



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

May 19, 2024



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art Pentecost

Adobe Firefly* with Modifications by Rev. Spears-Newsome

The woman at the center of this week's art could be considered two different ways. First, it is a relatively good bet that Mary Magdalene was among the "certain women" (Acts 1:14) present during initial decision-making in Jerusalem, including of Judas Iscariot's successor. When the narrative moves on to the coming of the Holy Spirit, it's likely that she was present with the other early leaders of Jesus' movement. Here, she is seen dancing with the flames of the Spirit, then and surrounded by a traditional halo of light. However, one could also interpret the image to be that of the Holy Spirit bringing the fires of Pentecost. It's not unusual for the Spirit to be depicted as feminine with a history of this feminine aspect of God dating back to the Hebrew Scriptures, particularly with the image of Sophia (Wisdom) and Breath (a feminine Hebrew word). Here the Spirit brings the tongues of fire to the disciples on Pentecost. In either case, her red dress is either that which is associated with Mary Magdalene or the traditional color of Pentecost. Whichever interpretation suits your meditations on this passage, remember that the coming of the Holy Spirit brings a fire that cannot be quenched and moves us to follow Jesus in the world today.

-Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

* Adobe Firefly is an AI-art program but has substantial differences from other software. Firefly only uses Adobe Stock (art that Adobe has either made in-house or purchased the rights for) and public domain images for which copyright has expired to generate its images. No artist went uncompensated in the process of the development of the image, unlike other AI-art programs like popular ones DALL-E or Midjourney.



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.

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.

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.

Summer Choir

If you've been considering singing in the choir, now would be a great time to join us! During the summer, we rehearse once a month after worship on Sunday following a potluck lunch. Our first after church rehearsal is June 2.

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 Bkindou
Edwina Erwin
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)
Fred Seeger
Paul Smith
Linda Sorrell
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 Pentecost

✝ 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 | *Komm, heiliger Geist, Herre Gott* | Armsdorf

Welcome to Worship | *Rev. Lauren Efir*

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit!

People: Fill our hearts!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship 📖

When the world divides us:

Come, Holy Spirit, make us one!

When the world calls us orphaned:

Come, Holy Spirit, make us family!

When the world leads us astray:

Come, Holy Spirit, call us home!

Come, Holy Spirit, rain down on this place,

Let our souls drink your goodness!

Let our hearts overflow.

Come, Holy Spirit, rain down on this place!

Invocation | *Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

✝ **Hymn** | *Spirit on the Church Descending* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | *Carol Carter*

Offertory | *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* | *arr. Mendoza* 📖

✝ **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!

Today's color is **red**, representing the fire and power of the Holy Spirit.

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. 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** | *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Acts 2:1-21* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Praise His Holy Name* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Spirit of the Living God* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *We Are One in the Spirit* | *arr. Mendoza*

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!

☑ Spirit on the Church Descending

1. Spi - rit on the Church des - cend - ing, rain - ing down from God a - bove;
2. Spir - it on the pro - phets pour - ing, crown - ing kings in Wis - dom's plan;
3. Spir - it on the Son now rest - ing, bring - ing good news to the poor;
4. Spir - it on the earth a - bid - ing gath'r - ing peo - ple far and near;

5

Wind of pow - er, heav - ens rend - ing, fill our lives with hol - y love.
Word of God in jus - tice speak - ing, will the peo - ple strength to stand.
sight re - co - vered, cap - tives free - ing, sing for Ju - bi - lee once more.
through the king - dom Christ is build - ing, free the world from death and fear.

9

Fall u - pon us, fall u - pon us, grant the gifts that make us one.

text: W. Benjamin Boswell
music: Stephen Stacks

Spirit of the Living God

Musical score for the hymn "Spirit of the Living God". The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me; Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me; Spir - it of the

liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me,

fill me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

Anthem Praise His Holy Name

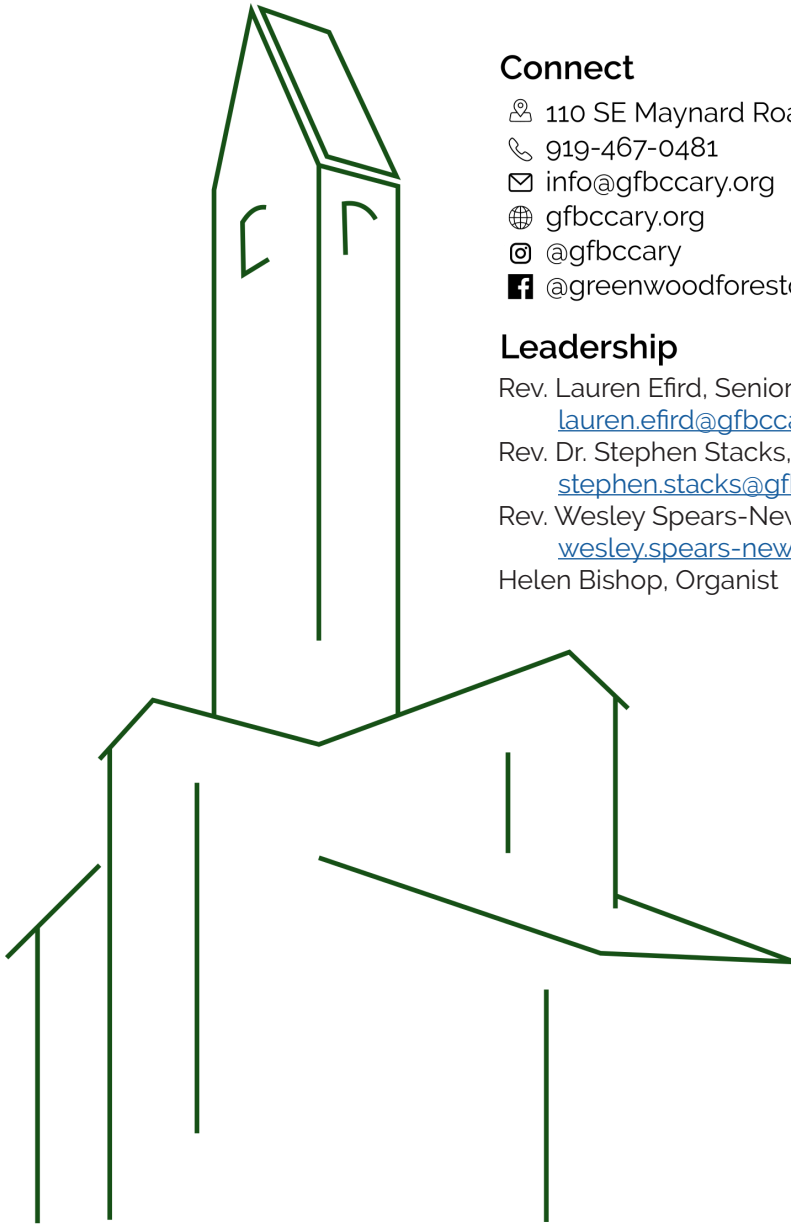
Keith Hampton; Percussion: Sean Glasgow

Sing till the power of the Lord come down.
Shout hallelujah! Praise his holy name!

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.
Jesus, Jesus, how I love thee! Shout hallelujah!
Praise his holy name!

Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for everyone and there's a cross for me.
Jesus, Jesus, how I love thee! Shout hallelujah!
Praise his holy name!

Hallelujah! Praise his name! Let us praise his name, Hallelujah, Lord!
Praise his holy name! Hallelujah



Connect

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Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

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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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