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Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

Sept. 8, 2024





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.

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.



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Order of Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome to Worship | *Rev. Lauren Efird*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (from Baptist Women in Ministry)

Loving God, Creator of heaven and earth; like a mother you feed us with gifts that sustain our bodies and enrich our lives.

We praise you, God of creation, for the bounty of your goodness. We give thanks for those who have taught us.

Your gifts are for all people.

God of compassion, you chose women and men and made them alive to your love. They have spoken your truth; they marked places with stones as signs of your presence.

We thank you, eternal God, for people faithful to your truth; they have been symbols of your presence, as the body of Christ.

God of redemption, you came to us, as one like us, calling us to be your community of priests. Siblings, we are called . . .

Called to follow Jesus. What a challenge! What an opportunity!

Called to move, as he did, among the people; to feel with them, to care for them; to touch them and be touched by them.

Called to name, as he did, the oppressions that destroy our world; those of which we are already aware, and those whose injustices we have not yet learned to recognize or name.

Called to discern those gifts of life God has hidden deep within each of us.

Called to discover and share those gifts of our hearts, our hands, and whole selves.

Called to place our gifts in God's hands—the holy hands from which they came. Called to follow Jesus . . .

And yes, we can answer; we can follow, because we have been called first to love,

Called to be God's children,

2 Called by name.

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.

Invocation | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

Hymn | *Here I Am, Lord*

Offertory Prayer | *Blair Biser*

Offertory

Doxology | *Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH*

Transcendent God, we bless your name
Incarnate Christ, the risen one
The Spirit with us, Immanent
The Source, the Word, the Breath of life. Amen.

The Prayers of the People | *Rev. Dr. 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 | *Will You Come and Follow Me*

Reading | *Acts 6:1-6* | *Blair Biser*

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

Anthem | *Come to Him, A Living Stone* | Mark Kilstofte

Deacon Testimonies | *Jazzmoné Sutton*

Nathan Bullock

Deacon Ordination and Laying on of Hands

Commissioning of the New Deacon Board

Hymn | *Spirit of the Living God*

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude

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!

Here I Am, Lord

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them,
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them,

My hand will save. I, who made the stars of night,
they turn a - way. I will break their hearts of stone,
My hand will save. Fin-est bread I will pro-vide

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear My
give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak My
till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give My

light to them? Whom shall I send?
 word to them. Whom shall I send?
 life to them. Whom shall I send?

Parts (optional)

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You call - ing in the night. (in the night.)

I will go, Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your peo - ple in my heart.

Will You Come and Follow Me

Unison

1. Will you come and fol - low Me if I but call your name?
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when You but call my name.

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low You and nev - er be the same.

Will you let My love be shown, will you let My name be known,
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
In Your com - pa - ny I'll go where Your love and foot-steps show.

will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?
Will you let Me an - swer prayer in you and you in Me?
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?
Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

Spirit of the Living God

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

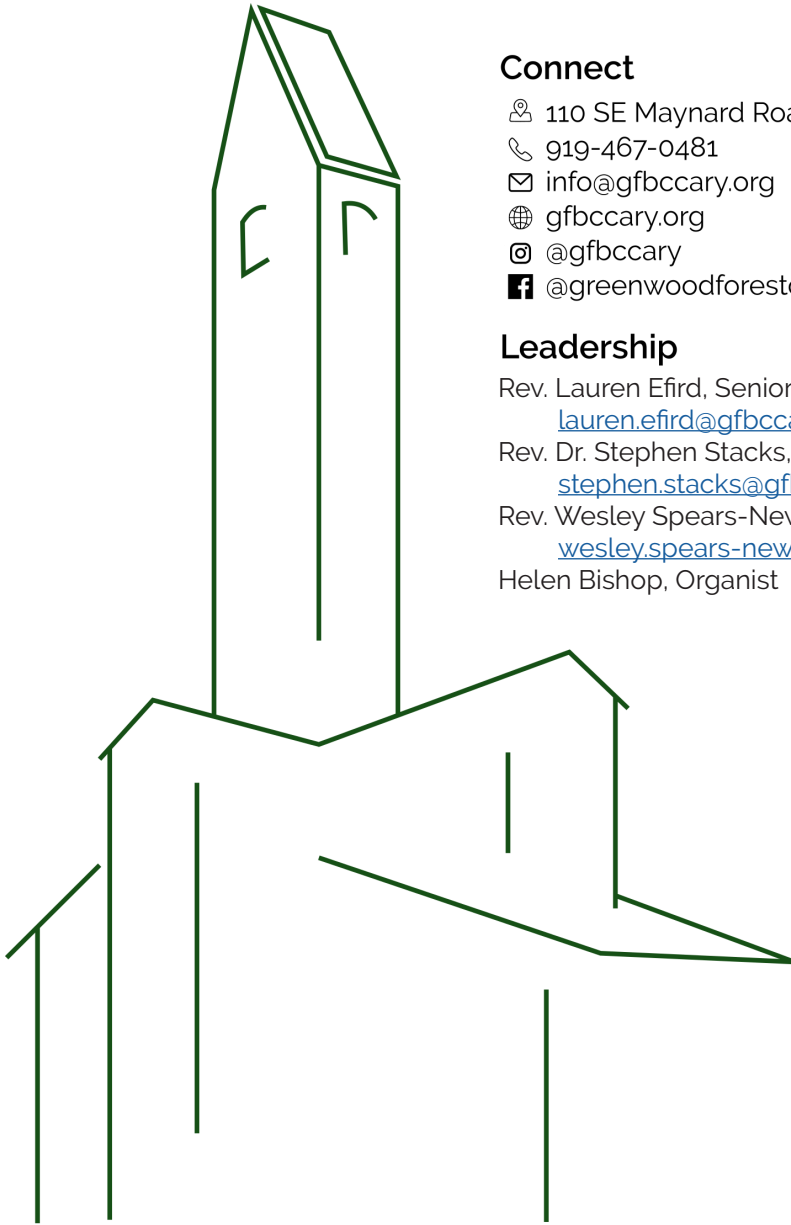
The first system of music is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a series of chords and single notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and eighth-note patterns.

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

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The vocal line has a long note on 'me' that spans across the bar line. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

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

The third system concludes the piece. The vocal line ends with a quarter note on 'me'. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord. The system includes a repeat sign at the beginning of the vocal line.



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Leadership

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Helen Bishop, Organist

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