

Greenwood Forest
Baptist Church

May 26, 2024



Scan for Digital

Bulletin Art Trinity

Icon by Kelly Latimore (to purchase: kellylatimoreicons.com)

Kelly Latimore is a non-traditional iconographer who developed his craft during his life with the Common Friars, a monastic community that birthed The Good Earth Farm, where they held weekly services and meals while growing produce for their community and local food pantries. Latimore's iconography originally emerged from the communal life he experienced there and has grown into a sprawling collection of icons. Icons are a particular kind of art that invite the viewers into "holy pondering" and meditation on the subject of the icon. Latimore describes it this way:

"My hope is that these icons can do what all art can potentially do, which is, to create more dialogue. By transcending our biases, listening, and having inner silence about our convictions, our inherited traditions, or our favorite ideas we can become open to the patterns of work, knowledge and experience we may not have seen in the other or buried in ourselves. The other may have something to teach us about who God is, the world we live in, and who are our neighbors. This is the real work of being human and of art. Being more present."

This particular icon is based on a Trinitarian tradition that is typically exemplified by the Russian iconographer Andrei Rublev (see below). In Rublev's well-known icon, he depicts the visitors to Abraham (Genesis 18) sharing in a meal at a table, much like the three women here. Most interpreters of the icon see the visitors representing the three Persons of the Christian Trinity. Here, the angels (or Persons) are depicted as women from different parts of the world. Given the original icon's referent to hospitality, consider how this modern version invites us into divine hospitality today.



There are other important differences between the icons. In Rublev's, the figures are distinct from one another and disconnected. Here, they are linked by hand. The open hands are also outstretched toward the viewer, as if inviting them to the table. The table itself is draped in many colors, which itself could represent the colors of the LGBTQ Pride Flag, the diversity of God's people around the world, or the promise of God to care for us.

In both icons, the arrangement of the feet and hands suggest a circle, reminding us of the completeness and interdependence of the Trinity. No one Person is divided from God and yet they have distinction from each other, but always in the divine community they form. The Trinity is a holy mystery that speaks to the communal, loving, and welcoming nature of God.



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.

Neighborhood Summer Program (6/18-8/14)

The Neighborhood Summer Program returns this summer to provide educational enrichment and nutritious meals to neighborhood children. To sign up to help with serving food, playing games, or reading books, you can sign up at gfbccary.org/summer. We are scheduled to provide volunteers on Wednesdays (9am-12:30pm), but you may volunteer on Tuesdays or Thursdays, as well.

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.

Town of Cary Proposes Budget with Millions for Affordable Housing

Members of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church and our ONE Wake partner organizations gathered on Thursday night to thank the Town of Cary for its ongoing commitment to affordable housing. Nearly \$6 million is set to be included in next year's budget for affordable housing, something once unthinkable in Cary. Persistent and consistent action preserves this momentum! There will also likely be a bond for the Town of Cary on the November ballot, which will include \$30 million for affordable housing. Stay tuned for more details!

Members of the Chatham Estates community met with Dorcas Ministries last Wednesday night, as well, to discuss another win for affordable housing: Stable Homes Cary. The Stable Homes program seeks to preserve affordable housing or keep people in affordable housing options in and around Cary. The Chatham Estates mobile home park (north of GFBC on Maynard Road) is up for sale, which would require residents to leave homes that they own but cannot be moved. Stable Homes will help with relocation and the costs of moving for residents and is a program funded by the Town of Cary and administered by Dorcas Ministries. Both residents and Dorcas agreed to a series of ongoing meetings to ensure the program meets the needs of residents.

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
Aaliyah Murray (family of Gail Jones)
Fred Seeger
Paul Smith
Linda Sorrell
Mathias Warne (family of Gail Jones)
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.

Office Closure This Week

Office Closed May 27-31

Please take note that the church office will be closed this week as our office administrator takes a well-deserved vacation.

If you need to contact any of our ministers, as usual, you can leave a message on their personal voicemails at the church or send an email to get in touch.

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 Trinity 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 | *All Glory Be to God on High* | Zachau

Welcome to Worship | *Rev. Lauren Efir*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (by Roddy Hamilton) 📖

Let us shape a space for the Three:

The Spirit as breath of life

The Bread as food of heaven

The Love in relationship

Let us shape a space that tangles all three through our life and our worship, held in relationship and met here

Let us shape a space for the many faces of God woven together and revealed in each of us

On this Trinity Sunday, let us shape a space to be found together in worship.

Invocation | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

✝ **Hymn** | *Holy, Holy, Holy* (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | *Ken Scott*

Offertory | *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* | *arr. Berry* 📖

✝ **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 **white**, representing wonder and the glory of God.

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. 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** | *The God of Abraham Praise* (pg. 8)

Reading | *Genesis 18:1-16* | *Rev. Dr. Stacks*

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *Os Justi* (pg. 10)

Sermon | *Welcoming God* | *Rev. Efird*

† **Hymn** | *Let Us Build a House* (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude | *Holy, Holy, Holy* | *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!

Thank You!

Thank you to our small ensemble for providing the anthem today.

Holy, Holy, Holy

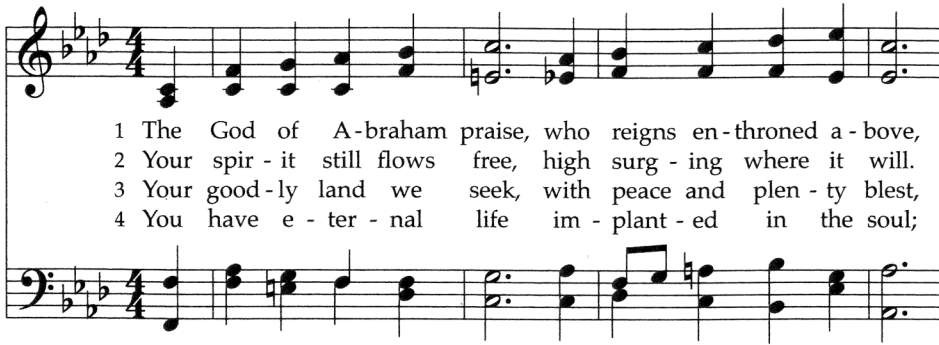
1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide Thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see;
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

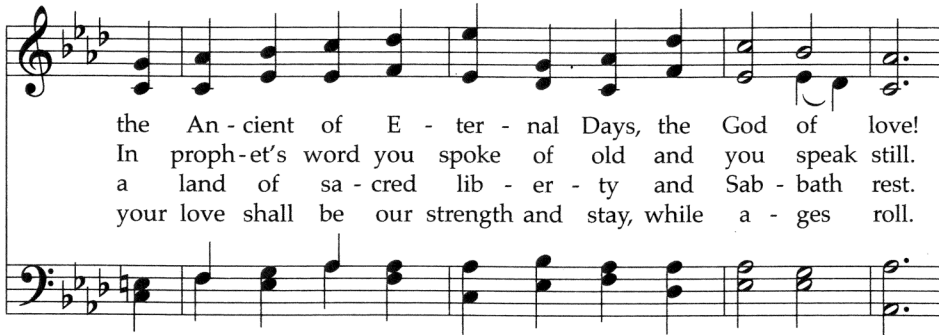
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
on - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

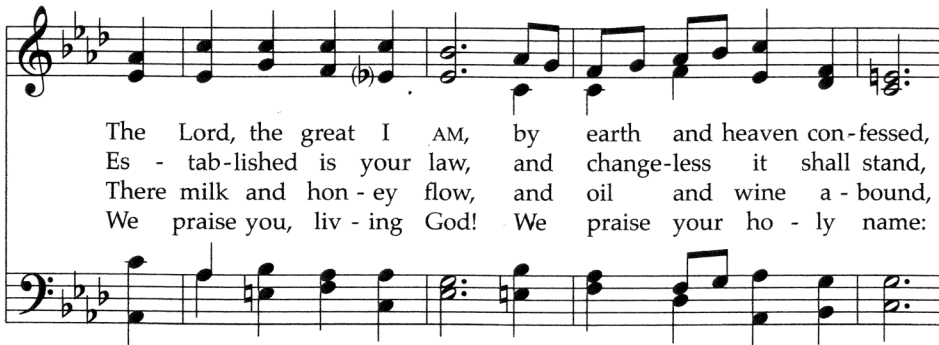
The God of Abraham Praise



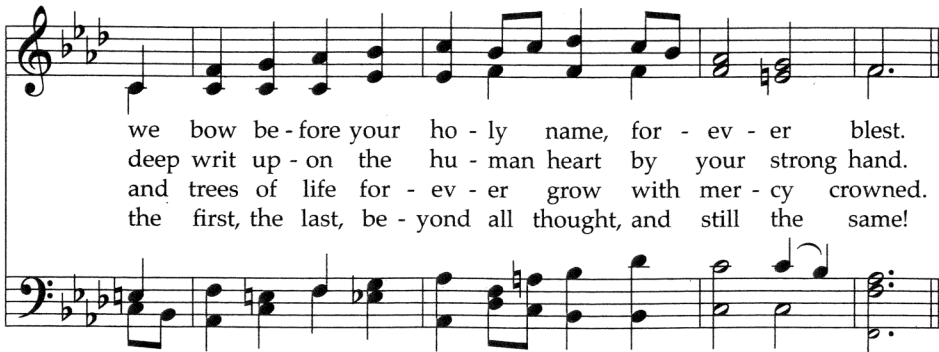
1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



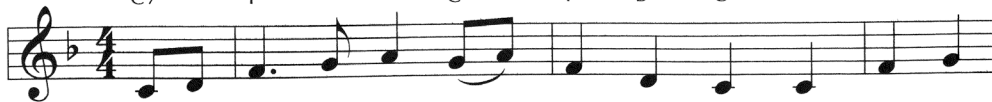
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:



we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

Let Us Build a House

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm



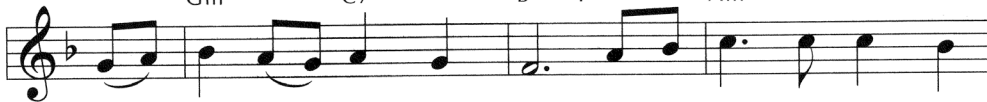
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F (C7)

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Anthem Os Justi

Anton Bruckner

Os justi meditabitur sapientiam

et lingua ejus loquetur judicium.

Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius

et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus.

Alleluia.

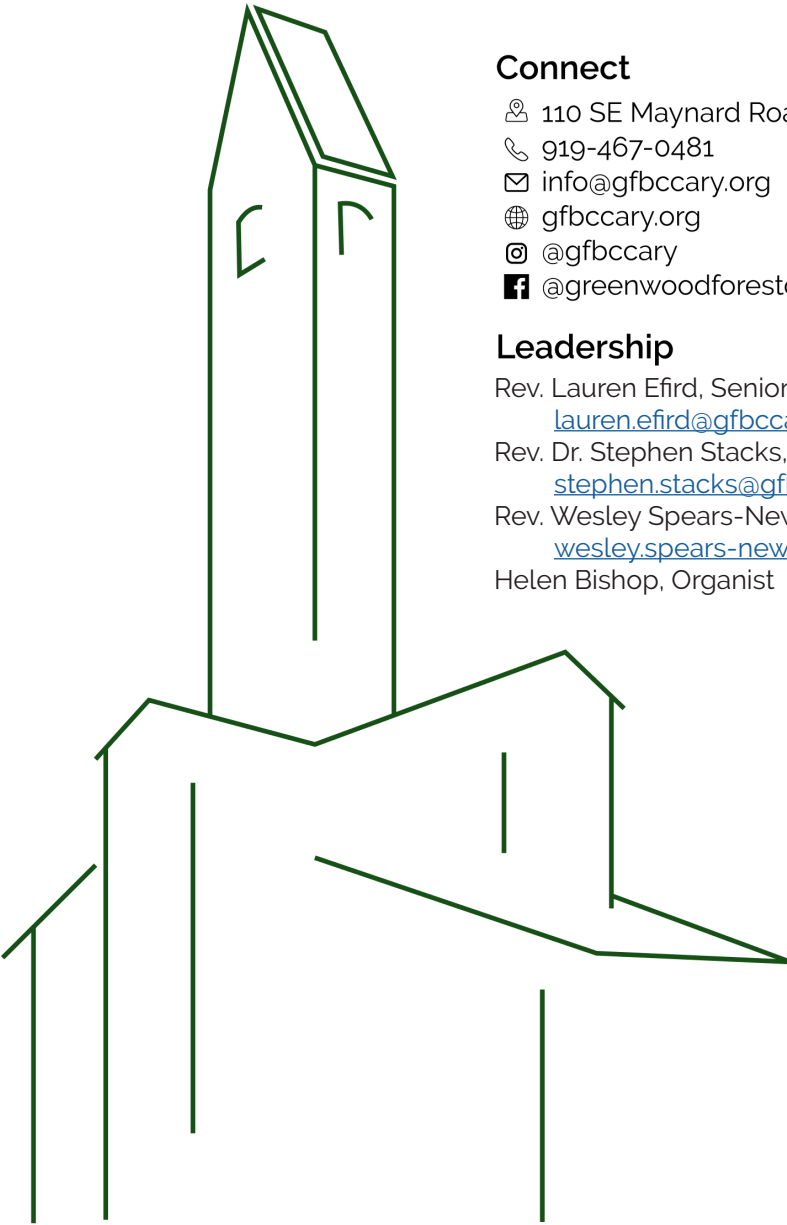
The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,

and their tongue speaks what is just.

The law of their God is in their heart:

and their feet do not falter.

Alleluia!



Connect

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Leadership

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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