



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

March 3, 2024



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# Bulletin Art Lift Off

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Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda | Inspired by Mt. 14:22-23 | Acrylic, ink, paper collage, and mixed media on canvas

There are no street lights in the ocean. I think about that often. Rarely do we think about how dark and mysterious the night is, even for a veteran fisherman. Nor do we taken into consideration the movement of the wind and its roar rumbling off of the waves.

Inside the wind tunnel in this piece, we see the West African symbol, Adinkrahene,<sup>1</sup> symbolizing leadership and charisma. Peter embodies all of that when he follows Jesus onto the water. But the bottom of his foot holds the Mako. Mako reminds us that not all peppers grow the same. As charismatic and eager to impress Jesus as Peter is, he does not necessarily embody the same level of development as Jesus. The hand of Jesus reaches through the image of Asase Ye Duru, reminding us that the earth has weight. Jesus, the divine, is greater than the limitations of the flesh, the fears we carry like the uncertainty of the water. What we also see around the hand of Christ is Nyame Dua, the sacred stump symbolizing God's presence and protection. The ever-present God protected Peter from drowning. All of this storytelling is set inside the symbol of Mmusuyidee, signifying prosperity and sanctity. We are invited to maintain a hopeful outlook and persevere.

I titled this piece Lift Off as a nod to the 2011 Jay Z and Kanye West (ft. Beyonce) song by the same title. There is something about the opening lines, "We gon' take it to the moon, take it to the stars, how many people you know can take it this far?" that lingers in my head. The emphasis on the night sky and the deep wonder of the stars definitely influences the correlation. However, I think it also pertains to how Peter must have felt walking on water toward Jesus. No one had ever done that before. Not only was he the first, but he must have felt like he was having a deeper experience with Jesus. Who else was flying this high right then? Who else had dropped everything to live vagrantly with Christ? Before stumbling in his ways, there was something otherworldly happening, which brings me back to the stars.

Living in a metropolitan area, I don't get the luxury of stars but I like to imagine a world where the skies told their own stories. In Lift Off, the elements are like main characters, inspiring whimsical fantasy. Cut-out layered clouds build into the horizon of the sea. The forceful wind tunnel blows over the sinking foot of a probably panicking Peter. This is a moving piece that is meant to tell a story in any direction it is turned. Like the theme of this series, the viewer should feel like they are on a journey with Peter. Lift Off is intentionally dark with beautiful highlights of color and sparkle. It is because of the darkness that the colors shine bright. These two things are complimentary, not contrasting. The fear that entered Peter with the wind was most likely heightened because it was dark out. Without knowing exactly what was around him, Peter became vulnerable, thus causing him to reach out. The wonder of darkness exposes us and invites us to seek connection. We see that in the reaching hand gently entering the dark sky.

<sup>1</sup> Adinkra symbols originated from the Gyaman people of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Learn more about their meanings and significance here: [adinkrasymbols.org](http://adinkrasymbols.org). All the symbols mentioned above can be found on this website.



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)

# Announcements Church Events and Updates

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## Save the Date for Randy's Retirement Party!

We'll be celebrating Randy Palmer's retirement on March 17 at 2pm. Be sure to mark your calendars and be prepared to join us! In appreciation for Randy's 20 years of service, we will be collecting a love offering. If you'd like to contribute to this offering, please give your contribution to Andy Jarrell. You may make checks payable to Andy Jarrell and drop them at the church office, or you can use Venmo to send money to @Andy-Jarrell (last digits of phone number are 3662). Donations will be collected through, Wednesday, March 13th.

## 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.

## Tucson Orientation and Informational Meeting

If you're coming with us to Tucson this summer or are interested in learning more, we'll be holding an informational meeting at 2pm on March 10 in the Youth House (across from the Wonder Room).

## ONE Wake Annual Meeting (3/7 @ 7pm)

Join hundreds of leaders across Wake County for ONE Wake's 2024 Annual Meeting. In 2024 ONE Wake has the opportunity to take action to win on our diverse set of grassroots priorities, including: winning fair treatment and compensation for the 700 low income adults and children living at the Chatham Estates mobile home park; continuation and expansion of the popular SmartRide microtransit program in Zebulon and Eastern Wake County; and local issue campaigns to address our priorities around mental health, rising utility rates, and permanent White Flag facilities for people experiencing homelessness.

**Join GFBC and ONE Wake on March 7 @ 7:00pm at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church (813 Darby St. Raleigh, NC 27610) so we can kick off 2024 with POWER!**

## Lenten Calendar

As we journey through this season of reflection and spiritual transformation together, here are some key dates to remember:

### **March 24**

Palm Sunday in Worship (11am)

Children's Easter Egg Hunt following Worship

### **March 29**

Good Friday Service of Tenebrae (7pm)

### **March 31**

Easter Sunday Worship (11am)

# 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 Bkindou  
Valerie Brooks  
Terry Mitchem  
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)  
Katheron E. Palmer (mother of Randy Palmer)  
Jennie Pegram  
Fred Seeger  
Mathias Warne (family of Gail Jones)  
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:

### Children's Ministry

Those laughs and giggles you hear on the way to worship are probably coming from our children's ministry! The Rainbow Room (preschool) and the Wonder Room (K-5) host our kids every week in a loving and supportive space to learn about God and feel that they have a place to belong in their church. These efforts wouldn't be possible without your generosity and gifts!

# Order of Worship Third Sunday of Lent

✝ 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** | *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* | arr. Labenske

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (Sanctified Art)** 📖

God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,  
**the courageous and the fearful,**

the hungry and the hopeful,

**the impatient and the reserved.**

God welcomes the young and the old,

**the poets and the prophets,**

the faithful and the tired,

**the curious and the convicted.**

Wherever you are on your journey,

**wherever your boat is at sea,**

there is room for all to gather here.

**This is God's house.**

**Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.**

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

✝ **Hymn** | *Come, Thou Fount* (pg. 9)

**Offertory Prayer** | Natalie Patten

**Offertory** | *Poor Wayfaring Stranger* | arr. Warren Angell

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

Praise God, who forms us from the dust.

Praise Christ, who frees us through the cross.

Praise Holy Ghost who drives us on

To meet God in the wilderness. Amen.

Today's color is **purple**, representing repentance and reflection.

## 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.

## 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** | *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** | *Will You Come and Follow Me* (pg. 7)

**Reading** | *Matthew 14:22-33* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Sermon** | *Rescue Me from Danger* | *Rev. Efir*

**Communion** | *Rev. Efir* 📖

**Prayer of Confession: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be obedient disciples. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we've not loved our neighbors, and we've not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us for what we have done and for what we've left undone, and free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Mystery of Faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

† **Hymn** | *Into the Waters* (pg. 8)

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efir*

**Postlude** | *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* | *arr. Berry*

## **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.

### **Communion**

During Communion, we gather around the table as Christ showed us, to remember and give thanks. We have an open table—all who wish to take Communion are invited. We practice intinction, which means you receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. A gluten-free option is available on the altar.

**Offertory Music:** Thank you to Addie Smith for playing piano for our Offertory today.

# Will You Come and Follow Me

*Unison*

1. Will you come and fol - low Me if I but call your name?  
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your  
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?  
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when You but call my name.

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low You and nev - er be the same.

Will you let My love be shown, will you let My name be known,  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,  
 In Your com - pa - ny I'll go where Your love and foot - steps show.

will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?  
 Will you let Me an - swer prayer in you and you in Me?  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?  
 through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.



HERZLIEBSTER JESU 11.11.11.5

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Music by Johann Crüger, 1640



In - to the wa - ters, tim - id and un - stead - y  
But then the windshift and I let my gaze break  
Safe in the boat I won - der where the fault lies  
Grace for the jour - ney, grace for all my fail - ings



Bare feet find pur - chase in the wa - ter's ed - dies  
Fear starts to drag me un - der - neath the lake's waves  
Was it the storm or my own reck - less de - sire  
Grace when I'm sink - ing, grace when storms as - sail me



Eyes fixed on Je - sus while the storm is ra - ging  
In my dis - tress I cry out to my Sa - vior,  
To have con - trol or prove my - self as a - ble  
Faith in my - self and faith in God's pro - vis - ion



And waves are break - ing  
"Save me from dan - ger!"  
Rath - er than faith - ful  
Not my am - bi - tion

# Into the Waters

# Come, Thou Fount



1. Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing  
2. Here I raise my E - be - ne - zer;  
3. O to grace how great a debt - or



tune my heart to sing thy grace.  
hith - er by thy help I'm come;  
dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure,  
Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter,



call for songs of loud - est praise;  
safe - ly to ar - rive at home;  
bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee;



teach me some me - lo - dious son - net  
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger,  
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it,



sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;  
wan - d'ring from the fold of God;  
prone to leave the God I love;

2

13



praise the mount I'm fixed up - on it,  
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger,  
here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it,

15



mount of thy re - deem - ing love.  
in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
seal it for thy courts a - bove.

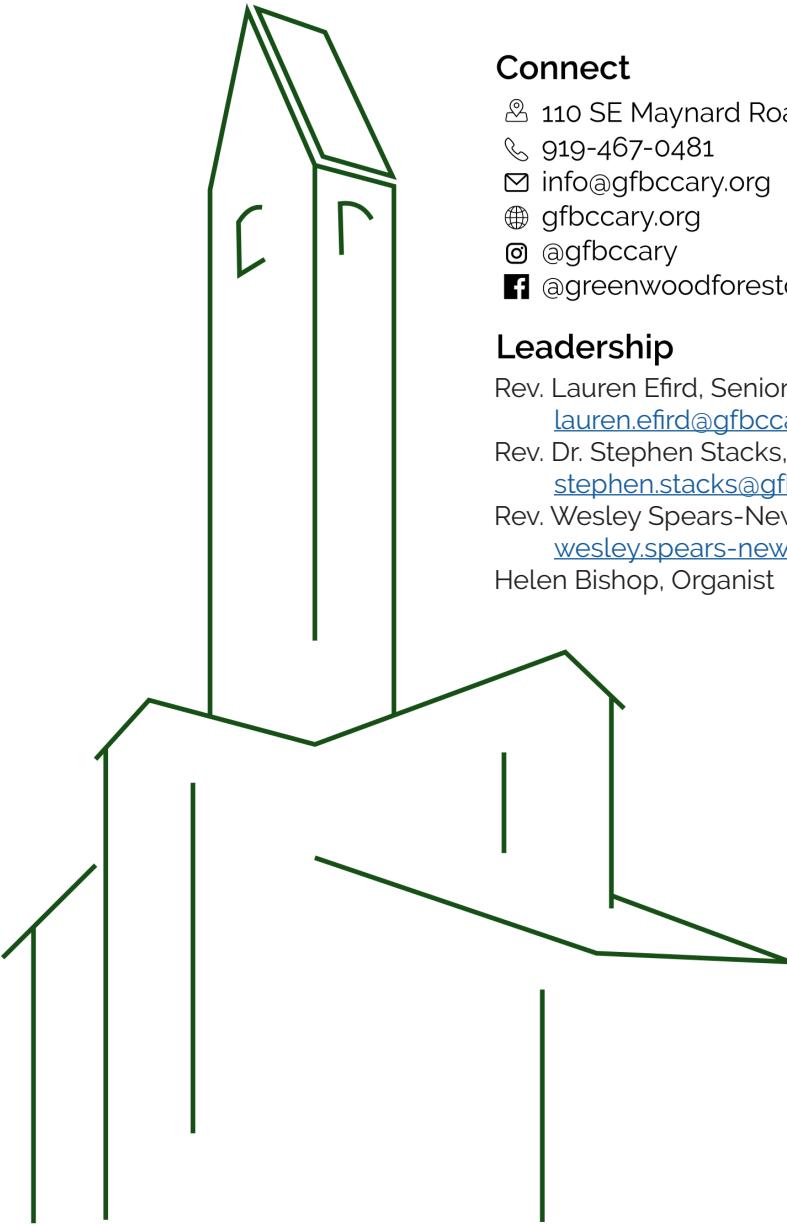
## **Anthem** Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

Rend Collective

You call me out upon the waters  
The great unknown where feet may fail  
And there I find you in the mystery  
In oceans deep  
My faith will stand

*I will call upon your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise  
My soul will rest in your embrace  
For I am yours and you are mine*

Your grace abounds in deepest waters  
Your sovereign hand  
Will be my guide  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me  
You've never failed (you never failed)  
I know you won't start now (you won't start now)  
Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders  
Let me walk upon the waters  
Wherever you would call me  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of my Savior



## Connect

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📷 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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

Helen Bishop, Organist

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*Special resources for Lent and Easter by A Sanctified Art ([sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)).*