

Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

May 5, 2024



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Bulletin Art Garden Cities of Tomorrow (1902)

Ebenezer Howard, Book Illustration in "Garden Cities of Tomorrow" (1902), previously printed as "Tomorrow: a Peaceful Path to Real Reform" (1898)

The garden city movement was an urban planning theory that promoted a network of cities connected by greenbelts of agriculture and natural resources. The general idea was that a central city was orbited by several satellites and the communities were all connected by natural resources and public transportation. Close examination of the drawing shows the special concern for social resources available to all the cities, even though we would question the execution of and language surrounding such institutions today. The idea, however, was for a self-sustaining community that prevented many of the issues that plagued Western urban environments (like poverty and pollution). None of the cities sustained themselves entirely on their own but existed as connected hubs. The concentric patterns of resources and transportation would provide leisure, necessities, and accessibility to residents of every community. The goal was to take the best of "town" and "country" to form a different understanding of what a city could be.

What I love about the garden city is how it questions our present social arrangements and how it doesn't see our current problems as inevitable. The garden city requires a level of proactive planning that makes it especially impractical for locations where people already live in large numbers; however, it is a helpful vehicle for questioning the status quo in which we live. The garden city also is an attempt to express love and support through urban planning, however imperfect. In the sermon this week, we'll talk about the kind of love that expands our circles of concern and the garden city makes a nice metaphor and social expression of those ideas.

-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



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Announcements Church Events and Updates

Spiritual Life Survey

Each year, we take some time to reflect on our collective spiritual life at Greenwood Forest through a survey of church members. Your responses inform how we plan events for the next church year and what emphases we explore in worship and discipleship. Please fill out this year's survey at gfbccary.org/life24.

Ministry Monday (5/13)

We will have our next night of church ministry team meetings on May 13. We meet in two groups.

Group A Committees (6-7pm): Children's Ministry, Congregational Care, Personnel, Properties, and Youth

Group B Committees (7-8pm): Finance, Outreach and Fellowship

Business Meeting (5/19)

We'll be having a regular business meeting at 2pm on May 19 in the Fellowship Hall. Agenda items include property updates, the nominating process, and other regular updates.

Freedom Ride Fundraiser

Try your hand at our game in the Narthex 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!

Calling All Graduates

If you are graduating from high school or any institution of higher education, please let Wesley know at wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org! We will list our members of the Class of 2024 in the bulletin on June 9. Deadline to let us know is June 2.

ONE Wake Internal Assembly (5/16)

ONE Wake will convene its membership for important decision-making on May 16 at Baptist Grove Church (7109 Leesville Road, Raleigh) and we'd love for you to join us. ONE Wake Core Team Members are expected to attend but any members of Greenwood Forest are welcome to come and have input. We'll be discussing proposals related to mental health, public transportation, and housing. Register to attend at onewake.org.

Affordable Housing in Apex

Habitat for Humanity is looking for help to preserve affordable housing in Apex, particularly for those vulnerable to displacement in manufactured home communities. They are asking the Apex Council to modify its 2045 Land Use Map to preserve affordability. If you live in Apex, please sign onto the letter at tinyurl.com/gfbcapexhousing to show your support.

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
Edwina Erwin
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)
Fred Seeger
Paul Smith
Mathias Warne (family of Gail Jones)
Gladys Wells
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:

Our Deacons

Deacons at Greenwood Forest serve both spiritual and administrative leadership roles and can also be called upon for pastoral care responsibilities. Deacons help guide the church through important decisions and maintain regular program offerings. Thank our deacons when you see them: Steve Denning (chair), Tim Carr, Carol Carter, Andy Jarrell, Natalie Patten, Ken Scott, and Sally Shaver.

Order of Worship Sixth 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 | *Jesus Loves Me* | arr. Victor Labenske

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efir

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (from 1 John 4) 📖

Beloved, let us love one another,

Because love is from God;

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

Beloved, since God loved us so much,

We also ought to love one another.

If we love one another,

God abides in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

God is love,

Those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Invocation | Rev. Spears-Newsome

† **Hymn** | *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Steve Denning

Offertory | *How Great Thou Art* | arr. Mark Hayes 📖

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.

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.

† **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** | *Jesus Loves Me (pg. 8)*

Reading | *John 15:9-17* | *Rev. Efird*

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

Anthem | *Love at the End (pg. 10)*

Sermon | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

Communion | *Rev. Efird* 📖

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** | *They'll Know We Are Christians (pg. 9)*

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* | *arr. Don Phillips*

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.

Thank you Addie Smith for providing the offertory music today.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell-ing, joy of heaven to earth come down,
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast!
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all Thy grace re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Let us all in Thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
let us see Thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee:



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
Take a - way our bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.



Jesus Loves Me

1. Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2. Je - sus loves me! this I know, as He loved so long a - go,
3. Je - sus loves me still to - day, walk - ing with me on my way,
4. Je - sus loves me! He will stay close be - side me all the way;

lit - tle ones to Him be - long; they are weak, but He is strong.
tak - ing chil - dren on His knee, say - ing, "Let them come to Me."
want - ing as a friend to give light and love to all who live.
if I love Him, when I die He will take me home on high.

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It features a treble and bass clef for each system. The lyrics are aligned with the vocal line in the treble clef. The score includes a four-measure introduction, followed by four lines of lyrics, a chorus, and a final line of lyrics. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs in both staves.

They'll Know We Are Christians

Unison

1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

love. Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

Anthem Love at the End

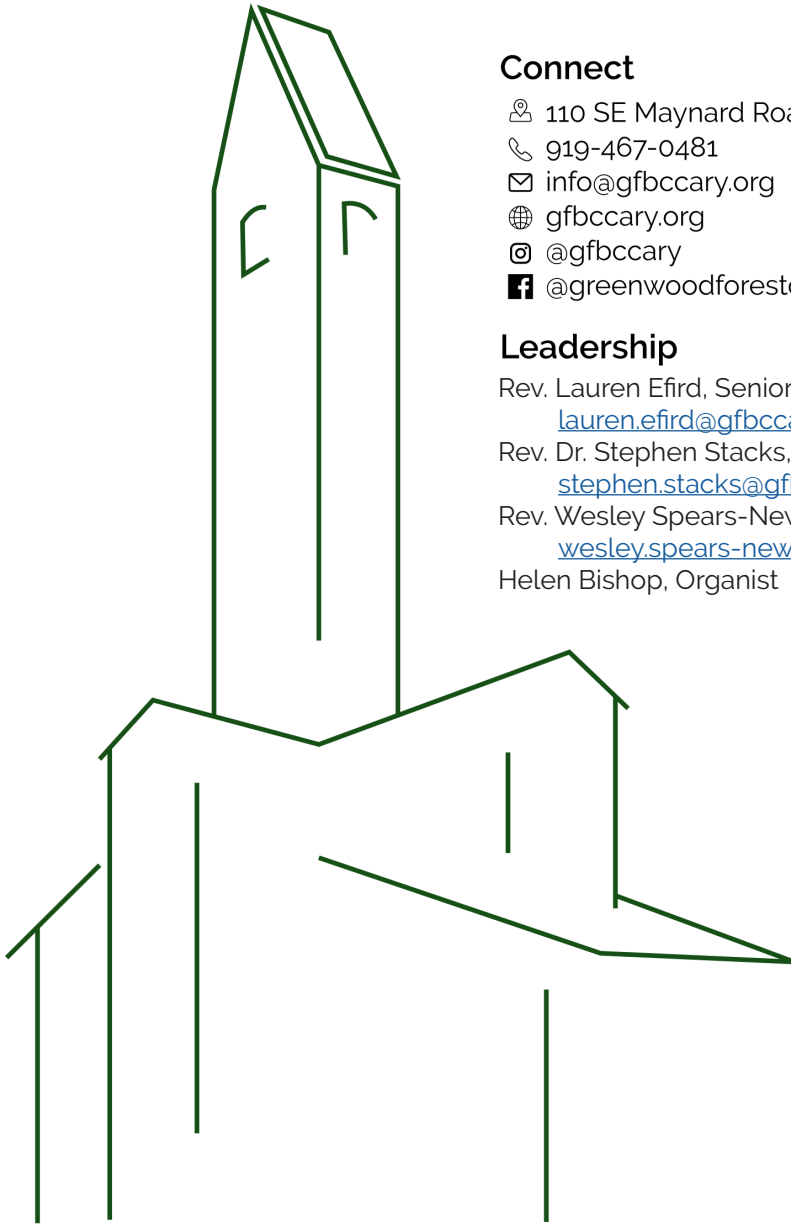
John Mark McMillan

Out of the gaslight
Off the roads we've traveled on
Down by the wayside
Against the sheen of Babylon
I've seen an empire
Taste the tempest of a gathering strong
But I found love at the end of the world

My rabbit's running
On the street hot heels of Rome
My hour's coming to reconcile with the dawn
I'm on the brink
I'm on the brink
I'm on the brink
But I found love at the end of the world

*Tell the reaper
Tell the repo man
I've got nothing that belongs to him
Ruin pushes rubble in the city of sin
But I found love at the end of the world*

Out of the goodnight
I was born into your arms
Like you're my country
Like you're the hills where I belong



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Leadership

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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