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# Greenwood Forest

## Baptist Church

Sept. 29, 2024





Greenwood Forest  
Baptist Church

an inclusive  
community  
of faith

# Welcome

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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.



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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 1)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,

**Or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;**

But their delight is in the law of the Lord,

**And on God's law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,

**which yield their fruit in its season,**

Their leaves do not wither.

**In all that they do, they prosper.**

The wicked are not so,

**But are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

**Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;**

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

**But the way of the wicked will perish.**

### Invocation | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

### Hymn | *Be Thou My Vision v.3*

### Offertory Prayer | *Ken Scott*

### 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 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. 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** | *Help Us Accept Each Other*

**Reading** | *James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a* | *Elizabeth Deters*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | *Ubi Caritas* | *Maurice Duruflé*

**Sermon** | *Wisdom of a Good Life* | *Luke Perrin*

**Hymn** | *Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race*

**Benediction** | *Rev. Efirid*

**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

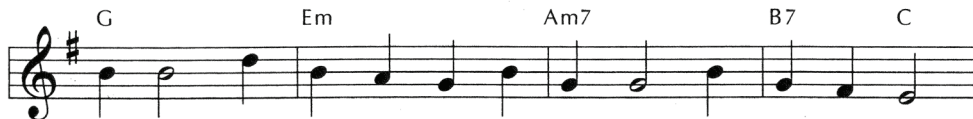
# Help Us Accept Each Other



1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;  
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life  
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved  
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.  
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.  
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;  
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve  
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,  
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart  
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



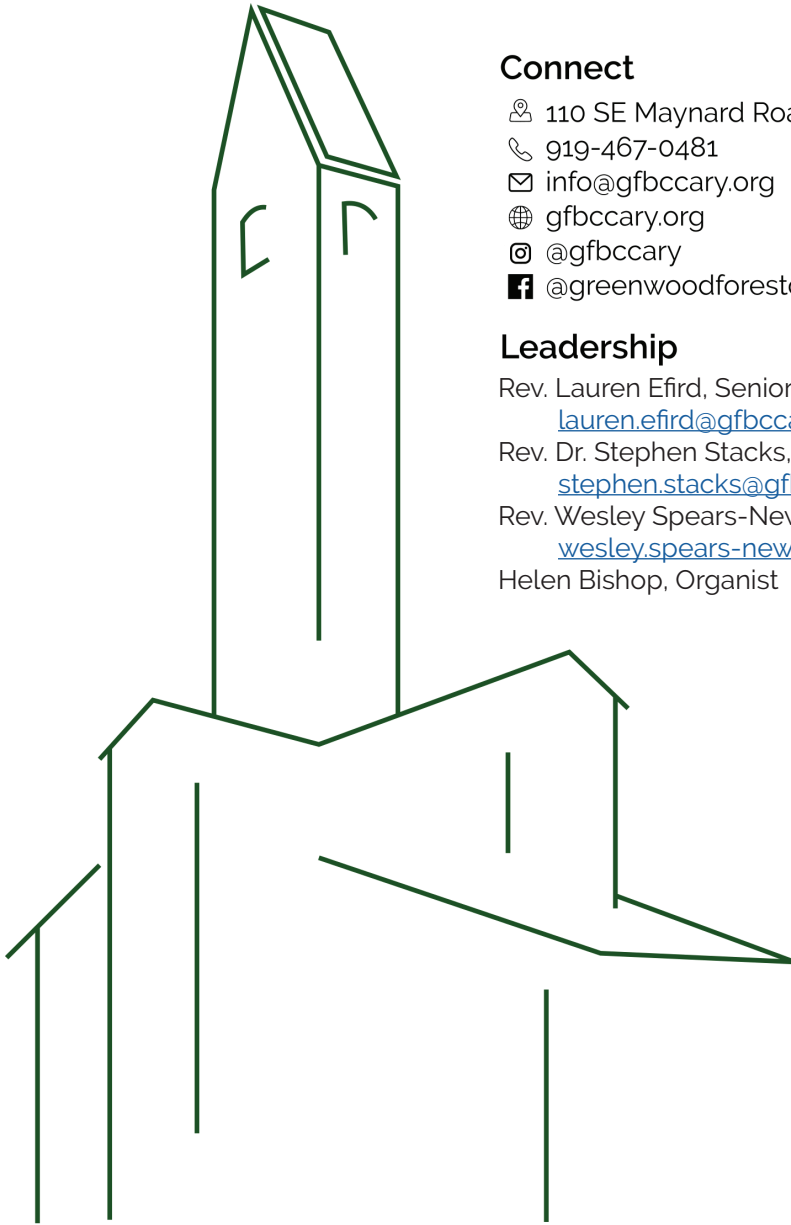
we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.  
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.  
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

# Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

1. Di - verse in cul - ture, na - tion, race, we  
2. God, let us be a bridge of care con -  
3. When cha - sms wid - en, storms a - rise, O  
4. God, let us be a ta - ble spread with

come to - geth - er by Your grace. God, let us be a  
nect - ing peo - ple ev - ery - where. Help us con - front all  
Ho - ly Spir - it, make us wise. Let our re - solve, like  
gifts of love and bro - ken bread, where all find wel - come,

meet - ing ground where hope and heal - ing love are found.  
fear and hate and lust for power that sep - a - rate.  
steel, be strong to stand with those who suf - fer wrong.  
grace at - tends, and en - e - mies a - rise as friends.



## Connect

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## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

[stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org](mailto:stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

[wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org)

Helen Bishop, Organist

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