



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

March 10, 2024



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art Who Do You Say That I Am?

Lauren Wright Pittman | Inspired by Mt. 16:13-20 | digital painting

I don't know if this was a moment of clarity for Peter, if he was regurgitating the answer he thought Jesus wanted to hear, or if he was trying to convince himself that dropping everything and following this man was worth it, but I imagine this was a breakthrough for Peter. I wanted to capture this as a moment of seeing and being seen. Jesus sees him as more than Simon, a fisherman and son of Jonah, and renames him Peter, the blessed foundation through which his ministry would take root and continue to grow. Jesus sees Peter through the eyes of God.

Peter sees Jesus as more than a teacher and companion. He sees through the veil of confusion concerning Jesus' identity. He doesn't see him as the reincarnation of a former prophet, or another contemporary baptizer pointing the way. He names Jesus as the "anointed one," the one his people have so desperately longed for. Peter proclaims Jesus as Messiah and Son of the Living God.

In this image, I wanted to create a kaleidoscope of perception, imaging the ways Jesus is perceived in the context of this passage, like light broken down into a myriad of shapes and colors. In the gold rays of light Jesus' form is obscured by the metallic shine of God's glory. In the gray and earth-tone rays he is seen in monochrome. Each of the earth-tone rays holds a pattern on Jesus' clothing which represents a misunderstanding of who Jesus is. Starting on the left, honey, locusts, and baptismal waters misidentify him as John the Baptist. Within the next ray to the right, ravens, an empty chair, rain, and fires from the heavens misidentify him as Elijah. On the right, scales of justice and plants being uprooted and planted misidentify him as Jeremiah.

Through the middle of the image, there is a ray of light where the image comes into full color that holds this moment of clarity where Jesus and Peter truly see one another. In this ray, Peter's clothing holds symbols of his new identity: a rock upon which the church will be built and keys to the kingdom. Jesus' clothing holds imagery—an oil jar and the light of the sun—representing the way Peter sees him as the Messiah and Son of the Living God.



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



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



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Announcements Church Events and Updates

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.

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).

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)

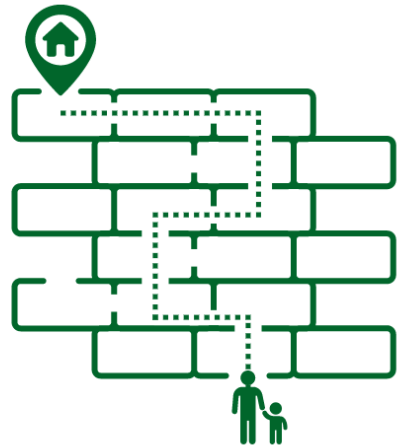
Children's Easter Egg Hunt following Worship

March 29

Good Friday Service of Tenebrae (7pm)

March 31

Easter Sunday Worship (11am)



Community Meeting for Property Repurposing

Last week, we were thrilled to announce substantial investment by Wake County into the property repurposing effort, particularly for Greenwood Forest Children's Center. Approval at the County Commissioners' meeting is the beginning of what will be an increasingly public process. As the project moves into public view, we want to build excitement and convey information about the project to create advocates for what we're building here at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church.

On March 19 at 7pm in our sanctuary, we're inviting all our supporters and the supporters of our project partners, The Caring Place and DHIC, to come hear about progress on this effort in order to become public advocates for the project. All our church members are encouraged to attend so they can learn more and advocate for what we're doing as a community of faith. We look forward to seeing you there!

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
Beckie Mitchem (at the death of Terry)
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
- 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 Fourth 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 | *LAUDA ANIMA* | arr. Mendoza

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) 📖

On our worst days,

God is good.

On our best days,

God is good.

When life is consistent,

God is good.

And when life turns on its head,

God is good.

Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

God is good. God is here. God is love.

Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

Invocation | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

✝ **Hymn** | *Come, Thou Fount* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Steve Denning

Offertory | *And Can It Be* | arr. Maynard

✝ **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. Wesley Spears-Newsome* 📖

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** | *When Our Confidence Is Shaken* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Matthew 16:13-23* | *Rev. Dr. Stacks*

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *I Will Arise* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *I'm Fixed Upon It* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *The Way* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *Lead Me to Calvary* | *arr. Labenske*

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!

Come, Thou Fount



1. Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my
2. Here I raise my eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er
3. O to grace how great a debt - tor dai - ly



heart to sing thy grace; streams of mer - cy nev - er
by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good
I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a



ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise; teach me
plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home; Je - sus
fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee; prone to



some me - lo - dious son - net sung by flam - ing
sought me when a stran - ger wan - d'ring from the
wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the



tongues a - bove; praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it,
fold of God; he, to res - cue me from dan - ger,
God I love; here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it,



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

When Our Confidence is Shaken

1. When our con - fi - dence is shak - en in be -
2. So - lar sys - tems, void of mean - ing, freeze the
3. In the dis - ci - pline of pray - ing, when it's
4. God is love, and thus re - deems us in the

liefs we thought se - cure, when the spir - it in its
spir - it in - to stone; al - ways our re - search - es
hard - est to be - lieve; in the drudg - er - y of
Christ we cru - ci - fy; this is God's e - ter - nal

sick - ness seeks but can - not find a cure, God is
lead us to the ul - ti - mate un - known. Faith must
car - ing, when it's not e - nough to grieve; faith, ma -
an - swer to the world's e - ter - nal why. May we

ac - tive in the ten - sions of a faith not yet ma - ture.
die, or come full cir - cle to its source in God a - lone.
tur - ing, learns ac - cep - tance of the in - sights we re - ceive.
in this faith ma - tur - ing be con - tent to live and die!

The Way



Faith - ful - ly I learned to fol - low
Life was ea - sy, faith ___ was sta - ble
Thread by thread my faith ___ un - rav - eled
Though the way leads through steep can - yons



Step by step and not to stray
Then the path - way climbed up - hill
When the way be - came un - known
I sur - ren - der my con - trol



March - ing on with proud ___ bra - va - do
Life got hard - er past ___ the ___ cra - dle
So - lid ground gave way ___ to ___ gra - vel
Christ is still my sure ___ com - pan - ion



Claim - ing Je - sus as the way
Je - sus Christ I fol - lowed still
So I cling to Christ a - lone
As the path be - fore un - folds

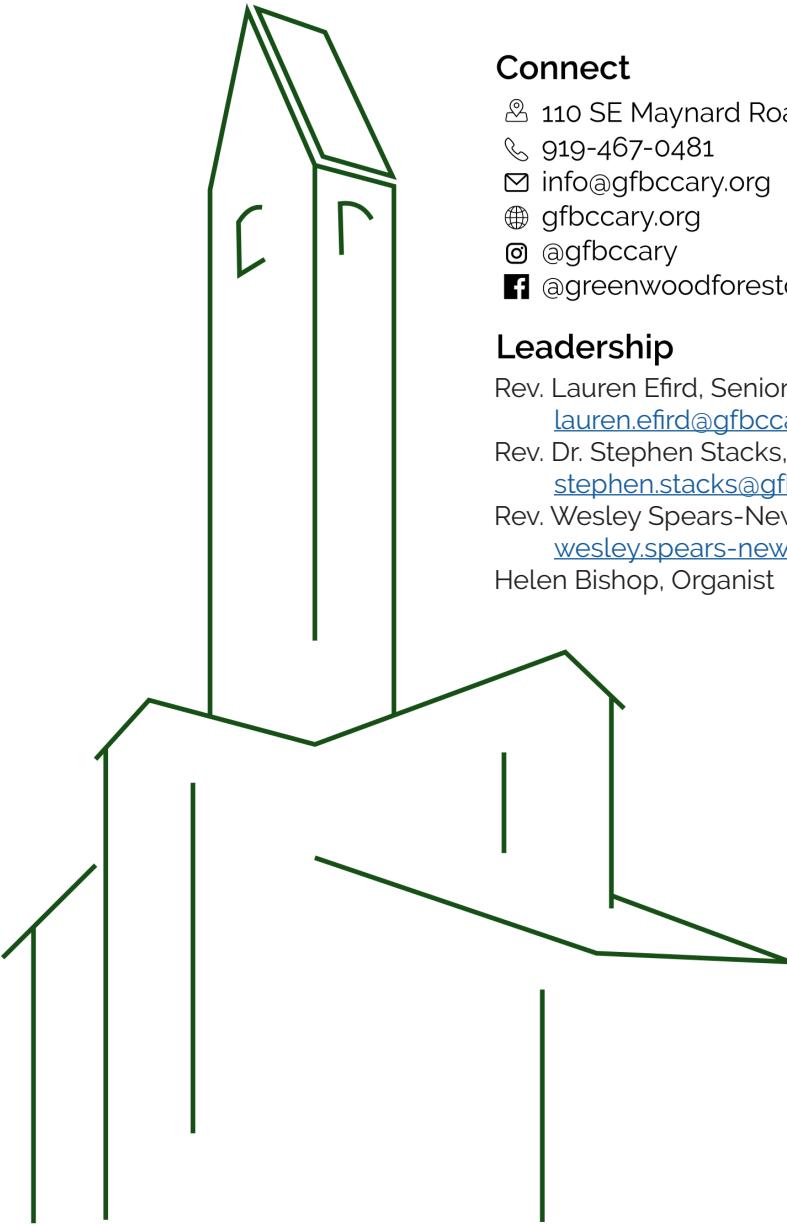
Anthem | Will Arise

Parker/Shaw

I will arise and go to Jesus.
He will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh! there are ten thousand charms.

Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount. I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of thy redeeming love.

Come, thou fount of every blessing.
Tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise.



Connect

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Leadership

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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Special resources for Lent and Easter by A Sanctified Art (sanctifiedart.org).