



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

November 24, 2024



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## Bulletin Art

Photograph by Adobe Stock (user: showcase)

This barbed wire has been wrangled into a circle resembling a crown, particularly a crown of thorns as worn by Jesus before his execution. The crown of thorns was meant to mock the Reign of Christ, which we honor this week in worship. In the years since, it has become a symbol of the suffering God who will make all things new. Barbed wire often surrounds the oppressed — those in prison, those separated by borders — and as such is a potent and appropriate symbol for our Savior who identified with the oppressed until the end when he suffered the death penalty at the hands of the state.

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

# 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, 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

## Family Promise (Dec. 8-14)

We're providing meals and groceries for families experiencing homelessness December 8-14 at the Family Promise Center. If you can shop for groceries or want to provide a meal for these families, contact Elizabeth Deters at [elizabeth.deters@duke.edu](mailto:elizabeth.deters@duke.edu)!

## For Pastoral Needs...

Please contact the church office or Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome directly while Rev. Efirid is on leave.

## 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!

## Staff Love Offering

At GFBC, we have an Advent tradition of collecting a love offering for our staff. The offering is distributed to the staff as an expression of our gratitude for their hard work, dedication, leadership, and faithful service to the church throughout the year. If you would like to contribute, please give your contribution to either Leta Huntsinger or Blair Biser or make use of the envelopes placed in each Faith Formation classrooms. You may make checks payable to Leta Huntsinger or you can use Venmo to send the money to @Leta-Huntsinger (last digits of phone number are 6291). Donations will be collected through Wednesday, Dec. 18. Thank you for your generosity!

## Stories & Spirituality

### Churchwide Faith

## Formation (December 15)

Mark your calendars! Rev. Spears-Newsome spent his sabbatical this year exploring writing and reading progressive spiritual literature for children. Join us in the Fellowship Hall on December 15 at 9:45am to hear some of the stories Wes wrote and what else he learned while away.

## Advent and Christmas Schedule of Services

We're excited to welcome you to our Advent and Christmas Services over the next several weeks!

### December 1:

First Sunday of Advent (11am)

### December 8:

Second Sunday of Advent (11am)

Youth Ministry Advent Party

### December 15:

Third Sunday of Advent (11am)

### December 18:

Service of Lament (6pm)

### December 22:

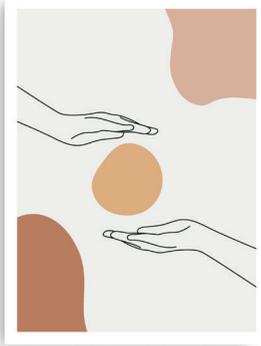
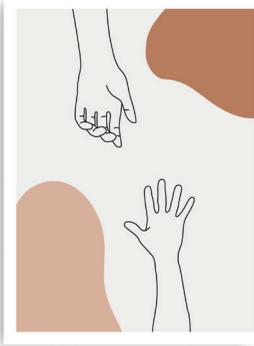
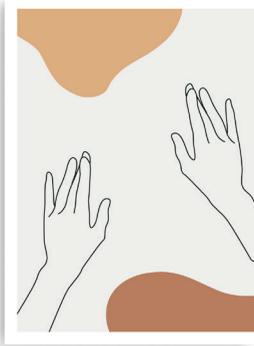
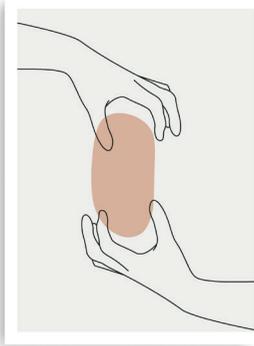
Fourth Sunday of Advent and  
Service of Lessons and Carols (11am)

### December 24:

Children's Christmas Eve (11am)

Candlelight Christmas Eve (8pm)

# 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

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](http://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 | Reign of Christ

✝ 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** | Nun danket alle Gott | arr. Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

**Welcome to Worship** | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (Psalm 93)** 📖

You, O LORD, are king; You are robed in majesty;

**You are girded with strength.**

You have established the world;

**It shall never be moved;**

Your throne, O God, is established from of old;

**You are from everlasting.**

The floods have lifted up their voice, O LORD,

**But you are more majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,**

More majestic than the waves of the sea,

**Majestic on high is the LORD!**

Your decrees are very sure;

**Holiness befits your house, O God, forevermore!**

**Invocation** | Al Whitehouse

✝ **Hymn** | All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (pg. 7)

**Offertory Prayer** | Ken Scott

**Offertory** | Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor | arr. Penny Rodriguez 📖

✝ **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 **white**, representing the glory of God and the resurrection of the dead.

## Reign of Christ

We celebrate the Reign of Christ this week, remembering that despite the instability and danger of our world that God will ultimately bring goodness, justice, peace, and love to us all.

## 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 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** | Seek Ye First (pg. 8)

**Reading** | Psalm 146 & John 18:33-38 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | Jesus, So Lowly (pg. 10)

**Sermon** | Rev. Lynn McLaughlin

**† Hymn** | Crown Him with Many Crowns (pg. 9) 

**Benediction** | Rev. Spears-Newsome

**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!

# All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let  
 2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye  
 3. Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on  
 4. O that with yon - der sa - cred thron

an - gels pros - trate fall, let an - gels pros - trate fall; bring  
 ran - sored from the fall, ye ran - sored from the fall, hail  
 this ter - res - trial ball, on this ter - res - trial ball, to  
 at His feet may fall, we at His feet may fall! We'll

forth the roy - al di - a - dem,  
 Him who saves you by His grace, and crown  
 Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown Him,  
 join the ev - er - last - ing song,

crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
 Him, crown Him,  
 crown

crown Him, crown Him, and crown Him Lord of all.  
 crown Him,  
 Him,

# Seek Ye First

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God  
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,

The first system of music is written in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/2. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

and His righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be  
seek and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

The third system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

# Crown Him with Many Crowns

1. Crown Him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on His throne;  
2. Crown Him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave,  
3. Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways  
4. Crown Him the Lord of love! Be - hold His hands and side,

hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own:  
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those He came to save;  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise:  
those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:

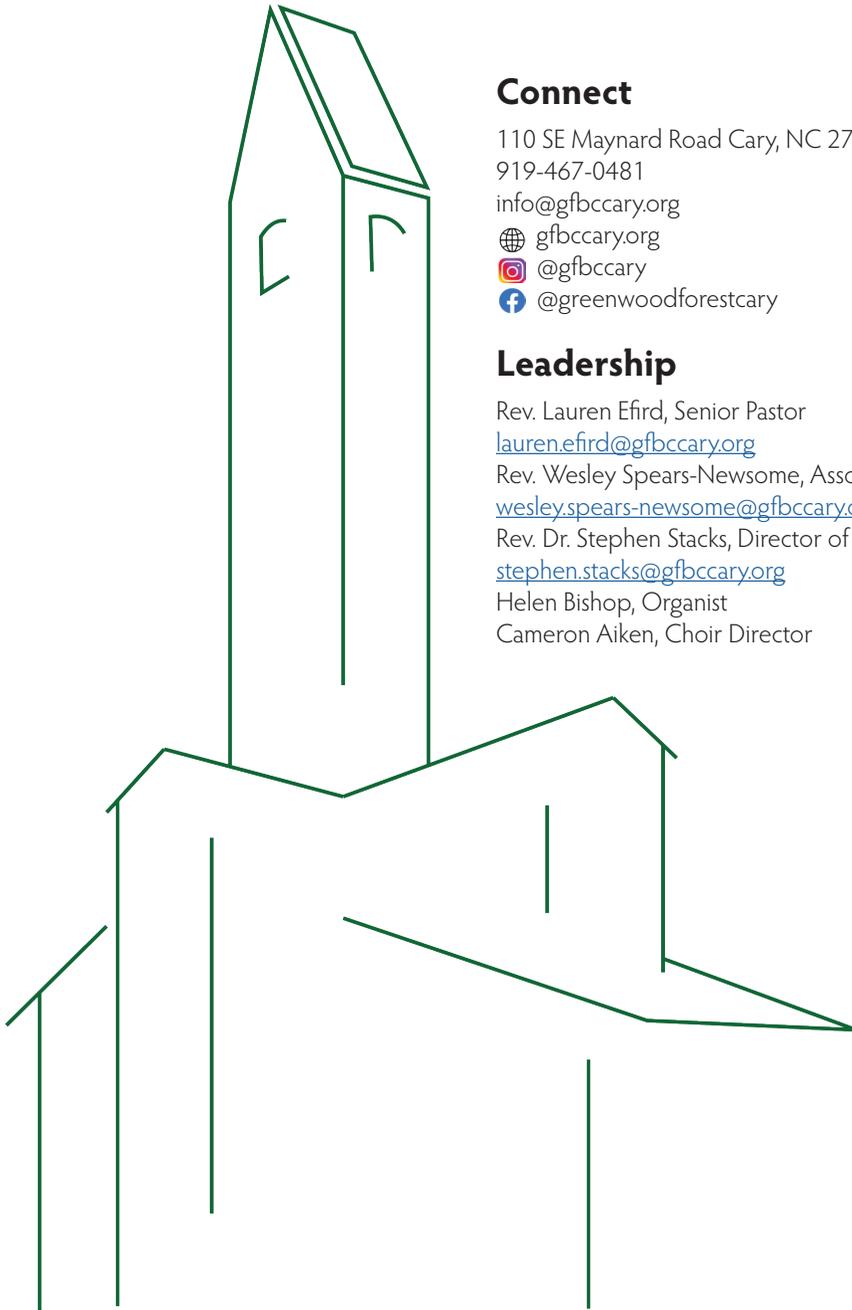
a - wake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,  
His glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high,  
His reign shall know no end, and round His pier - ed feet  
all hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for Thou hast died for me!

and hail Him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.  
Thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

# Anthem Jesus, So Lowly

Harold Friedell

Jesus, so lowly, Child of the earth:  
Christen me wholly, bring me new birth.  
Jesus, so lonely, weary and sad;  
teach me that only love maketh glad.  
Jesus, so broken, silent and pale;  
be this the token love will not fail.  
Jesus, victorious, mighty and free;  
teach me how glorious death is to be.



## Connect

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[@greenwoodforestcary](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodforestcary)

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Director of Liturgy & Formation

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Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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