

Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

May 12, 2024



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art Ascension Graffiti

Artist Unknown

This week's artwork comes from a graffiti wall in Bristol, England. The artist is unknown, but it depicts Jesus's ascension into heaven against the traditional gold backdrop of an Orthodox icon. You can see the lines of the cinderblock wall behind the painting; perhaps it should remind us of the humanity of the ascended Jesus. He did not ascend away from the world as a disembodied spirit aloof from the concerns of the world; rather, the bodily Jesus ascended from within the rough texture of human history. Jesus brings the scars of our world into God, he does not leave them behind. God is present in our inelegant cinderblock walls, not confined to the otherworldly images we might have of heaven.

-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

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.

Calling All Graduates

If you are graduating from high school or any institution of higher education, please let Wes 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 Ascension Sunday

† 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 | *The Lamb Has Overcome* | Luke Morton

Welcome to Worship | *Rev. Lauren Efir*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 47) 📖

Clap your hands, all you peoples!

Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,

A great king over all the earth.

God has gone up with a shout,

The Lord with the sound of a trumpet!

Sing praises to God, sing praises;

Sing praises to our king, sing praises.

For God is king of all the earth;

Sing praises with a psalm.

God is king over the nations;

God sits on the holy throne.

For the shields of the earth belong to God;

God is highly exalted!

Invocation | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

† **Hymn** | *All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | *Tim Carr*

Offertory | *Open the Eyes of My Heart* | *arr. Leonard* 📖

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. 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** | *Crown Him With Many Crowns (pg. 8)*

Reading | *Acts 1:1-11* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

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

Anthem | *The Majesty and Glory of Your Name (pg. 10)*

Sermon | *The Moment Before* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation (pg. 9)* 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* | *arr. Leonard*

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!

All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name

1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let
 2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye
 3. Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on
 4. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we

an - gels pros - trate fall, let an - gels pros - trate fall; bring
 ran - somed from the fall, ye ran - somed from the fall, hail
 this ter - res - trial ball, on this ter - res - trial ball, to
 at His feet may fall, we at His feet may fall! We'll

forth the roy - al di - a - dem,
 Him who saves you by His grace, and crown
 Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown Him,
 join the ev - er - last - ing song,

crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,
 crown Him,
 crown

crown Him, crown Him, and crown Him Lord of all.
 crown Him,
 Him,

Crown Him With Many Crowns

1. Crown Him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on His throne;
2. Crown Him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave,
3. Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
4. Crown Him the Lord of love! Be - hold His hands and side,

hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own:
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those He came to save;
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise:
those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:

a - wake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
His glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high,
His reign shall know no end, and round His pierc - ed feet
all hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for Thou hast died for me!

and hail Him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
Thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are arranged in four numbered lines, with the first line starting with a '1.' and the others with '2.', '3.', and '4.'. The lyrics are: 1. Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and 2. To this temple, where we call You, come, O Lord of 3. Grant, we pray, to all Your faithful all the gifts they 4. Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor
corner-stone, chosen of the Lord and precious, hosts, and stay; come, with all Your loving-kindness, ask to gain; what they gain from You for-ever to the Son, praise and honor to the Spirit, bind-ing all the Church in one; ho-ly Zi-on's hear Your people as they pray; and Your full-est with the blessed to re-tain; and here-af-ter ev-er three and ev-er one: one in might and help for- ever and our con- fi- dence a- lone. ben- e- dic- tion shed with- in these walls to- day. in Your glo- ry ev- er- more with You to reign. one in glo- ry while un- end- ing a- ges run!

Prelude The Lamb Has Overcome

Luke Morton

The Lamb has overcome
The Lamb has overcome
The battle's done
And the victory is won
For the Lamb has overcome

No grave could hold him down
No grave could hold him down
Up from the ground,
"He is risen!" was the sound
No grave could hold him down

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Glory be unto his name*

At God's right hand is he
At God's right hand is he
Our Perfect Plea,
How he lives to intercede!
At God's right hand is he

The table now is spread
The table now is spread
This wine and bread
Broken body and blood shed
The table now is spread

The day is drawing near
The day is drawing near
He shall appear
And will wipe away each tear
The day is drawing near

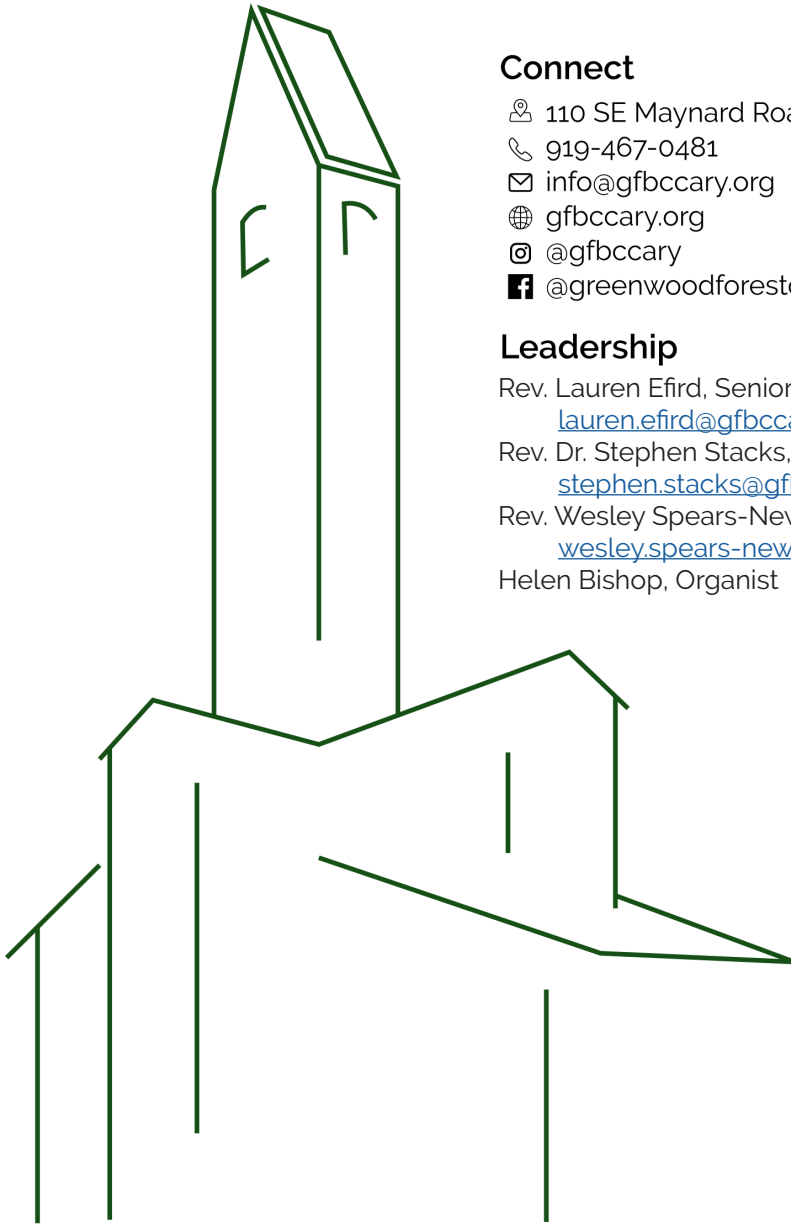
Anthem The Majesty & Glory of Your Name

Tom Fettke

O Lord, our God
The majesty and glory of your name
Transcends the earth and fills the heavens
O Lord, our God
Little children praise you perfectly
And so would we

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
The majesty and glory of Your name
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
The majesty and glory of Your name

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!



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Leadership

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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