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Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

Sept. 15, 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 Efirid*

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19)

I love the Lord,

Because God has heard my voice and my supplications.

Because God inclined God's ear to me,

Therefore I will call on God as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord:

"O Lord, I pray, save my life!"

What shall I return for all the Lord's bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all the people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of faithful ones.

O Lord, I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.

You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice

And call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all the people,

In the courts of the house of the Lord,

In your midst, O Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

Invocation | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

Hymn | *Be Thou My Vision v.1*

Offertory Prayer | *Nathan Bullock*

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.

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 | *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom*

Reading | *Proverbs 1:20-33* | *Rev. Lynn McLaughlin*

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | *How Long?* | Ordinary Time

Sermon | *Wisdom at the City Gate* | *Rev. Efird*

Hymn | *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Benediction | *Rev. Efird*

Postlude

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!

Unison

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be Thou my wis - dom and Thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain emp - ty praise,
 4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and Thou my high tower,
 Thou and Thou on - ly first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 raise Thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Be Thou My Vision

5 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who



earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,



for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -

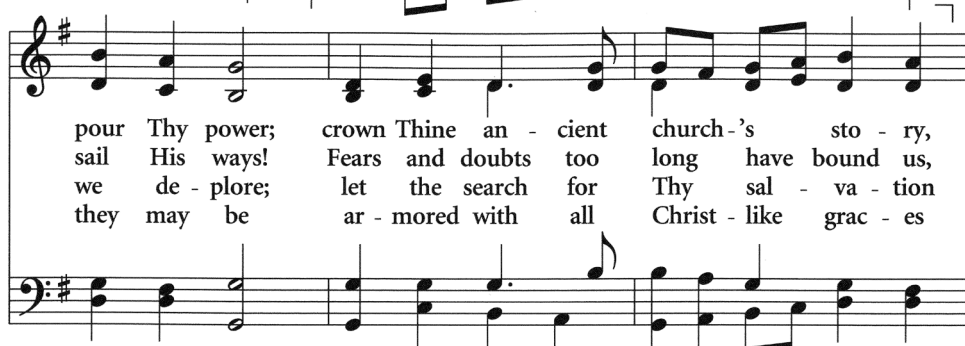


path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

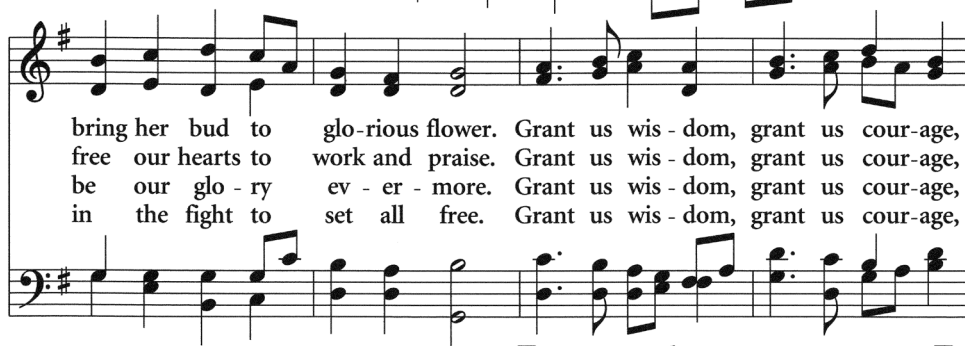
God of Grace and God of Glory



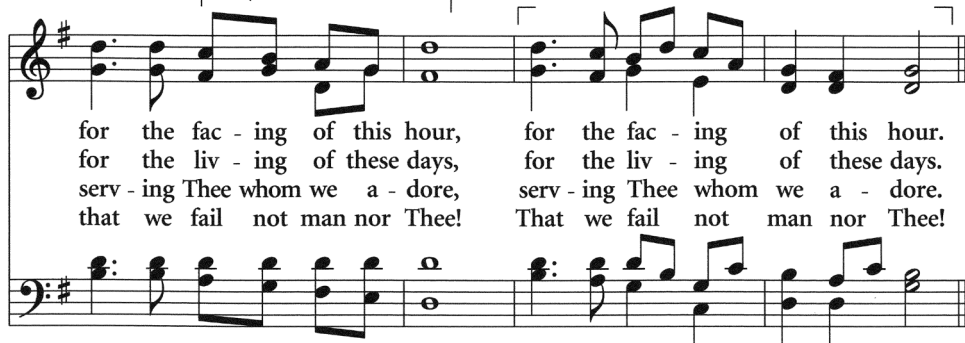
1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on Thy peo - ple
2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn Thy Christ, as -
3. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils
4. Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that



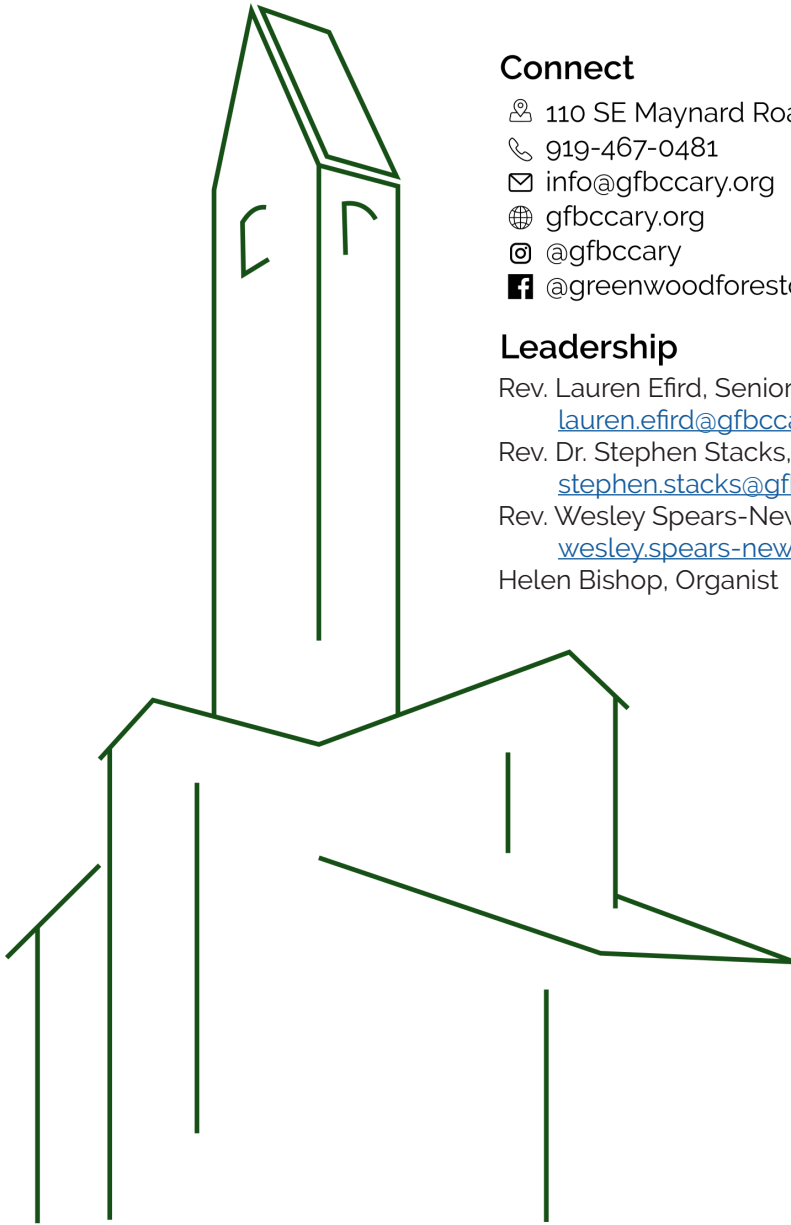
pour Thy power; crown Thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry,
sail His ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us,
we de - plore; let the search for Thy sal - va - tion
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es



bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
in the fight to set all free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
serv - ing Thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing Thee whom we a - dore.
that we fail not man nor Thee! That we fail not man nor Thee!



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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