



*Christ dividing the sheep from the goats. Mosaic. Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna, Italy, 6th century*



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

Nov. 26, 2023



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# Advent and Christmas

## **November 26**

Reign of Christ and Souper Love Feast (11am)

## **December 3**

Advent I Worship (11am)

## **December 10**

Advent II Worship (11am)

## **December 17**

Christmas Breakfast (9:45am)  
Service of Lessons and Carols (11am)

## **December 20**

Service of Lament (6pm)

## **December 24**

Family Christmas Eve (11am)  
Candlelight Communion Service (8pm)

## **December 31**

Christmas I Worship (11am)





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)



[@gfbccary](https://www.instagram.com/gfbccary)

# Announcements Church Events and Updates

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## Advent & Christmas

Be sure to check out our schedule of special Advent and Christmas services on the inside cover of the bulletin! If you're unfamiliar with any of these events, here's a brief rundown:

**Christmas Breakfast:** We come together for a potluck breakfast at 9:45am on December 17 in the Fellowship Hall.

**Lessons and Carols:** This is when we hear the entirety of the Christmas story and sing many of our favorite Christmas carols.

**Service of Lament:** Holidays can be hard when grieving a loss. This service is a special time to be together in the sadness that can come with the holidays.

**Christmas Eve:** The family service (11am) involves a child-friendly experience that revolves around assembling a Nativity. Evening worship (8pm) is a traditional candlelight service.

## Christmas Gift Donations

If you'd like to donate Christmas gifts to our community this year, visit [tinyurl.com/Gfbchristmas](https://tinyurl.com/Gfbchristmas) (only one "c").

## Trip to Tucson, Arizona

We're taking a new trip this year for the Freedom Ride, this time to the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona. We'll be traveling as a group with an organization called **Borderlinks** based in Tucson, AZ from July 1-6. For more info and to register visit [gfbccary.org/tucson](https://gfbccary.org/tucson) soon as spots are limited. Deadline is January 31. If you have questions, direct them to Rev. Spears-Newsome.

## Staff Love Offering

### **From the Personnel Committee:**

At GFBC, we have an Advent tradition of collecting a love offering for our staff. The offering is distributed to the staff as an expression of our gratitude for their hard work, dedication, leadership, and faithful service to the church throughout the year.

If you would like to contribute to this offering, please give your contribution to either Andy Jarrell or Steve Denning or make use of the envelopes placed in each Faith Formation classrooms. You may make checks payable to Andy Jarrell or you can use Venmo to send the money to @Andy-Jarrell (last digits of phone number are 3662). Donations will be collected through Wednesday, December 20th. Thank you for your generosity.

## Youth Christmas Fun!

Our youth group has a packed holiday schedule that families won't want to miss!

- We have our Advent Party on **December 3** at the Jarrells' house where we will exchange White Elephant gifts and enjoy a meal.
- On **December 17**, we will participate in our annual Live Nativity after Christmas Breakfast and the Service of Lessons and Carols.
- Also on **December 17**, we'll go ice skating with our friends at Covenant Christian Church and Good Shepherd United Church of Christ.

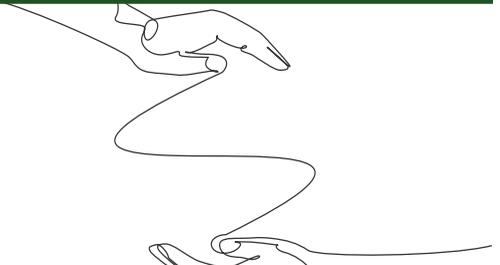
# Community Notes Prayer Requests and Giving



## 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  
Jeff Cisco (friend of Susan Beck)  
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)  
Barbara Dial (sister of Carol Carter)  
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)  
Max Miller (Amanda Warren's father)  
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)  
Katheron E. Palmer (mother of Randy Palmer)  
Fred Seeger  
Eddie Stewart (friend of Diana Morde)  
Mathias Warne (family of Gail Jones)  
Patti Webb  
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:

### **60th Anniversary of GFBC**

We were so glad to see you at our sixtieth anniversary celebration last week! **Thank you to everyone who helped make this event happen!**

We've worshipped, served, grieved, celebrated, and more for over six decades. None of that would have been possible without the beloved community that gathers here each week. Your gifts continue to make this community thrive.

# Order of Worship Reign of Christ Sunday

† 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

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

### Passing of the Peace 📖

#### Call to Worship (from Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

**Worship the Lord with gladness; Come into God's presence with singing!**

Know that the Lord is God.

**It is God that made us; and not we ourselves.**

We are God's people,

**And the sheep of God's pasture.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,

**And the courts of the Lord with praise.**

Give thanks to the Lord.

**Bless God's name.**

For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,

**And God's faithfulness to all generations.**

**Invocation** | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

† **Hymn** | *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (pg. 7)*

**Offertory Prayer** | *Sally Shaver*

**Offertory** 📖

Today's color is **white**, representing the glory of the reign of Jesus Christ.

### 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 Offertory

During the offertory music, we pass plates across the pews as a way to make our collective offering to God and the wellbeing of this community.

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

**The Prayers of the People** | *Rev. Dr. Stacks* 📖

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** | *Where Cross the Crowded Ways* (vv. 1, 2, 5; pg. 8)

**Reading** | *Matthew 25:31-46* | *Anna Claire Jarrell*

The word of God for us, the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | *Offertory* (pg. 10)

**Sermon** | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Many and Great* (pg. 9) 📖

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efird*

**Postlude**

**The Doxology**

A “doxology” is a short hymn that usually praises the Trinity. We sing the doxology as we 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!

# All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

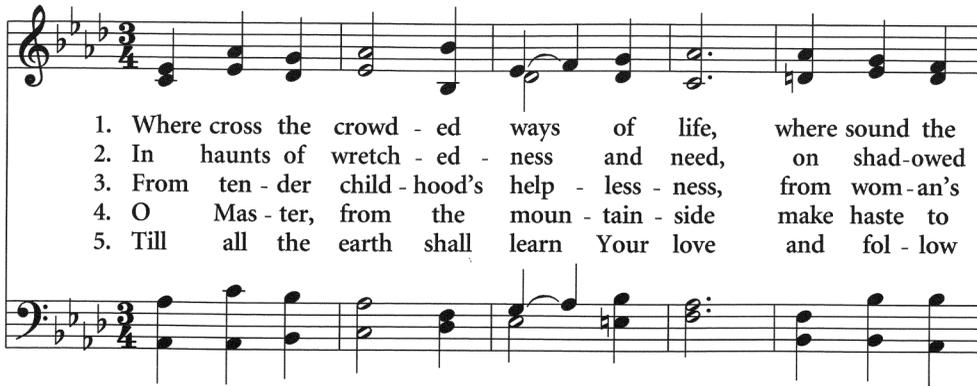
1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate  
 2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the  
 3. Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial  
 4. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at His feet may

fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and  
 fall, hail Him who saves you by His grace, and  
 ball, to Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and  
 fall! We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and

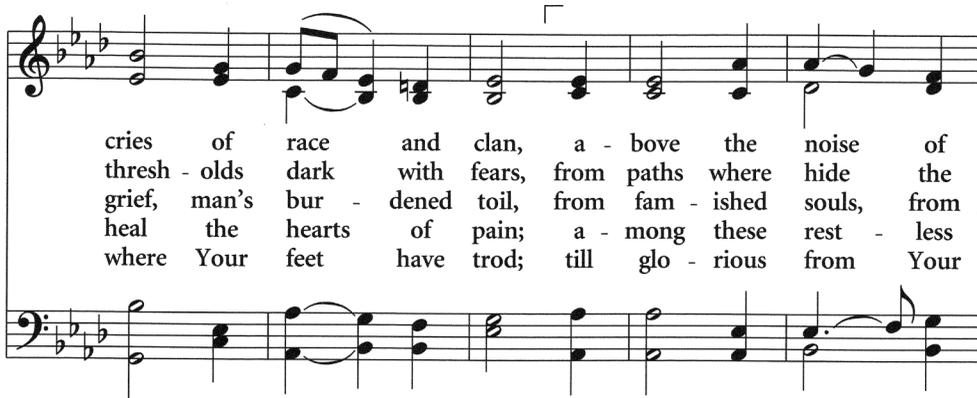
crown Him Lord of all; bring forth the roy - al  
 crown Him Lord of all; hail Him who saves you  
 crown Him Lord of all; to Him all maj - es -  
 crown Him Lord of all; we'll join the ev - er -

di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of all.  
 by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.  
 ty as - cribe, and crown Him Lord of all.  
 last - ing song, and crown Him Lord of all.

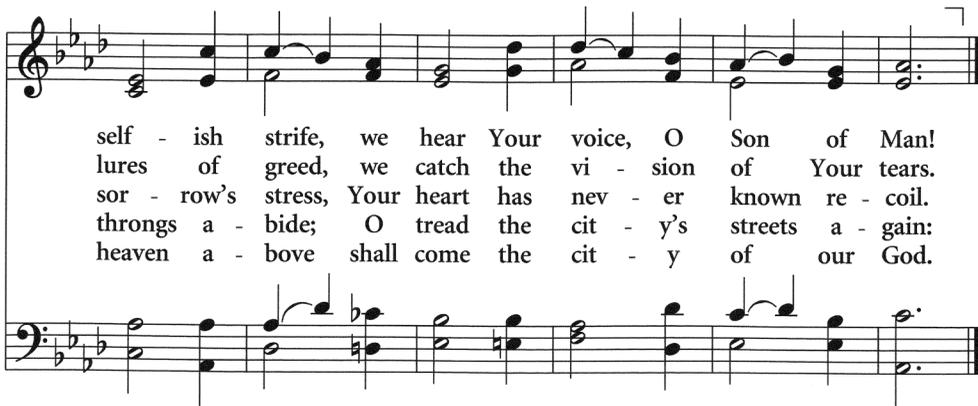
# Where Cross the Crowded Ways



1. Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
2. In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed  
3. From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from wom - an's  
4. O Mas - ter, from the moun - tain - side make haste to  
5. Till all the earth shall learn Your love and fol - low



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the  
grief, man's bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from  
heal the hearts of pain; a - mong these rest - less  
where Your feet have trod; till glo - rious from Your



self - ish strife, we hear Your voice, O Son of Man!  
lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of Your tears.  
sor - row's stress, Your heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
throngs a - bid; O tread the cit - y's streets a - gain:  
heaven a - bove shall come the cit - y of our God.

# Many and Great

Unison

1. Man - y and great, O God, are Thy works,  
2. Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with Thee,

Mak - er of earth and sky. Thy hands have  
Thou star a - bid - ing one; come un - to

set the heav - ens with stars; Thy fin - gers spread the  
us and dwell with us; with Thee are found the

moun - tains and plains. Lo, at Thy word the wa - ters were  
gifts of life. Bless us with life that has no

formed; deep seas o - bey Thy voice.  
end, e - ter - nal life with Thee.

# **Anthem** Offertory

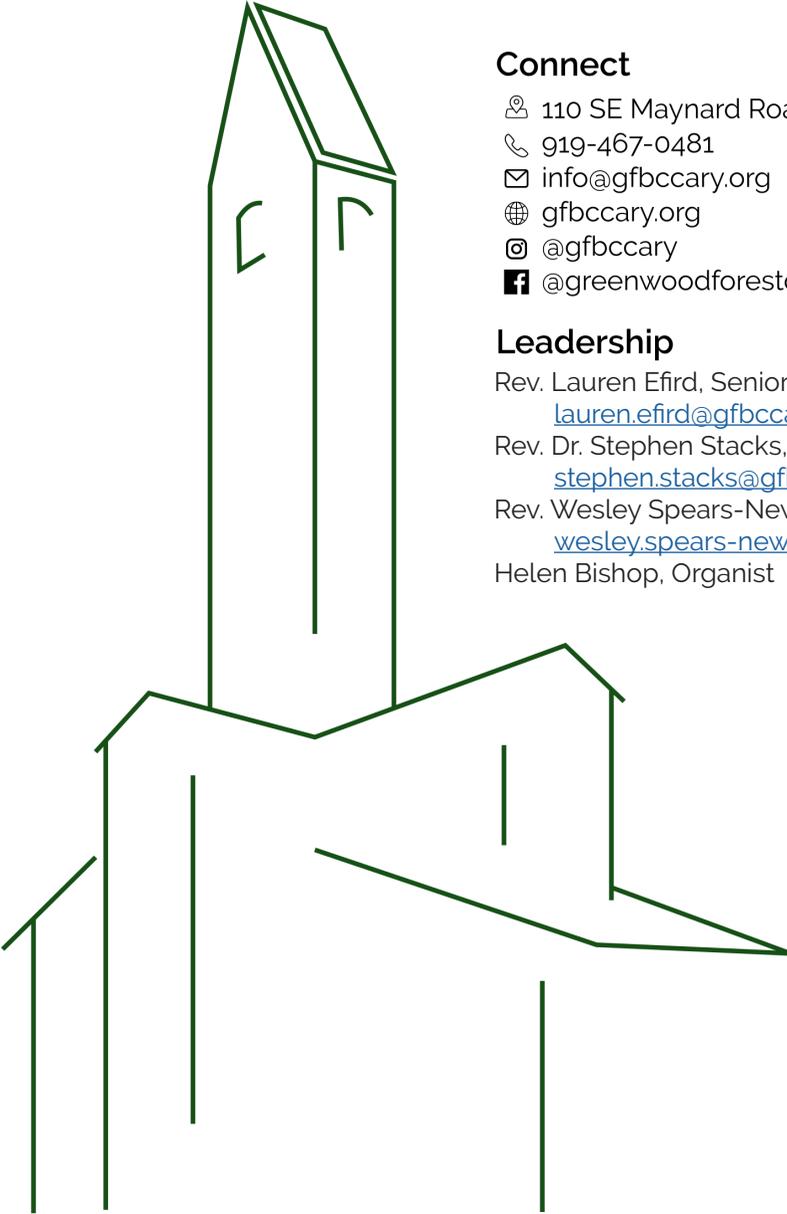
John Ness Beck

With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
Shall I come before him with yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousand rivers of oil?  
Shall I give him my firstborn for my transgressions,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

God has shown you, O mortal;  
God has shown you what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justly and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly, walk humbly with your God?



## Connect

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🌐 [gfbccary.org](http://gfbccary.org)

📷 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

[stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org](mailto:stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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