

Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

April 14, 2024



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art Beautiful Sunflowers Field

Photo by Adobe Stock User MBAYSAN

I chose this photograph for this week because of the behavior of sunflowers. If you sat down by the field of sunflowers at Dorothea Dix Park in Raleigh at the right time of year, you'll see rows and rows of sunflowers that turn themselves toward the sun. This behavior in plants is called heliotropism and involves the flower moving for its bloom to follow the sun in the sky. Some plants will bend dramatically to contort themselves toward the sun as if yearning for its warmth. Paul describes creation's disposition toward God in Romans this way: a deep and profound yearning for the divine. Our own souls have the same yearning, Paul says, so we are partners with creation in our longing.

-Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome



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

Faith Formation Series Begins this Sunday!

Dr. Lydia Hoyle and Rev. Bucky Sydnor will present three different interpretive approaches to the story of Lazarus in John 11 on April 14–28. Lydia will teach on April 14 and 21, focusing on Eastern Orthodox and imaginative/contemplative approaches to the text, and Bucky will teach on April 28, focusing on the historical critical approach. It will be a fascinating three weeks of diving into one of the most interesting passages in John's gospel.

New Sermon Series and Spring Cantata

During the month of April, we'll be reflecting on the role of all God's creation in our faith. The series "The Earth is the Lord's" begins with Genesis and ends in Revelation before we enjoy our spring cantata. On April 28, the Sanctuary Choir will perform Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass* in worship. The piece is a reflection on creation from space down to the ground. It uses the Latin mass text, beautiful lush harmony, and strings to reflect on the spiritual dimension of our relationship to the earth. It will be a beautiful conclusion to our April worship series on creation care. Make plans to be there!

Freedom Ride Fundraiser

For the next several weeks, we'll have different fundraiser activities in the Narthex for the Freedom Ride. You can try your hand at different games and see if you win a prize or have to make a donation (maximum donation: \$50; prizes include items from the GFBC merch store on our website). You can always make a donation at gfbccary.org/give and put Freedom Ride 2024 in the memo line!

Climate Actions

As we talk about our relationship with the earth this month, here's a list of actions you can take adapted from the book *Following Jesus in a Warming World* by Kyle Meyaard-Schaap:

- Calculate your carbon footprint at Global Footprint Network (footprintcalculator.org)
- Use LED lights, which use 80% less energy
- Use ENERGY STAR lights, appliances, etc.
- Turn your thermostat up in summer and down in winter
- Turn off lights/unplug devices when not in use
- Run only full loads in dishwasher and washing machine; line-dry clothes
- Purchase renewable energy from your utility provider and take advantage of their energy-efficiency programs
- Consider installing solar panels
- Better seal and insulate your house
- Drive less; carpool, ride the bus, walk, or bike
- Refuse, rethink, repurpose, reduce, reuse, recycle (in that order!)
- Buy durable products over disposable ones
- Research the ecological and social impacts of your purchases (try betterworldshopper.com)
- Plant a vegetable garden or buy a plot at a community garden
- Wash and reuse single-use plastic bags
- Use reusable water bottles
- Compost food waste
- Eat less meat, especially beef
- Buy local products
- Purchase secondhand clothes
- Buy all your produce at the farmer's market this summer
- Buy a share from a local CSA (community supported agriculture)
- Fly less often; when you do, purchase carbon offsets (try climatestewarduse.org/offset)

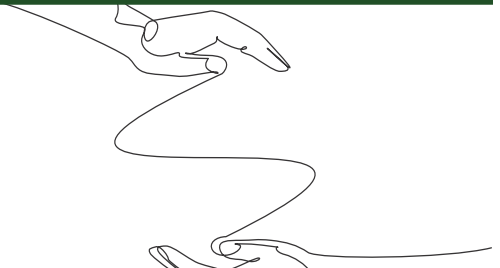
Community Notes Prayer Requests and Giving



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
Jo Brooks
Valerie Brooks
Edwina Erwin
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)
Katheron E. Palmer (mother of Randy Palmer)
Jennie Pegram
Fred Seeger
Paul Smith
Felecia Spears (friend of Susan Beck)
Nancy Walters (mother-in-law of Susan Beck)
Mathias Warne (family of Gail Jones)
Patti Webb
Gladys Wells
Kathleen Wicker
Alison Zieglmeier
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:

Outreach and Fellowship Ministry

The Outreach and Fellowship Ministry is responsible for so many things we enjoy inside our community of faith and our wider community. As we reflect on creation this month, the Outreach and Fellowship Ministry asks that you consider how you can care for the earth both at church and at home!

Order of Worship Third Sunday of Easter

✝ 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 | *Touch the Earth Lightly* | arr. Mendoza

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (by N. T. Wright) 📖

Made for spirituality, we wallow in introspection.

Made for joy, we settle for pleasure.

Made for justice, we clamor for vengeance.

Made for relationship, we insist on our own way.

Made for beauty, we are satisfied with sentiment.

But new creation has already begun.

The sun has begun to rise.

We are called to leave behind, in the tomb of Jesus Christ,

all that belongs to the brokenness and
incompleteness of the present world ...

to follow Jesus Christ into the new world, God's new world,
which he has thrown open before us.

Invocation | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

✝ **Hymn** | *In the Bulb there Is a Flower* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Ken Scott

Offertory | *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* | arr. Mendoza 📖

Today's color is **white**,
representing the
resurrection and glory of
Jesus Christ.

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 | *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** | *Womb of Life and Source of Being (pg. 8)*

Reading | *Romans 8:19-25*

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

Anthem | *The Kingdom (pg. 10)*

Sermon | *The Whole Creation Waits* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

† **Hymn** | *Christ is Coming (pg. 9)* 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

Postlude | *Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit* | *arr. Mendoza*

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!

In the Bulb there Is a Flower

Unison

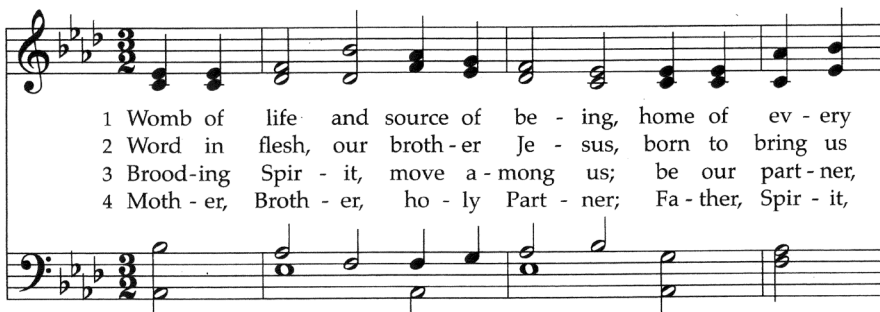
1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2. There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

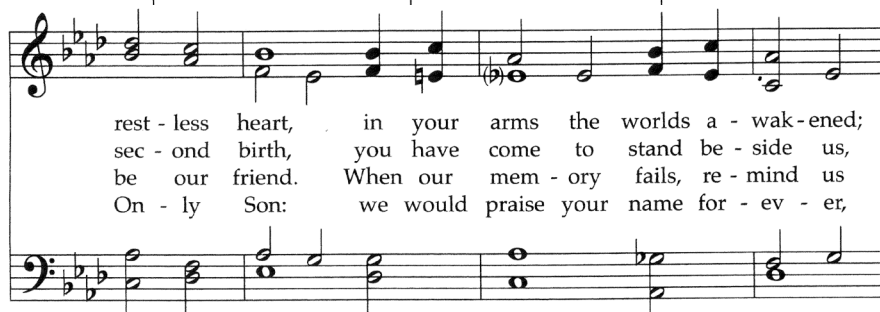
In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

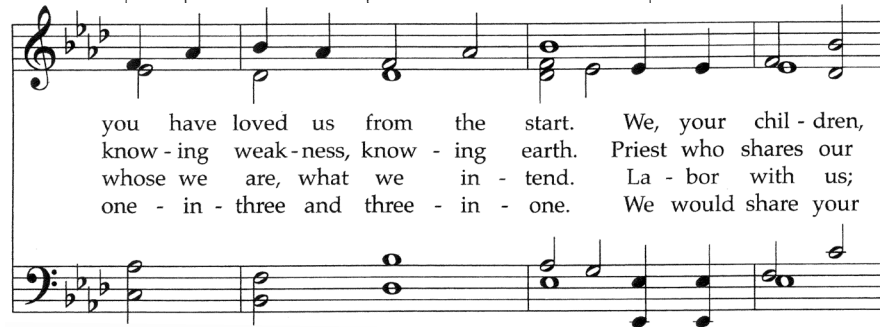
Womb of Life and Source of Being



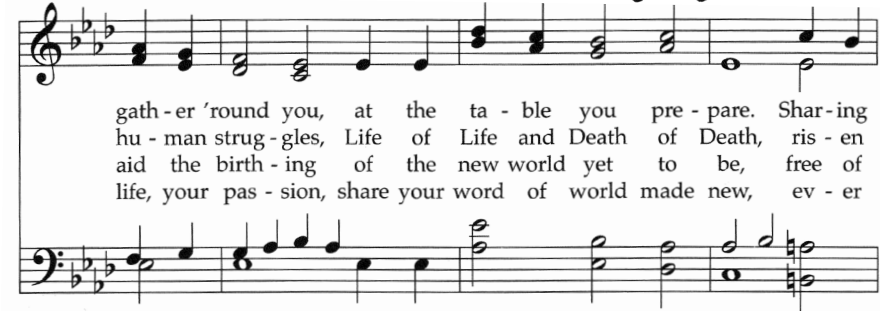
1 Womb of life and source of be - ing, home of ev - ery
2 Word in flesh, our broth - er Je - sus, born to bring us
3 Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our part - ner,
4 Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly Part - ner; Fa - ther, Spir - it,



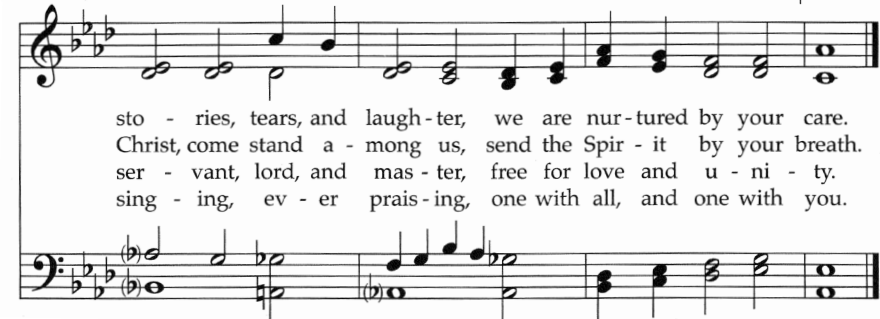
rest - less heart, in your arms the worlds a - wak - ened;
sec - ond birth, you have come to stand be - side us,
be our friend. When our mem - ory fails, re - mind us
On - ly Son: we would praise your name for - ev - er,



you have loved us from the start. We, your chil - dren,
know - ing weak - ness, know - ing earth. Priest who shares our
whose we are, what we in - tend. La - bor with us;
one - in - three and three - in - one. We would share your



gath - er 'round you, at the ta - ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing
hu - man strug - gles, Life of Life and Death of Death, ris - en
aid the birth - ing of the new world yet to be, free of
life, your pas - sion, share your word of world made new, ev - er



sto - ries, tears, and laugh - ter, we are nur - tured by your care.
Christ, come stand a - mong us, send the Spir - it by your breath.
ser - vant, lord, and mas - ter, free for love and u - ni - ty.
sing - ing, ev - er prais - ing, one with all, and one with you.

Christ is Coming

1 Christ is com - ing! Let cre - a - tion from its groans and
2 Earth can now but tell the sto - ry of your bit - ter
3 With that bless - ed hope be - fore us, flutes are tuned and
4 Long your ex - iles have been pin - ing for your prom - ised

la - bor cease; let the glo - rious proc - la - ma - tion
cross and pain; we shall yet be - hold your glo - ry,
harps are strung; let the might - y ad - vent cho - rus
rest and home, but in heaven - ly glo - ry shin - ing,

hope re - store and faith in - crease: Christ is com - ing!
Lord, when you re - turn to reign: Christ is com - ing!
on - ward roll from tongue to tongue: Christ is com - ing!
soon the ris - en Christ shall come. Christ is com - ing!

Christ is com - ing! Come, O bless - ed Prince of peace.
Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the strain.
Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the song.
Christ is com - ing! Joy - ful, shout the vic - tory psalm.

Anthem The Kingdom

André Thomas

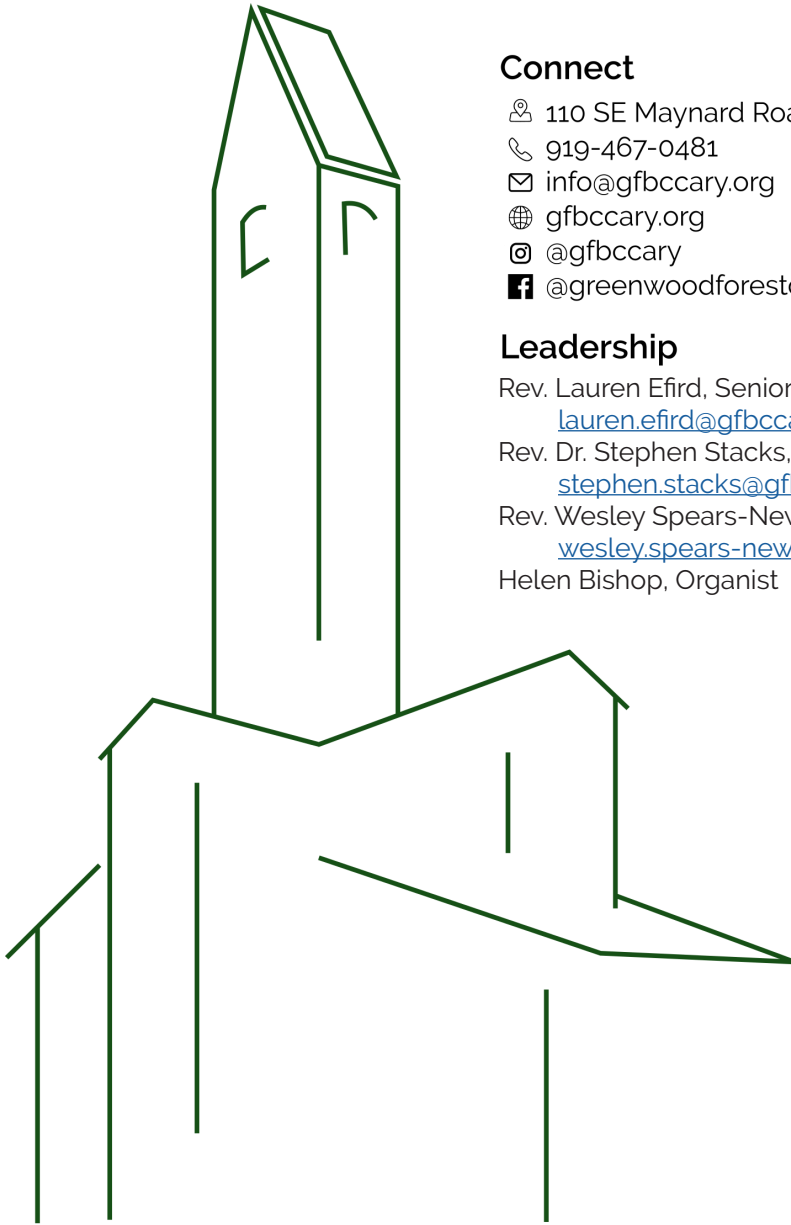
Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost,
That's the kingdom of God.

Don't you want to be a part of the kingdom?
Come on ev'rybody!

Oh, yes, there's joy in the kingdom!
Oh, yes, there's peace in the kingdom!
Oh, yes, there's love in the kingdom!
Come on ev'rybody!

The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof.
We are part of the earth, And it is part of us.
The perfumed flowers are our sisters,
The deer, the horse, the great eagle.
These are our brothers.

Oh, all things are connected.
Rivers our brothers, Earth our mother.
The earth is the Lord's.



Connect

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Leadership

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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