



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

Feb. 4, 2024



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art "Martha and Mary" by JESUS MAFA

The JESUS MAFA images were created by the indigenous Mafa people in North Cameroon who wanted to have picture of the Gospel that reflected their own cultural environment. Christian history is replete with images from the Gospels that reflect European cultural backdrops and much of Western Christians' imaginations are formed by these images. The Mafa peoples' work both benefits their understanding and interaction with the New Testament, but also our own here in North America. What can we learn from seeing the Gospel stories depicted in another culture? What assumptions do we bring to reading the New Testament that are stripped away when seeing another culture's representation of our shared sacred text?

Consider these remarks by a school director named P. Pondy involved in the JESUS MAFA project:

"It is urgent and necessary for us to proclaim and to express the message, the life and the whole person of Jesus Christ in an African artistic language, in our language which is the expression of our daily life, of our culture. Many people of different cultures have done it before us and will do it in the future, without betraying the historical Christ, from whom all authentic Christianity arises. We must not restrict ourselves to the historical and cultural forms of a particular people or period. The creation of a black Christ in Africa does not diminish at all the historical Christ, on the contrary, it enriches the universal meaning of the message of God. This God who became one of us in order to proclaim Christ as the Lord of all nations of the world, through all their authentic riches: their languages, their gestures, their art, their whole life and culture. Evangelization means to give the message of the historical and eternal Christ to all nations, following the apostles who made themselves Jews with the Jews, Greeks with the Greeks, similar to their Master who identified himself with every weak and persecuted human being when he said to Saul the persecutor: 'Saul, why do you persecute me?' Doesn't this daring and unspeakable identification go far beyond what we are trying to express by these pictures? It shows not only their legitimacy but their necessity."



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

Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, our worship services during February will feature music from Black composers and artists, as well as liturgical elements from the African American Heritage Hymnal. Our keynote preacher this year is Rev. Racquel Gill, who will be with us in worship on February 11. We will also welcome back the NCCU University Choir on February 25 to sing a program of spirituals in collaboration with our Sanctuary Choir.

Here at GFBC, we celebrate Black History Month alongside our Black congregants and Black siblings everywhere as a way to honor Black stories, beauty, and contributions, but also as a way to signal our continued commitment to Black lives throughout the year. For us, Black History Month is not a way to absolve ourselves of the year-round and life-long work of anti-racism, but a moment to celebrate and to recommit ourselves to the gospel work of inclusivity in our worship and in our lives.

Ash Wednesday: 2/14

Ash Wednesday is coming up on February 14. We'll be holding our service of the Imposition of Ashes at 6:15pm in the Sanctuary.

Bluebird Boxes for Sale

Like last year, Diana Morde will be taking orders for Blue Bird Boxes for you to play host to baby birds this spring! Cost is \$22 per box and proceeds benefit the final stages of the organ reconstruction. You can contact Diana at 919-801-7433 to place your orders.

HOW TO READ YOUR BIBLE

March 1-3

Sign up at gfbccary.org/bible



Discipleship Retreat

Our annual discipleship retreat is coming soon (March 1-3). Following our retreat on prayer last year, this year we'll be digging into how to read the Bible. Sign up and check out the full schedule at gfbccary.org/bible. Topics will include authorship, canon, translation, genre, interpretation, imagination, and more! Lauren Efrid, Stephen Stacks, Wes Spears-Newsome, and Lynn McLaughlin will be facilitating sessions over the weekend. Cost is \$25 to offset food expenses (3 meals included).

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
Tom Brooks, Sr.
George Daniel
Deborah Davis (friend of Susan Beck)
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)
Katheron E. Palmer (mother of Randy Palmer)
Fred Seeger
Mathias Warne (family of Gail Jones)
Miles Warren
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
- 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:

Music Ministry

We're going to see a lot from our Music Ministry this month! Each week, Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Helen Bishop, and the Sanctuary Choir lead us in hymns; we'll see our youth musicians lead us in worship on Feb. 4; and we'll witness the choir's collaboration with NCCU's University Choir on Feb. 25. These efforts wouldn't be possible without your generosity and gifts!

Order of Worship Youth 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. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (from Psalm 145) | Griffin Beal 📖

Who can live in your tent, LORD?

Who can dwell on your holy mountain?

The person who lives free of blame,

Does what is right, and speaks the truth sincerely;

Who does not damage with their talk,

Does no harm to a friend, doesn't insult a neighbor;

Someone who despises those who act wickedly,

But who honors those who honor the LORD;

Someone who keeps their promise even when it hurts;

Someone who doesn't lend money with interest,

Someone who won't accept a bribe against any innocent person.

Whoever does these things will never stumble.

Invocation | Griffin Beal

✝ Hymn | *There is a Balm in Gilead* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Alyssa Medford

Offertory | *Slow Me Down* | *The Porter's Gate*

Today's color is **green**, representing growth and change.

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, expressed through a peace sign, a handshake, a wave, conversation, etc. We hope you will take the time to greet and speak with those around you or with someone you haven't met!

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.

† **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 | *Brooks Jarrell* 📖

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.

Reading | *Luke 10:38-42* | *Lucy Beal*

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

Anthem | *Rest in You* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Ella Biser and Anna Claire Jarrell*

† **Hymn** | *Be Thou My Vision* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

Postlude | *Slow Me Down* | *The Porter's Gate*

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. A short doxology follows as we offer our gifts.

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 our Youth!

Thank you to our youth who led in worship! Specials thanks to Lucy Beal, Ella Biser, and Alma Gazzaniga for providing music!

There is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To make the wound-ed whole;

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To heal the sin-sick soul.

Verses

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And
2. Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, For
3. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you

think my work's in vain, But then the Ho - ly
Je - sus is your friend; And if you lack for
can - not pray like Paul, You can tell the love of

D.S.

Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain. There is a
knowl - edge, He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend. There is a
Je - sus, And say, "He died for all!" There is a

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Nought be all else to me, save thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, thou my true word
I ever with thee, thou with me, Lord
Thou my great father and I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and Thou only, but first in my heart
High king of heaven, my treasure thou art.

*O God be my everything, be my delight
My Jesus, my glory, my soul satisfied (2x)*

High king of heaven, my vict'ry won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Offertory Slow Me Down

The Porter's Gate | Lucy Beal, Alma Gazzaniga, and Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Oh, 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

Oh, good shepherd, oh, good friend
Slow me down, slow me down
Oh, good shepherd, oh, good friend
Slow me down, 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

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

Anthem Rest in You

All Sons and Daughters | Lucy Beal, Alma Gazzaniga, and Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Who is Lord, but our Lord?
Who is God? Only God
You are the highest
You are most good

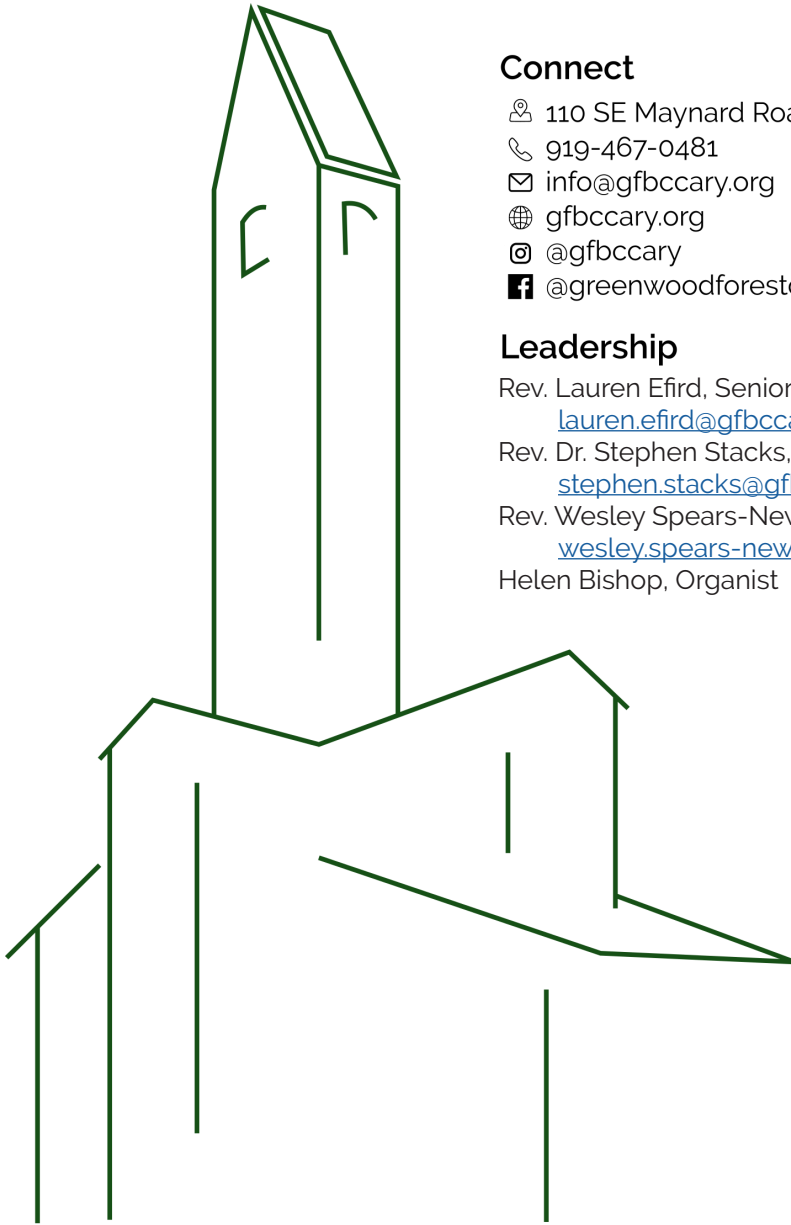
Matchless is your love
Our praise will rise above
Your peace like a river
Floods over us

*Our hearts are restless until they find rest in you
Our hearts are restless until they find rest in you*

*This is where my hope lies
This is where my soul sighs
And I will always find my rest in you*

So full of mecry
Beauty and mystery
You are most hidden
But always with us

You cannot change, yet you change everything
You cannot change, yet you change everything
You cannot change, yet you change everything



Connect

📍 110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

☎ 919-467-0481

✉ info@gfbccary.org

🌐 gfbccary.org

📷 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

lauren.efird@gfbccary.org

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

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