



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

November 10, 2024



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Bulletin Art

"The Course of Empire: Desolation" (oil on canvas) by Thomas Cole

This painting is the last in a series by Cole and includes: The Savage State, The Arcadian or Pastoral State, The Consummation of Empire, Destruction, and Desolation. The paintings don't depict any city in particular but the Greco-Roman architecture evokes the myths of those empires which served as founding inspirations for the United States, where Cole painted. There are several interpretations of Cole's cycle. One is that empire inevitably leads to collapse and that the pastoral life is the only virtuous one. Another might be to emphasize the earth's permanence (each picture is the same valley) in contrast to our own temporality. Cole described the painting this way:

The fifth picture is the scene of Desolation. The sun has just set, the moon ascends the twilight sky over the ocean, near the place where the sun rose in the first picture. Day-light fades away, and the shades of evening steal over the shattered and ivy-grown ruins of that once proud city. A lonely column stands near the fore ground, on whose capitol, which is illumined by the last rays of the departed sun, a heron has built her nest. The doric temple and the triumphal bridge, may still be recognised among the ruins. But, though man and his works have perished, the steep promontory, with its insulated rock, still rears against the sky unmoved, unchanged. Violence and time have crumbled the works of man, and art is again resolving into elemental nature. The gorgeous pageant has passed – the roar of battle has ceased – the multitude has sunk in the dust – the empire is extinct.

Cole was in part writing and painting in response to the presidency of Andrew Jackson, a president with authoritarian impulses responsible for the genocide of indigenous people in the United States. Cole's critique of the Jacksonian era was rebuffed by Levi Woodbury, a Jacksonian justice of the Supreme Court who said there would be no destruction or desolation for the United States.

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

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, citizenship statuses, 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.



Announcements | Church Events and Updates

Disability Theology

Our teaching series continues Sunday and runs through November 17. **Rev. Amanda Warren and Kevin Schaeffer are teaching us about disability theology.** Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45am!

Love Feast and Christmas Decorating (Nov. 24)

Mark your calendars for after worship on November 24! We'll be eating lunch together in a Souper Love Feast (bring a soup to share!) and then you can either (1) make an Advent wreath with the Children's Ministry or (2) help adorn the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.

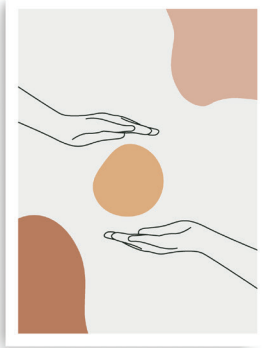
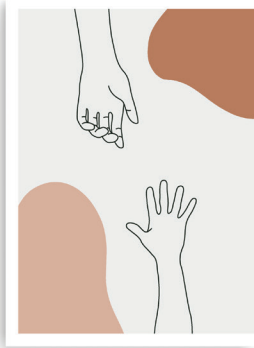
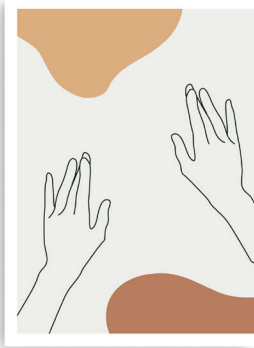
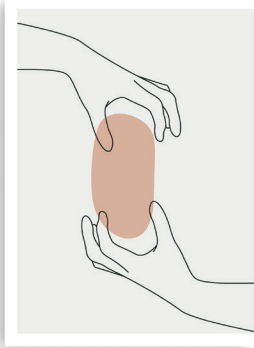
Welcome Cameron Aiken!

We are thrilled to have Cameron Aiken on board as our Choir Director leading our singing in worship. Cameron has a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from University of South Carolina, a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from Rice University, a Master's in Music Education from Hunter College, and a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Winston Salem State University. He has significant experience singing professionally, conducting church and community choirs, and teaching music in public schools. Cameron is starting immediately and will be in worship this Sunday. Give him a warm Greenwood Forest welcome when you meet him!

Gratitude & Stewardship

We're exploring gratitude and stewardship in the life of our community this month. You'll hear from different church members each week about why this community matters to them. There's also a tree in the back of the Narthex where we invite you each week to write something you're thankful for about this community on a leaf and add it to the tree. We're thankful for you!

Community Notes | Prayer Requests and Giving



Prayer

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.

Gilles Bikindou
Jo Brooks
Edwina Erwin
Barney Graham
Doris Martin
Jennie Pegram
Fred Seeger
Donna Scott (at the death of her sister, Nancy Patterson)
Kathleen Wicker
Our siblings in Western North Carolina
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: Ecology

Our ecology team has been hard at work this church year considering ways to better our relationship with God's creation. You may have noticed composting employed at the recent Fall Festival, which dramatically cut our landfill waste for that event! Keep an eye out for ways this new team has for us to be better companions to the earth and if you're interested in joining the ecology subcommittee, reach out to Betsy Sisely.

Order of Worship | Ordinary Time

† 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

Welcome to Worship

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 127:1-2) 📖

Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the LORD guards the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil,
for God gives sleep to God's beloved.
Let us worship Holy God.

Invocation | Rev. Spears-Newsome

† **Hymn** | Christ is Made the Sure Foundation (pg. 7)

Stewardship Testimony | Rick Chappell

Offertory Prayer | Leta Huntsinger

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.

Today's color is **green**, representing spiritual growth and life.

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.

† **Hymn** | There Is a Balm in Gilead (pg. 8)

Reading | Matthew 5:1-16

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | The Storm is Passing Over (pg. 10)

Sermon | Rev. Spears-Newsome

Communion 📖

Prayer of Confession: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be obedient disciples. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we've not loved our neighbors, and we've not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us for what we have done and for what we've left undone, and free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mystery of Faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

† **Hymn** | Jesus, At Your Holy Table (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | Rev. Spears-Newsome

Postlude

Communion

During Communion, we gather around the table as Christ showed us, to remember and give thanks. We have an open table—all who wish to take Communion are invited. We practice intinction, which means you receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. A gluten-free option is available on the altar.

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!

Flower Dedication

The flowers are given today by Steve and Vivian Denning in memory of their daughter, Jennifer Denning.

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Unison

1. Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2. To this tem - ple, where we call You, come, O Lord of
3. Grant, we pray, to all Your faith - ful all the gifts they
4. Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come, with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
ask to gain; what they gain from You for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear Your peo - ple as they pray; and Your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in Your glo - ry ev - er - more with You to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a unison vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano line. The lyrics are provided below the vocal line of each system. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

There is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To make the wound-ed whole;

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To heal the sin-sick soul.

Verses

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And
2. Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, For
3. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you

think my work's in vain, But then the Ho - ly
Je - sus is your friend; And if you lack for
can - not pray like Paul, You can tell the love of

Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain. There is a
knowl - edge, He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend. There is a
Je - sus, And say, "He died for all!" There is a

Jesus, At Your Holy Table

Unison

1. Je - sus, at Your ho - ly ta - ble, may our hearts u - nit - ed be.
2. Christ, re - mind us of Your pas - sion, of Your pre - cious life out - poured,
3. Lift your hearts and raise your voic - es, cel - e - brate this won - drous love.

Bind us with Your grace and pres - ence that re - deem and set us free.
of the love which none can fath - om, and our vic - tory ev - er - more.
Join the cho - rus with all Chris - tians, and with saints who live a - bove.

Cru - ci - fy our pride and ha - tred, light the path on which we walk.
Bread of heav - en, wine of prom - ise, feed us with Your ho - ly Word.
Si - lent lips now sing with glad - ness, blind - ed eyes are filled with sight.

Teach us how to love each oth - er, in the way that You have taught.
Nour - ish us with Your strong pres - ence, ris - en Sav - ior, on - ly Lord.
Je - sus' love has pierced our dark - ness, brought us home to peace and light.

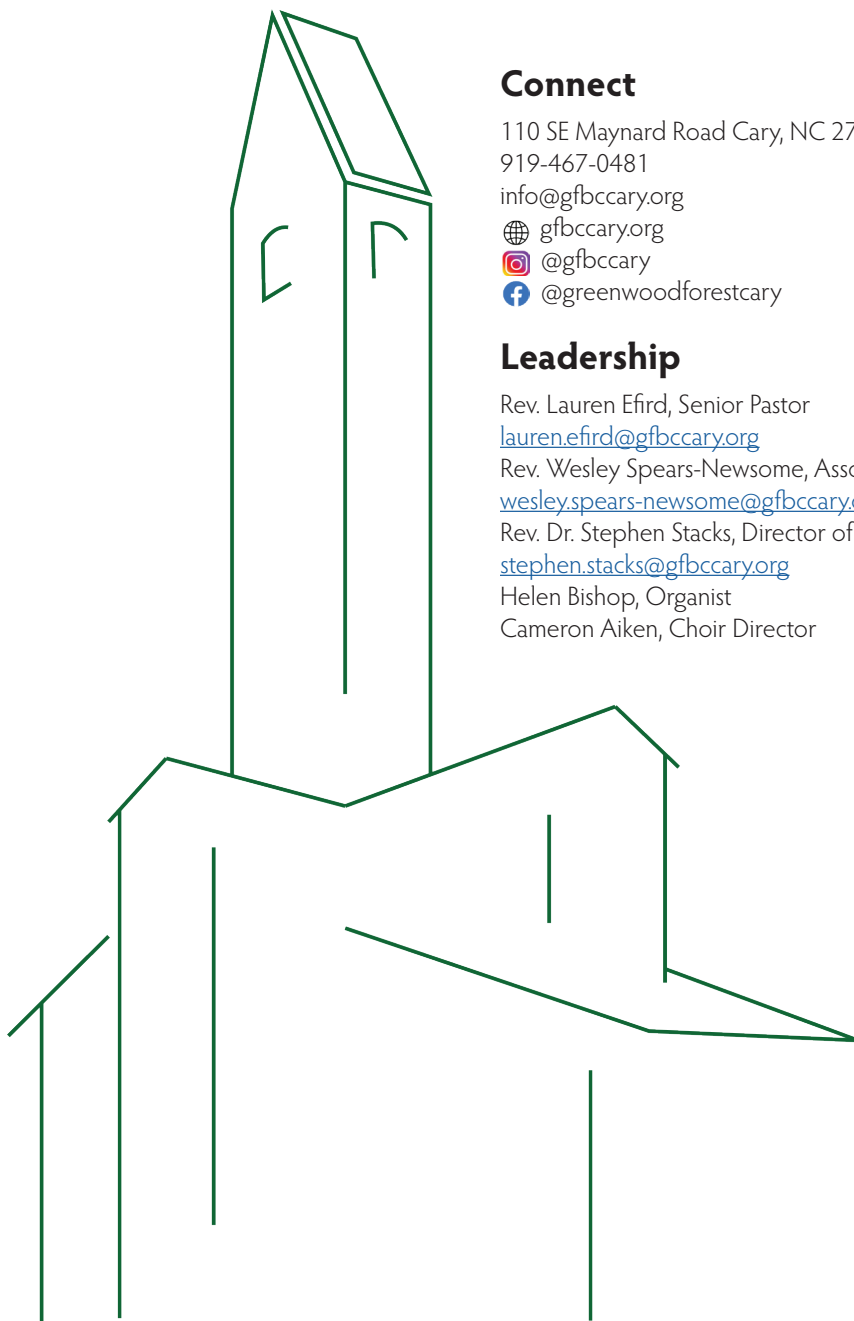
Anthem O Love

Barbara Baker

Have courage my soul and let us journey on.
Though the night is dark and I am far from home.
Thanks be to God the morning light appears!

The storm is passing over,
The storm is passing over,
The storm is passing over,
Hallelu!

Halleluia!
The storm is passing over.
Halleluia!



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