



# Greenwood Forest

## Baptist Church

Dec. 17, 2023



Scan for Digital

# ***Bulletin Art*** Comfort, O Comfort

Lauren Wright Pittman | Inspired by Isaiah 40:1-11 | digital painting

I wanted to create an image that spoke tenderly to the viewer as this text does to the reader. “Comfort, O comfort my people” (Isaiah 40:1). When I’ve read this text before, the shepherding metaphor has only yielded masculine imagery in my mind. It makes sense with the text’s pronouns that I would imagine a masculine figure. It was also ingrained in me— through translations, biblical art, movies, children’s pageants, etc.—that shepherds were always men. I learned recently, however, that women were shepherds too. Some young women were trained and worked as shepherds before they were married; this notion completely added new dimension and depth to the shepherding metaphor. I decided to use imagery of modern-day shepherds to inspire this image. A shepherd is at once fierce and tender, willing to face the most dangerous of predators in the dead of night while warmly cradling the most vulnerable of the flock.

In this image, the shepherd nurtures a lamb while leading the flock through fields of tall grasses and flowers. The fuschia flowers in the foreground are marjoram flowers that represent comfort and the steadfastness of God’s word even in the midst of the leveling of the land. The shepherd’s clothes have repeated medallions with simplified imagery of a straight highway in the wilderness. Within the stylized landscape, a voice proclaims the coming glory of the Lord.



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://www.instagram.com/gfbccary)

# *Poinsettia Dedications*



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Dave and Elise Atkins in memory of Delores C. Atkins and Katherine D. Taylor

Chris and Toni Beal in honor of Faye Beal  
and in memory of Don Beal

The Beal Family in memory of Donald Beal

Chuck and Susan Beck in honor of Gilles Bikindou

The Brewer Family in memory of Dr. Luther Brewer and Mary "Sister" Brewer

Pat and Tom Brooks in honor of our children and grandchildren  
and in memory of our parents

Greg and Carol Carter in honor of members of the Congregational Care Ministry  
in honor of our homebound members  
and in honor of Karen Burden and Randy Palmer

Linda and Rick Chappell in honor of our grandchildren  
and in memory of our parents

Bill, Monty, and Sophie Coleman; Tess and Clay Setser in memory of Jennifer Denning

Jennifer, Tom, and Sarah Coltrane in honor of Jean Harris  
and in memory of Jerry Harris

Jean Harris in memory of my husband Jerry Harris  
and in honor of my family

Virgil and Gail Jones in honor of Mary George Brewer

Janice and Randy Medford in memory of Dorothy and Howard Beard, Vida and Deroy Adair

Henry and Susan Meador in honor of Lee and Patti Webb  
and in memory of Ev McDonough, Jr. and Claudette Kapp

Diana Morde in memory of Annette King and other classmates who have passed in the  
JOY Class

Lynn Newsome in honor of Wes, Meg, and Evelyn Spears-Newsome  
and in memory of Fred Newsome

Tayo and Bola Ogundipe in honor of Tomisin and Jacob Zinkula  
and in honor of Bamise and Folu Ogundipe

Gerry Ritter in memory of Harold Dean Ritter and Dean Ritter  
in honor of Scott, Denise, Ava, and Erica Ritter  
and in honor of Sue Daniel and Vivian Denning, Faith Formation Teachers

Jennifer Scull in honor of Gregory and Carol Carter

Linda Ingram Sorrell in memory of Hebert and Kay Ingram

Bucky Sydnor to wish a most merry Christmas to one and all

Judy and Vincent Vaccaro in memory of Jerry Harris  
and in honor of Jean Harris

Richard Whisnant in memory of Elaine Whisnant

Wayne and Jenny Williams in memory of Sol and Marvel Wahrman  
and in memory of John and Marion Williams

C. Michael Yates in honor of the Yates Family and the Facemire Family

## Announcements

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### Upcoming Advent and Christmas Services

**December 20:** Service of Lament (6pm)

*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.*

**December 24:** Family Christmas Eve (11am); Candlelight Christmas Eve (8pm)

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

**December 31:** Christmas I

### 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.



# Order of Worship Service of Lessons and Carols

† 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

† **Processional** | *Once in Royal David's City (pg. 7)*  
v. 1: *Alma Gazzaniga*, v. 2: *Sanctuary Choir*,  
vv. 3-4: *Congregation*

**Lighting of the Joy Candle** | *Dylan Melton*

**Welcome and Bidding Prayer** | *Rev. Lauren Efirid*

**Preparation for Worship** | *Go Tell it on the Mountain*  
*Performed by GFBC's Young Musicians*

**Lesson 1** | *Humanity Fails but God Promises Freedom*  
*Read by Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

**Carol** | *The Truth from Above* | *arr. James Kirkby*

**Lesson 2** | *Abraham's Descendants Will Bless the World*  
*Read by Rev. Randy Palmer*

† **Carol** | *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (pg. 8)*

**Lesson 3** | *Isaiah Foretells God's Coming Liberation*  
*Read by Councilmember Michelle Craig* 📖

**Carol** | *Justice Will Roll Down* | *Sandra McCracken*  
*Performed by the GFBC Praise Team*

**Lesson 4** | *Isaiah Foretells the Peaceful Reign of God*  
*Read by Samuel Walden*

† **Carol** | *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (pg. 9)*

**Lesson 5** | *Mary Receives Gabriel's Blessing*  
*Read by Brooks Jarrell*

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

## The Service of Lessons and Carols

The Service of Lessons and Carols traditionally occurs during the Advent or Christmas season and tells the Christian biblical story from the fall of humanity to the coming of Jesus. The service originated in rural England and gained prominence when Eric Milner-White, Dean of King's College Cambridge, wanted to fill the chapel with imaginative and joyful worship in the wake of the devastation of the First World War. Allow yourself to travel through the locations and greet the characters of this ancient story as we read and sing this morning.

### Service for the City

A tradition of the Lessons and Carols service was to invite someone representing the city, town, or village to come and do one of the readings. This year, newly-elected Town Council member Michelle Craig joins us. She represents the Town Council District where GFBC is located.

**Carol** | *The Holly and the Ivy* | arr. Walford Davies  
Soloists: Nathan Bullock, Blair Biser, Susan Meador, Donna Scott, Ken Scott, Lee Webb, Leanne Glasgow, Lou Owoc-Edwards, BJ Facemire, Evan Owoc-Edwards

**Lesson 6** | *The Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem*  
Read by Rev. Efir

† **Carol** | *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (pg. 10)

**Lesson 7** | *The Shepherds go to the Manger*  
Read by Steve Denning

**Offertory Prayer** | Steve Denning

**Offertory** | *While by my Sheep* | arr. 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

**Lesson 8** | *A Star Leads the Magi to Jesus*  
Read by Roz Slawson

**Carol** | *Alleluia, Angelus Domini* | José Mauricio Nunes Garcia

**Lesson 9** | *The Mystery of the Incarnation*  
Read by Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

**Carol** | *The Word was God* | Rosephanye Powell

**Collect and Benediction** | Rev. Lauren Efir

† **Recessional** | *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (pg. 11)

*Please come see our youth ministry's Live Nativity in the narthex as you leave!*

### 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 Doxology

A “doxology” is a short hymn that usually praises the Trinity. We sing the doxology as we present our offerings back to God.

### Thanks to All Our Musicians!

Thank you to all our wonderful musicians at Greenwood Forest for all your hard work put into this service. Thanks to the Young Musicians and their leaders (Natalie Patten, Blair Biser, and Jazzmone Sutton), the GFBC Praise Team (Blair Biser, Chris Beal, Teri Edwards, Adam Efir, Randy Palmer, and Zelma Palmer), and the soloists from the Sanctuary Choir: Alma Gazzaniga, Nathan Bullock, Blair Biser, Susan Meador, Donna Scott, Ken Scott, Lee Webb, Leanne Glasgow, Lou Owoc-Edwards, BJ Facemire, and Evan Owoc-Edwards.

# Once in Royal David's City

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a  
2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is  
3. For He is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by the  
4. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

low - ly cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, and His shel - ter was a  
day on earth He grew; He was tempt - ed, scorned, re -  
ox - en stand - ing by, we shall see Him, but in

ba - by in a man - ger for His bed. Ma - ry  
sta - ble, and His cra - dle was a stall. With the  
ject - ed, tears and smiles like us He knew. Thus He  
heav - en set at God's right hand on high; when like

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle Child.  
poor and meek and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
feels for all our sad - ness, and He shares in all our glad - ness.  
stars His chil - dren crowned, robed in white shall gath - er round.



# Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*Unison*

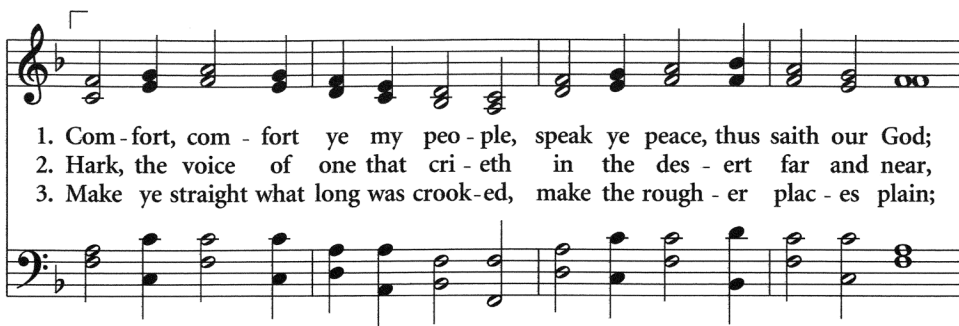
1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and  
 2. King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on  
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard  
 4. At His feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,  
 earth He stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,  
 on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth  
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the Pres - ence,

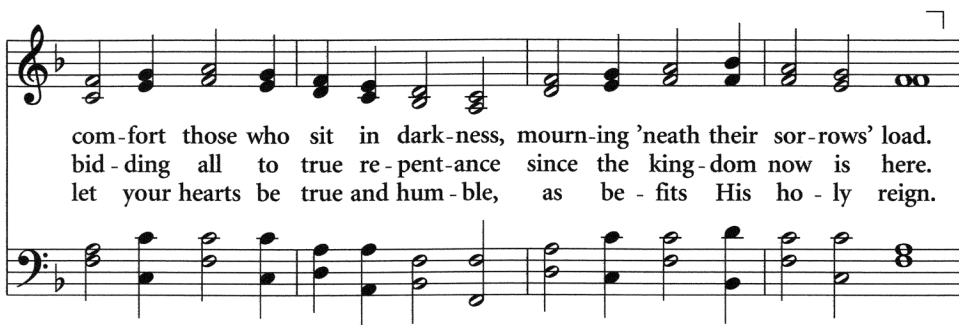
for with bless - ing in His hand, Christ our God to earth de -  
 in the bod - y and the blood; He will give to all the  
 from the realms of end - less day, that the powers of hell may  
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.  
 faith - ful His own self for heav - en - ly food.  
 van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Lord Most High!"

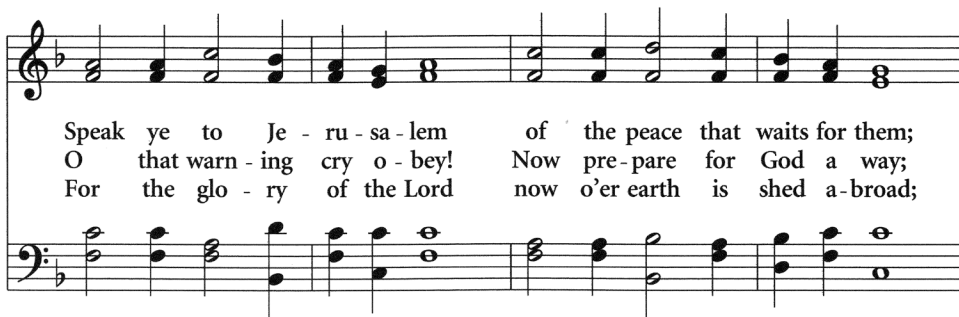
# Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



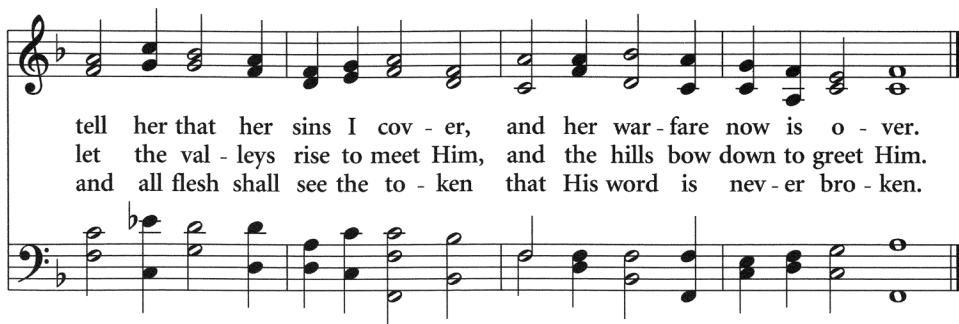
1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,  
3. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.  
bid - ding all to true re - pent - ance since the king - dom now is here.  
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits His ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
let the val - leys rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that His word is nev - er bro - ken.

# O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!  
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of His heaven.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day!

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear His com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive Him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

# O Come, All Ye Faithful



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O  
2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal, lo, He  
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, O sing, all ye  
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, Je - sus, to



come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come and be - hold Him, born the King of  
shuns not the vir - gin's womb; Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre -  
cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the  
Thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap -



an - gels!  
at - ed. O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,  
high - est! pear - ing!



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!



# ***CAROL TEXTS***

## ***Go Tell It On the Mountain***

*Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.

Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

## ***The Truth From Above***

This is the truth sent from above,  
the truth of God, the God of love;  
therefore don't turn me from the door  
but hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing that I will relate,  
that God at first did man create;  
the next thing which to you I tell  
woman was made with him to dwell.

Then after that 'twas God's own choice  
to place them both in paradise,  
there to remain from evil free  
except they ate of such a tree.

But they did eat, which was a sin,  
and thus their ruin did begin  
ruined themselves, both you and me,  
and all of our posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes  
till God the Lord did interpose;  
and so a promise soon did run:  
that he would redeem us by his Son.



# ***Justice Will Roll Down***

Oh my love, you have grown so cold  
To the world outside, to the house next door  
She who has been loved much, has so much to give  
Mercy is the fragrance of the broken

*Justice will roll down, oh justice will roll down  
From high upon those mountains with a mighty river sound  
It will roll down  
It will roll down*

Oh my child, I will be your light  
In your secret pain, in the dark of night  
No enemy, no conqueror, will steal your life from me  
I am your salvation, and your victory

Soon, oh soon, when the trumpet sounds  
Every knee shall bend, every heart will pound  
I have made a new world, where the servant is the king  
Oppression will be over, and the slave set free

# ***The Holly and the Ivy***

The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.

*The rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom,  
As white as the any flower,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
To be our sweet Savior.

The holly bears a berry,  
As red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to do us sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle,  
As sharp as any thorn,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
On Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark,  
As bitter as any gall,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to redeem us all.

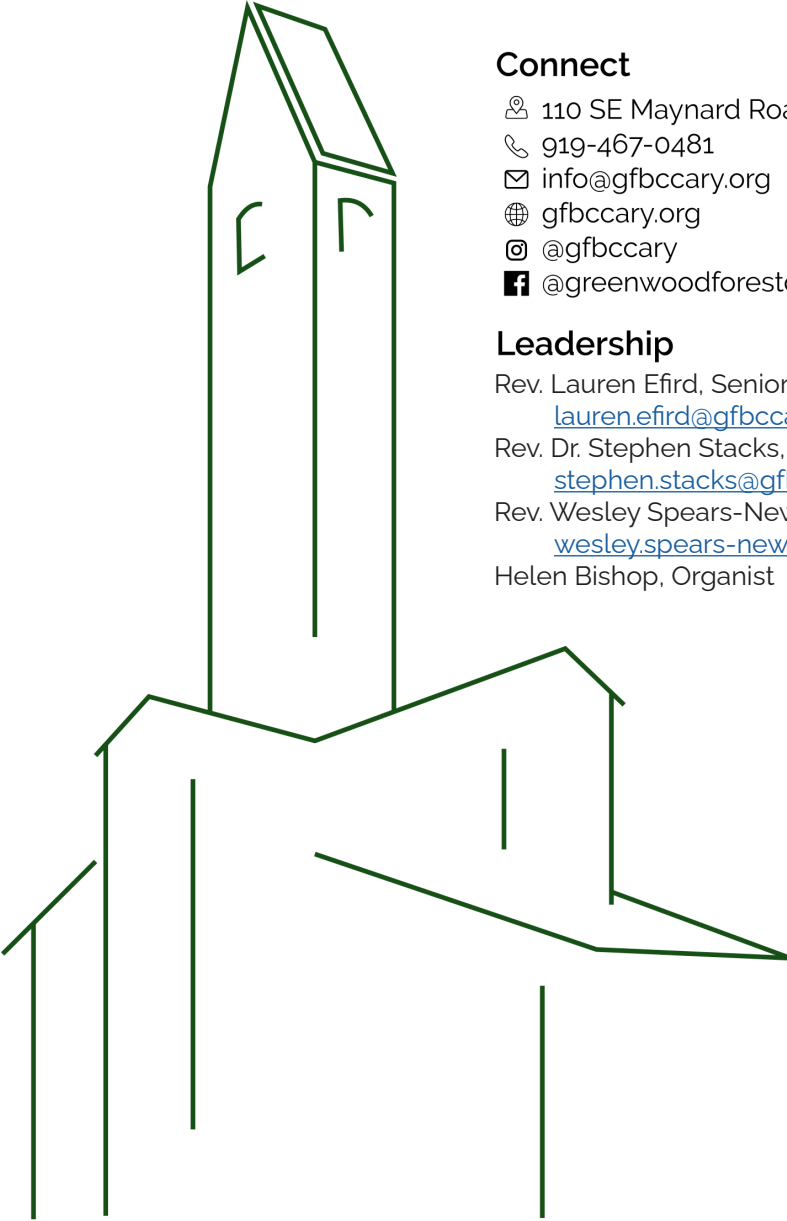
# ***Alleluia, Angelus Domini***

Alleluia, angelus Domini  
Apparuit in somnis  
Joseph dicens:  
Surge et accipe puerum  
Et matrem ejus  
Et fuge in Aegyptum  
Alleluia

Hallelujah, the angel of the Lord  
Appeared in a dream  
To Joseph and said:  
Wake up, and take the child  
And his mother  
And flee into Egypt  
Hallelujah

## ***The Word Was God***

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
The same was in the beginning with God.  
All things were made by him  
Nothing was made, he has not made.



## Connect

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📘 @greenwoodforestcary

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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