



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

March 17, 2024



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art Seventy-seven Times

Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Inspired by Mt. 18:15-22 | digital painting

When I'm creating a mandala inspired by a text, I'm able to zoom out and see the bigger picture, and the image itself ends up looking like a bird's eye view, which I think is a helpful perspective sometimes. In this mandala, I wanted to follow a person through the process of reproof, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration as Jesus describes in Matthew 18. In the center, a person is standing alone, isolated, with their arms crossed in a closed-off posture. If you're sinned against, Jesus says to go and "point out the fault when the two of you are alone" (Matthew 18:15). When you move to the second ring of the mandala, there are pairs of people shaking hands, finding common ground, or at least attempting to. If this doesn't work, then you are to bring more people (one or two more) together to provide counsel and witness. In the third ring of the mandala, two people are engaging with the closed-off person, sharing a way forward. In the next ring hyacinth flowers—which represent sorrow, regret, and forgiveness—stretch, bloom, and grow, bringing beauty into the now open arms of the people in the last ring of the mandala, who are embraced and woven into the community. The person from the center goes from being alone and closed-off to embraced and open.

When I was drawing the figures from the center out, it began to look like a dance. Is this the picture that grace paints? [...] The movement toward wholeness is the movement toward one another.

Perhaps craving more tangibility and practicality, Peter asks how many times he should forgive someone who has wronged him, and Jesus says, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times" (Matthew 18:22). This piece contains seventy-seven people and flowers to represent the abundance of grace that Jesus calls us into. The gold represents the divine presence of empathy, compassion, grace, and love throughout this dance from isolation toward community, from brokenness toward wholeness, and from guilt and shame toward freedom.



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

Easter Lilies Now Available

You can purchase Easter Lilies and bulletin dedications today at gfbccary.org/lilies. The flowers will adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and you can take them home after worship.

Randy Palmer'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!

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

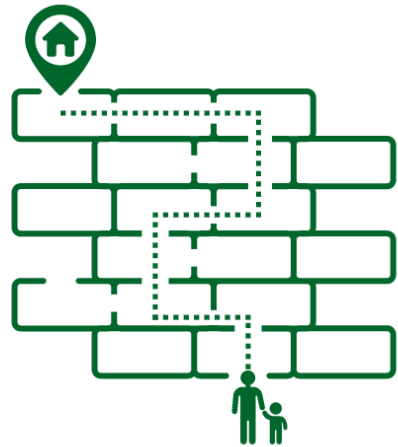
Good Friday Service of Tenebrae (7pm)

March 31

Easter Sunday Worship (11am)

Karen Burden's Anniversary

March 24 marks Karen Burden's 10th year as our Office Administrator. Karen is the first voice you hear when you call the church phone and often the first face you see when you visit the church during the week. She is critical in ensuring our church functions from day to day and we are forever grateful for her hard work. If you call or swing by the church this week be sure to give Karen an extra "thank you!" for all her efforts.



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
Ratna Karmalkar at the death of her father,
R.S. Khandekar
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)
Katheron E. Palmer (mother of Randy Palmer)
Jennie Pegram
Fred Seeger
Mathias Warne (family of Gail Jones)
Gladys Wells
Alison Zieglmier
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 Fifth 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 | *Come, Thou Fount* | arr. Nancy Lyons Smith

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) 📖

Why are you here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

I see it! You're in the right place!

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Why are you here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

We see that in you! You're in the right place. This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Let us worship God.

Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

Invocation | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

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

Offertory Prayer | Andy Jarrell

Offertory | *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* | arr. Whitworth 📖

✝ **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. 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** | *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Matthew 18:15-22* | *Rev. Lauren Efird*

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *O Love* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Teach Me* | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

† **Hymn** | *Love Your Neighbor and Forgive* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* | *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.

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 heart to
2.Here I raise my eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy
3.O to grace how great a debt-or dai - ly I'm con -



7 sing thy grace. streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas-ing
help I'm come; And I hope, by thy good plea-sure,
strined to be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter,



13 call for songs of loud - est praise; teach me some me -
safe - ly to ar - rive at home; Je - sus sought me
bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee; prone to wan - der,



19 lo - dious son-net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
when a stran-ger, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



25 praise the mount! I'm fixed u - pon it, mount of thy re -
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his
here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for thy



31 deem - - ing love.
pre - - cious blood.
courts a - bove.

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -
2. Though none go with me, I still will fol - low; though none go
3. My cross I'll car - ry, till I see Je - sus; my cross I'll
4. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
with me, I still will fol - low; though none go with me, I still will
car - ry, till I see Je - sus; my cross I'll car - ry, till I see
hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be - hind me, the cross be -

Je - sus; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
fol - low; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
Je - sus; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
fore me; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It features a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system contains the first four lines of the lyrics. The second system contains the continuation of the lyrics. The third system contains the final line of the lyrics. The fourth system contains the final line of the lyrics. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

Love Your Neighbor and Forgive



1."Love your neigh - bor and for-give." words so sim - ple
2.Sounds of bombs and bul - lets ring, war is all we've
3.Love is ris - ky, peace is faint, and for - give - ness



yet so hard. We have wounds be - cause we've lived,
ev - er known. Pa - ci - fists are framed as weak;
feels na - ive. All are sin - ners, all are saints,



cal - lus - ses en - fold our hearts. Je - sus reach - es
we re - ly on might a - lone. Je - sus paves the
And we all God's grace re - ceive, So we fol - low



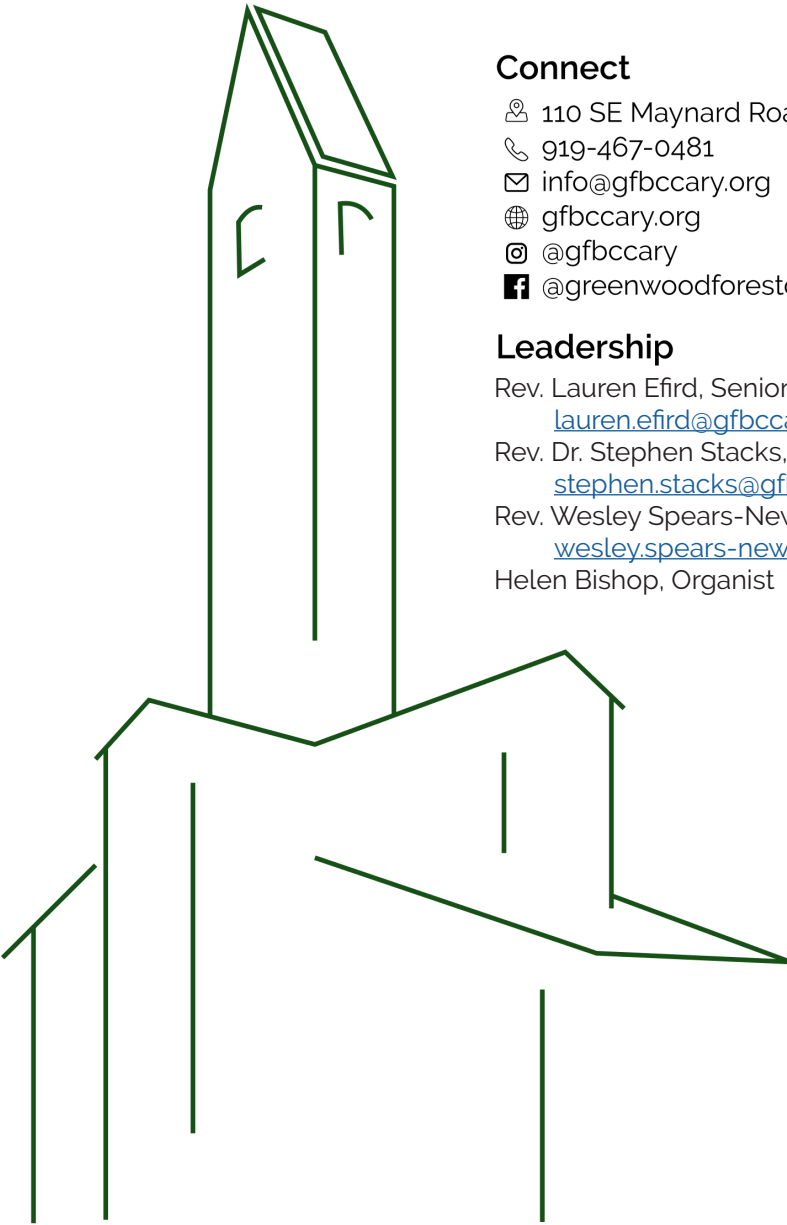
out to touch wounds and hearts that hold too much.
paths of peace e - ven as the threats in - crease.
mer - cy's way, soft - en - ing our hearts to grace.

Anthem O Love

Elaine Hagenberg

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.



Connect

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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).