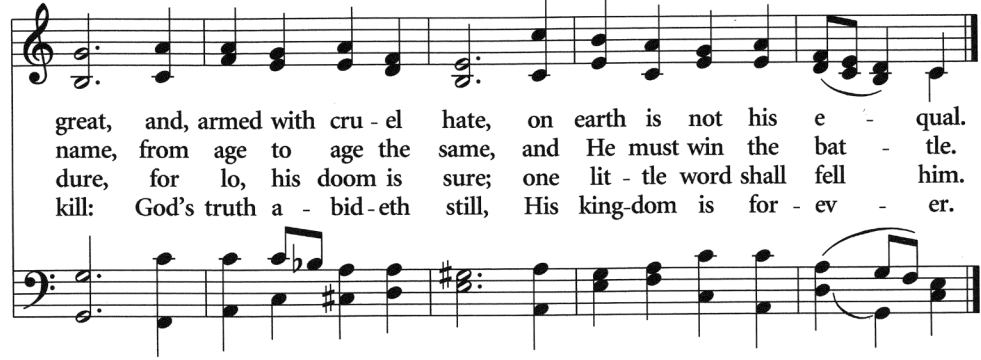
1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er fail - ing;  
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, our striv-ing would be los - ing,  
3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat-en to un - do us,  
4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



our help-er He, a - mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre - vail - ing.  
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choos - ing.  
we will not fear, for God has willed His truth to tri-umph through us.  
the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sid - eth.



For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He; Lord Sab - ba - oth, His  
The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we trem-ble not for him; his rage we can en -  
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor-tal life al - so; the bod - y they may



great, and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
name, from age to age the same, and He must win the bat - tle.  
dure, for lo, his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
kill: God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king-dom is for - ev - er.



# Guide My Feet

1. Guide my feet  
2. Hold my hand  
3. Stand by me  
4. Search my heart

while I run this race,

yes, my Lord!

guide my feet  
hold my hand  
stand by me  
search my heart

while I run this race,

yes, my Lord!

guide my feet  
hold my hand  
stand by me  
search my heart

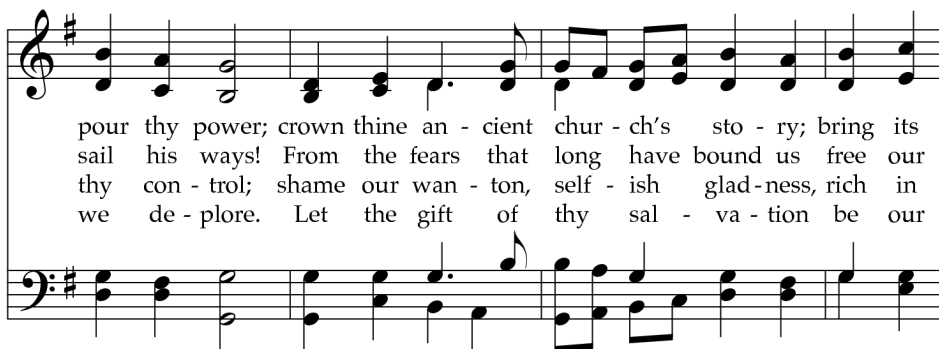
while I run this race, for I

don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

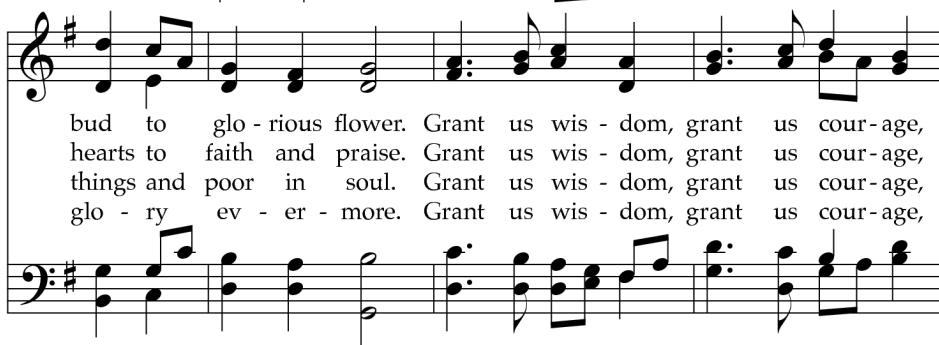
# God of Grace and God of Glory



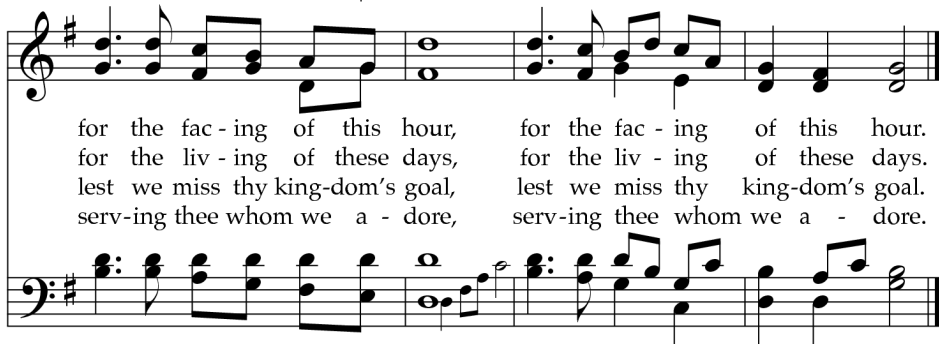
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -  
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its  
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our  
thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in  
we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our



bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

# **Anthem** The Storm is Passing Over

arr. Baker

Have courage, my soul, and let us journey on,  
Tho' the night is dark and I am far from home.  
Thanks be to God, the morning light appears.

The storm is passing over,  
The storm is passing over,  
The storm is passing over,  
Hallelujah!



## Connect

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☎ 919-467-0481

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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

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