



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

Sept. 3, 2023



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art

The art comes from the cover of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's book "The Sabbath" and depicts the world as God made it in the Book of Genesis.



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



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.

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. 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) if you are interested.

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.

Deacon Ordination 9/10

We'll be thanking our outgoing deacons and welcoming our incoming deacons in worship on September 10! Welcome Ken Scott and Natalie Patten to the Deacon Board. We'll be ordaining Natalie as a deacon in worship next week.

The board for the upcoming year includes:

Steve Denning, Chair
Tim Carr, At-Large
Carol Carter, Congregational Care
Andy Jarrell, Personnel
Natalie Patten, At-Large
Ken Scott, Finance
Sally Shaver, At-Large

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 Averre
Gilles Bikindou
Mary George Brewer
Valerie Brooks
Laura Crook
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)
Elaine Dodson
Stephanie Fancher (friend of Gerry Ritter)
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:

Children's and Youth Ministries

As our younger members return to school, it's a great time to give thanks for our Children's and Youth Ministries! Our children meet in the Rainbow Room (Nursery and Preschool) and the Wonder Room (K-5) on Sunday mornings in creative and discovery-oriented spaces. Our youth meet in what they christened The Youth House for Faith Formation on Sunday mornings and for Alpha & Omega (youth group) on Sunday afternoons. Our kids are amazing participants in our community and **your gifts make their formation possible!**

Order of Worship 14th 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 | *My Faith Has Found a Resting Place* | arr. Wyrzten

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 (Isaiah 55:1-3a) | *Lou Owoc-Edwards*

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;

And you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

Without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

And your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;

Listen, so that you may live.

Invocation | *Lou Owoc-Edwards*

† **Hymn** | *Come Away From Rush and Hurry* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | *Tim Carr*

† **Doxology** | *Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH* 📖

Transcendent God, we bless your name,

Incarnate Christ, the risen one,

The Spirit with us, Immanent,

The Source, the Word, the Breath of Life! Amen.

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.

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 | *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** | *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Matthew 11:28-30* | *Chris Beal*
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Slow Me Down* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *The Wild-Built Palace* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

† **Hymn** | *Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face* 📖
(vv. 1-3, pg. 9)

Benediction | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

Postlude | *Be Still My Soul* | *arr. Labenske*

The Prayers of the People

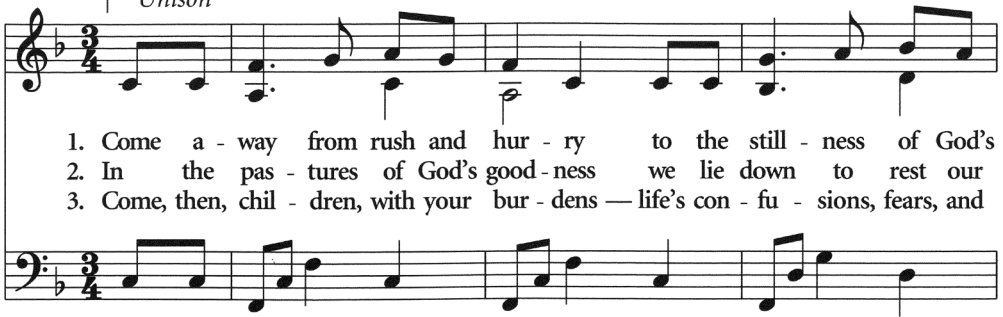
This prayer typically has five parts: a confession, prayers for the earth, prayers for the world, prayers for the church, and prayers for those with needs in our own community.

Final Hymn: An Invitation

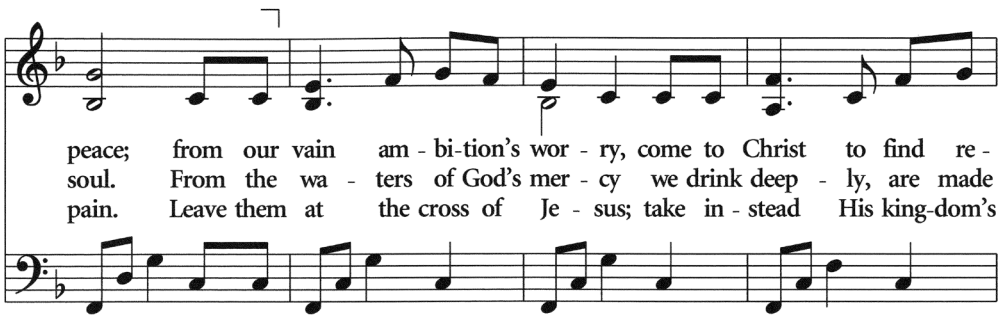
During the final hymn, if you'd like to join our community at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, we invite you to come forward to the altar. When you come forward, you'll be greeted by a minister and a deacon who will then introduce you to the congregation after the hymn. Welcome!

7 Come Away from Rush and Hurry

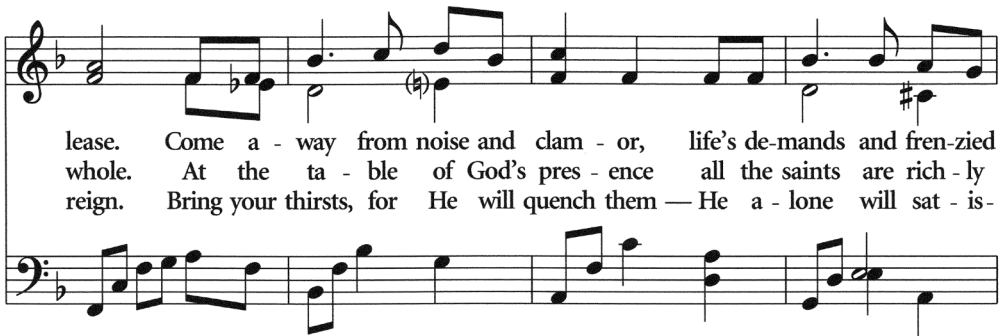
Unison



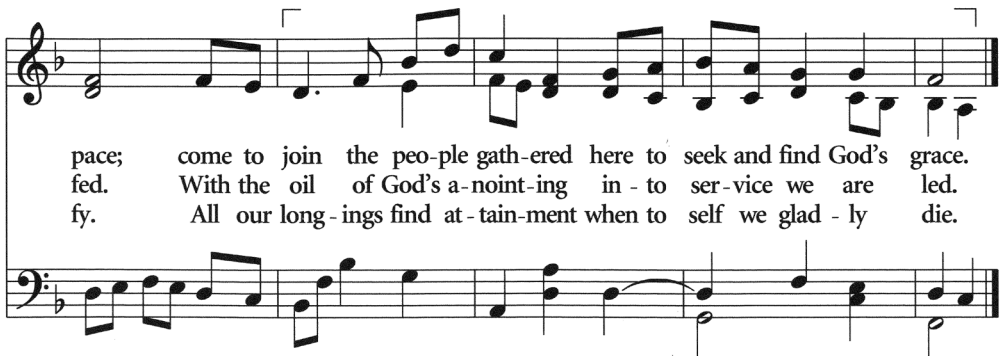
1. Come a - way from rush and hur - ry to the still - ness of God's
2. In the pas - tures of God's good - ness we lie down to rest our
3. Come, then, chil - dren, with your bur - dens — life's con - fu - sions, fears, and



peace; from our vain am - bi-tion's wor - ry, come to Christ to find re -
soul. From the wa - ters of God's mer - cy we drink deep - ly, are made
pain. Leave them at the cross of Je - sus; take in - stead His king-dom's



lease. Come a - way from noise and clam - or, life's de-mands and fren-zied
whole. At the ta - ble of God's pres - ence all the saints are rich - ly
reign. Bring your thirsts, for He will quench them — He a - lone will sat - is -



pace; come to join the peo-ple gath-ered here to seek and find God's grace.
fed. With the oil of God's a-noint-ing in - to ser-vi-ce we are led.
fy. All our long-ings find at-tain-ment when to self we glad - ly die.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to Me and rest;
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's Light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on My breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, stoop down and drink, and live."
look un - to Me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, wea - ry, and worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in Him my Star, my Sun;

I found in Him a rest - ing - place, and He has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in Him.
and in that Light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

1. Here, O my Lord, I see You face to face;
 2. This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
 3. Here would I feed up - on the bread of God,
 4. Too soon we rise; the sym - bols dis - ap - pear;
 5. Feast af - ter feast thus comes and pass - es by;

here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;
 this is the heaven - ly ta - ble spread for me;
 here drink a - new the roy - al wine of heaven;
 the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.
 yet, pass - ing, points to that glad feast a - bove,

here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,
 here let me feast, and feast - ing, still pro - long
 here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
 The bread and wine re - move; but You are here,
 giv - ing sweet fore - taste of the fes - tal joy,

and all my wea - ri - ness up - on You lean.
 the hour of fel - low - ship so rich and free.
 here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - given.
 near - er than ev - er, still my shield and sun.
 the Lamb's great bri - dal feast of bliss and love.

Anthem Slow Me Down

arr. The Porter's Gate

O good shepherd, would you teach me how to rest
I'm rushing on, will you make me to lie down
Will you build a fold by the waters that refresh
Will you call my name and lead me safely out?

From my anxious drive to labor on and on
From the restless grind that has put my mind to sleep
Will you call me back and gently slow me down
Will you show me now what to lose and what to keep

O Good Shepherd, O Good friend slow me down.
O Good Shepherd, O Good friend slow me down.

When my table's bent with only greed and gold
And my grasping hands are afraid you won't provide
Will you pour the wine that loosens up my hold
Set your table here with what truly satisfies

On the busy streets trying to make myself a name
If the work is yours, there is nothing I can claim
Will you lead home to the pastures of your peace
The house is yours, I'm sitting at your feet



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

