



# Greenwood Forest

## Baptist Church

Dec. 10, 2023



Scan for Digital

# 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

---

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](http://gfbccary.org)



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



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

# Announcements Church Events and Updates

---

## 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.

## Poinsettia Dedications

If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia to adorn our Sanctuary this Advent, please fill out the form at [fbccary.org/poinsettias](https://fbccary.org/poinsettias). Poinsettia dedications are \$15 each. Once you have filled out the form, you can mail your check to the church office (110 SE Maynard Rd, Cary, NC) with "poinsettias" in the memo line or give your money at [fbccary.org/give](https://fbccary.org/give), selecting poinsettias from the drop-down menu. The Lessons & Carols bulletin will list dedications. **Deadline: December 13.**

## Business Meeting

There will be a short, called business meeting this Sunday, December 10 following worship to approve the ministers' 2024 housing allowances.

## 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.

# 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  
Greg Carter (at the death of his brother,  
James E. Carter)  
Jeff Cisco (friend of Susan Beck)  
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)  
Stephanie Fancher (friend of Gerry Ritter)  
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)  
Anjar Hossain (friend of Kevin Schaefer)  
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)  
Kathy Watkins  
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:

### Advent and Christmas Events

We have a lot going on this holiday season from all our ministry areas. We connect with our fellowship ministries through Christmas Breakfast, congregational care in the Service of Lament, worship and music in Lessons and Carols, Youth at the Advent Party, and children at their special Christmas Eve service. None of these experiences are possible without your gifts to this inclusive community of faith!

# Order of Worship Second Sunday of Advent

† 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

### Lighting of the Peace Candle | *Linda Sorrell*

### Prelude | *Veni Emmanuel* | arr. Kelsey

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

### Passing of the Peace 📖

### Call to Worship (A Sanctified Art)

Welcome to worship.

**Welcome to worship.**

I am glad you're here.

**I am glad you're here.**

Surely God is in this space.

**Surely God is in this space.**

I see God in your face.

**I see God in your face.**

Let us worship together.

**Let us worship together.**

### † Invocation | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

### Hymn | *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* (pg. 7)

### Offertory Prayer | *Tim Carr*

### Offertory | *What Child is This* | arr. Mark Hayes 📖

### † Doxology | *Tune: CRANHAM* 📖

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,

If I were a wise man, I would do my part,

Yet what I can I give him, give him my heart

Today's color is **purple**, representing preparation for the coming 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.

**The Prayers of the People** | *Rev. Dr. Stephen 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** | *Joy to the World* (pg. 8)

**Reading** | *Luke 1:24-45* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | *Lo How a Rose/The Rose* (pg. 10)

**Sermon** | *Joy in Connection* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *I Can Celebrate You* (pg. 9) 📖

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efird*

**Postlude** | *Good Tidings of Great Joy* | *arr. Claude Bass*

**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!

Thank you to Addie Smith for playing piano during the Offertory this morning.

# 7 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy  
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us;  
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear de - sire of  
Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by Thine all - suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef for the voice part and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) for the piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into five systems, each with two staves. The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano staves. The piano part includes various chords and melodic lines, with some notes marked with a 'b' for a flat.



# Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her King;  
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let men their songs em - ploy;  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground;  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove

let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,  
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 He comes to make His bless - ings flow  
 the glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of His love, and won - ders of His

1. And heaven and na - ture sing,  
 1. And heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

# I Can Celebrate You

Text: Anna Strickland (2023)

Music: Gustav Holst (1906)

I can cel - e - brate you, I can hold your joy  
I can re - cog nize good fruit that you will bear  
We can hold each oth - er in our joy and fear

When the load is crush - ing and you've lost your voice  
When your own self doubt hides gifts you have to share  
Know - ing that the Spir - it moves when we are near

I can cel - e - brate the pro - mise your life holds  
I can re - cog nize your Christ-light deep with in  
We can hold each oth - er, lift each oth - er in up

When the wear - i - ness bears hea - vy on your soul  
Ev - ery gift that God has sown wait - ing to be gin  
Fill - ing one a - noth - er from the Spir - it's cup

# **Anthem** Lo, How a Rose/The Rose

Craig Hella Johnson; Katie Lockhart, Soloist

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.

*Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed;*

Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.

*Some say love it is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed;*

It came a flow'ret bright,

*Some say love, it is a hunger, an endless aching need;*

Amid the cold of winter

*I say love, it is a flower, and you, its only seed.*

When half-spent was the night.

*It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance;*

*It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance;*

*It's the one who won't be taken who cannot seem to give;*

*And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.*

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,

*When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long;*

Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.

*And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong;*

True man, yet very God.

*Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow;*

From sin and death he saves us

*Lies the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose.*

And lightens every load.

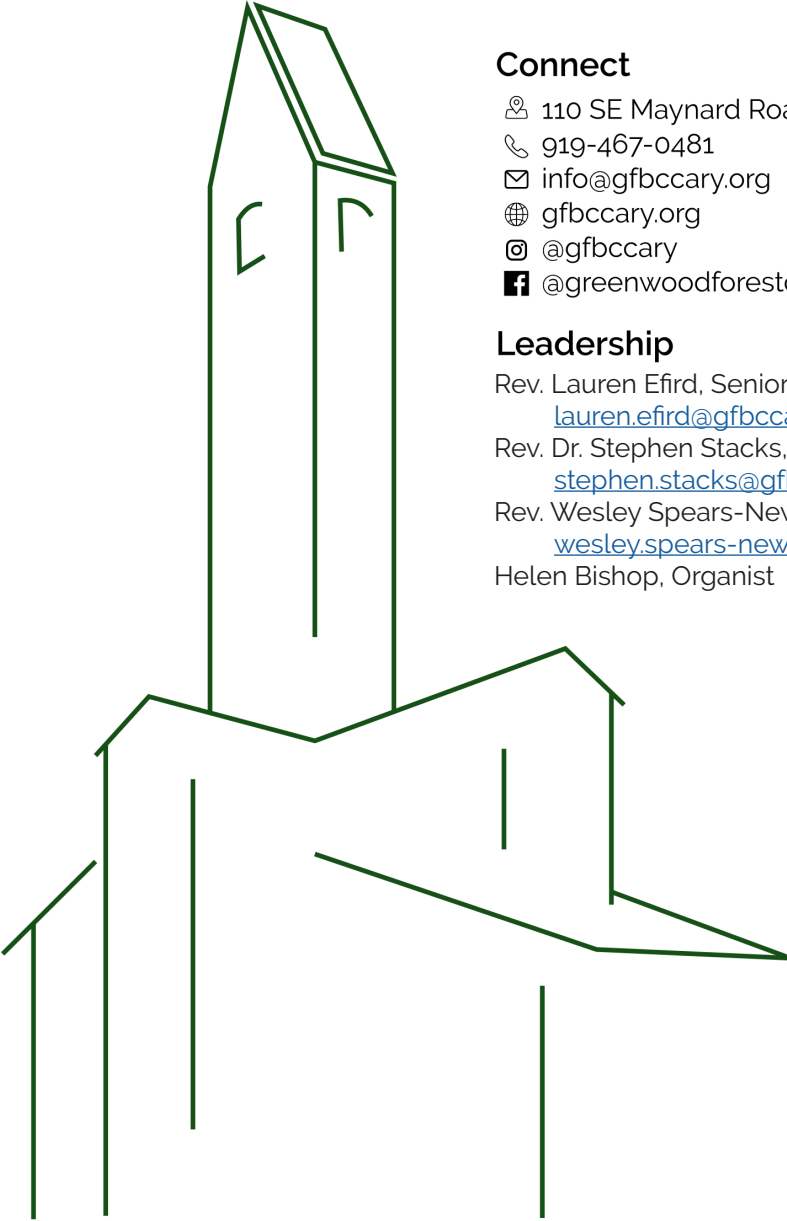
## **Bulletin Art** Two Mothers

Nicolette Peñaranda | Inspired by Luke 1:24-45 | acryli, ink, and mixed media collage on canvas

A couple of months before I took on this project, I was forced into early labor and birthed our second child.

Needless to say, I was still pretty raw with emotions and was processing the trauma. During that time, I found myself in isolation. Our days were spent driving back and forth to the NICU to check on our 3 lb. infant. It was terrifying and tiresome. But during that time, so many wonderful people sought us out. We were gifted food, baby clothes, childcare, and rest. But the greatest gift was the comfort I received from other people who had given birth. There was this sacred sharing of birth stories and postpartum depression. Parents passed on beautiful garments that they, too, received after birthing a preemie. Some of these pieces looked like they had been passed down many times before, like each thread held a memory from a different family. We were connected. [...]

While Elizabeth is crowned with holy gray hair and a dress marked with the blood of previous miscarriages, Mary sits next to her holding a childhood doll, draped in the jewelry, flowers, and silks of a traditional Middle Eastern Jewish bride. Their stories and experiences are vastly different. But Mary sought out her kin. This reminds me that we do not need to do the hard things alone. There is power in connection.



## Connect

📍 110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

☎ 919-467-0481

✉ [info@gfbccary.org](mailto:info@gfbccary.org)

🌐 [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

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

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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

Helen Bishop, Organist

---