



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

December 24, 2024



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Bulletin Art

"Abolition Baby" by Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda inspired by Luke 2:1-20 (paper collage on canvas)

Before I started this piece, I went to the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts and Culture in Charlotte, North Carolina.¹ As our guide explained some of the architectural features of the building, I learned that abolitionists used to hang quilts outside of their homes to signal safety for those on the underground railroad. A few minutes later, I walked into an exhibit of large quilts draping the vibrant exhibit hall with explicit stories from slavery, 1990s ballroom culture, and an interpretation of Greek mythology. I was mesmerized by the manipulation of fabric and the storytelling that took place within each stitch. Are quilts symbols of resistance?

This trip inspired me to take a different approach to creating art for the Christmas story. While I typically produce maximalist canvases with overwhelming details, this piece is toned down and more precision-oriented. As someone who has never been able to draw a straight line, creating this quilt design out of paper was a discipline in and of itself. Creating it made me think of the kind of diligence and patience needed to sew a fabric quilt. These are projects made with love. The hands that sew them should never be taken for granted.

It is for this reason that I titled this piece, Abolition Baby. Even though we are over 150 years removed from the Civil War, abolitionism is still relevant today. The United States is only 4% of the world population, but it contains nearly 25% of the world's incarcerated population.² According to the 13th amendment, slavery is illegal in the U.S. with the exception of incarcerated individuals. Some of the largest prisons in states such as Louisiana and Georgia are former plantations.³ Prison labor is used by major corporations where they pay Black and Brown people pennies on the dollar.⁴

I will not declare Jesus an abolitionist, but I will note that Jesus would grow up to call out any society that created environments where people are forced to commit crimes or work in unprecedented fields in order to survive. Mary was excited to bring Jesus into the world because she believed in the promise of liberation for her people. Jesus' birth was a symbol of hope for the future, for a freed people. Love knows his name. And it is freedom.

—Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda

¹ ganttcenter.org

² [washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2015/04/30/does-the-united-states-really-have-five-percent-of-worlds-population-and-one-quarter-of-the-worlds-prisoners](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2015/04/30/does-the-united-states-really-have-five-percent-of-worlds-population-and-one-quarter-of-the-worlds-prisoners)

³ dailyjstor.org/slavery-and-the-modern-day-prison-plantation

⁴ news.uchicago.edu/story/us-prison-labor-programs-violate-fundamental-human-rights-new-report-finds

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.

Contents

3 | Order of Worship

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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 | Christmas Eve

✝ 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

Processional Hymn | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vv. 1, 3; pg. 5)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efrid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (A Sanctified Art)

In those days, in the beginning,

Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.

He was to be registered,

and she was expecting a child.

The time came for Mary to give birth,

so she delivered her child,

wrapped him in bands of cloth

and laid him in a manger.

And the angels sang,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth, peace to all whom God favors."

Let us worship our Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

Let us sing songs of praise!

Invocation | Leanne Glasgow

Hymn | Angels We Have Heard on High (vv. 1-3; pg. 6)

Offertory Prayer | Leta Huntsinger

Offertory | Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming | arr. Mark Hayes

Today's color is **white**, representing the glory of God.

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.

† **Doxology** | Tune: CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him, give him my heart.

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 | Love Broke Forth (pg. 7)

Reading | Luke 2:1-20 | Rev. Spears-Newsome
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | O Holy Night | Adolphe Adam (pg. 9)

Sermon | Love Knows Your Name | Rev. Efrid

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 and Candlelighting | Silent Night (pg. 8)

Benediction | Rev. Efrid

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.

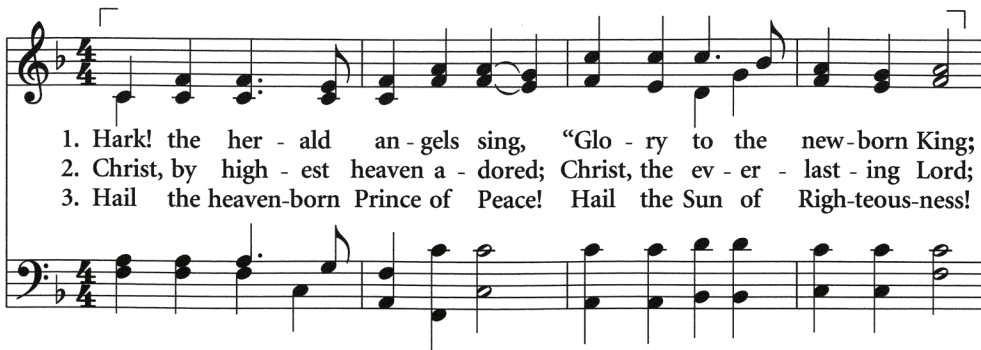
Communion

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.

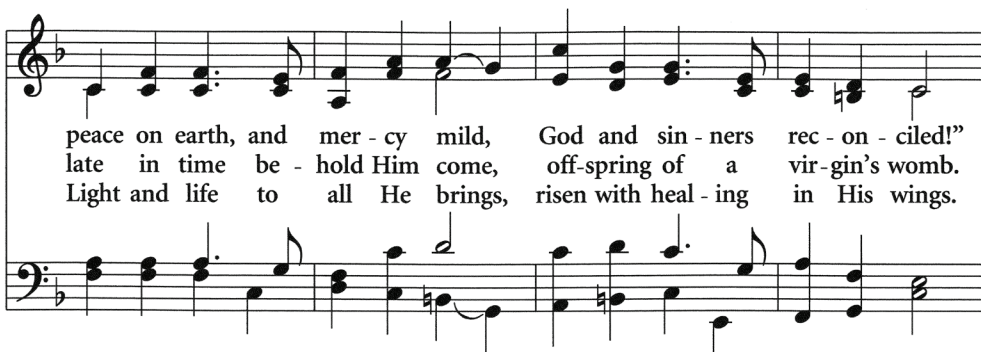
Candlelighting

During the final hymn, our pastors will walk down the center aisle lighting the candles of those they pass. Light the candle of the person next to you until everyone in the room has a candle lit. When we sing the a cappella verse of Silent Night, we raise our candles high.

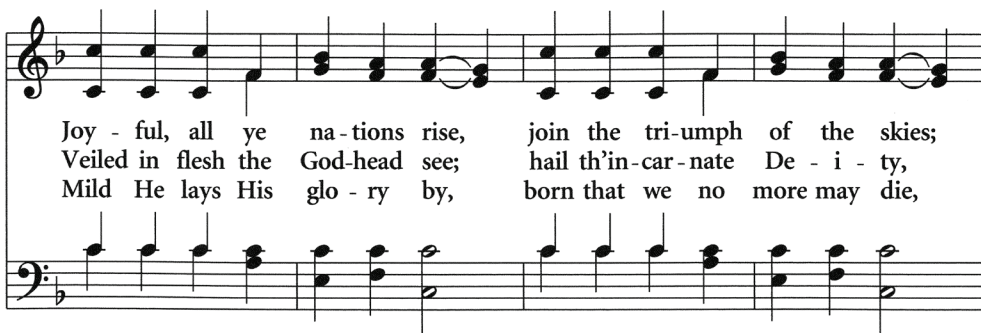
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



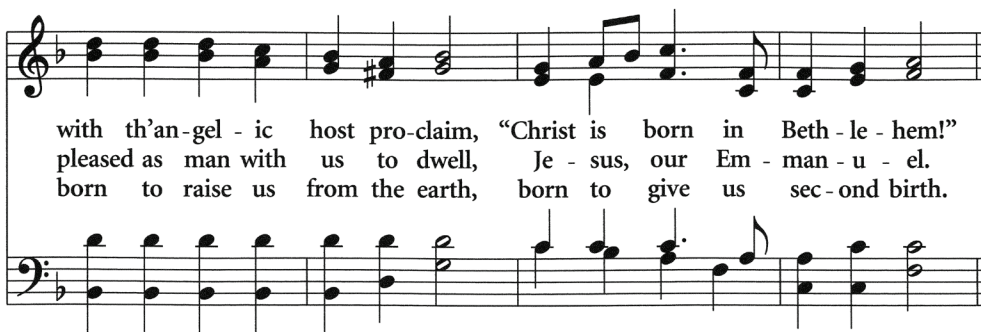
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold Him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, risen with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See Him in a man - ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Love Broke Forth

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849



Love broke forth in ra - diant fa - shion and God
Love broke forth in - to a bo - dy gent - ly
Love broke forth to know com - plete - ly who you



called cre - a - tion good God made hu - mans in her
laid on Ma - ry's chest See him swad - dled in a
are and who you'll be Gath - er - ing in - to one



i - mage to be loved and un - der - stood Then God
man - ger, Migh - ty God now po - wer - less Giv - ing
bo - dy all of our hu - man - i - ty Ten - der -



took on flesh and bone all of hu - man life to know
up his throne on high to ex - per - i - ence this life
ly Love speaks your name, your be - long - ing to pro - claim

Silent Night

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight.
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;
Stil - le Nacht, hei - li-ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht

round yon vir - gin moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild,
Glo - ry streams from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu - ia,
ra - diant beams from Thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our King;
nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li-ge Paar. Hold - er Kna-be im lock - i - gen Haar,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.
schlaf in himm - li-scher Ruh', schlaf in himm - li-scher Ruh!"

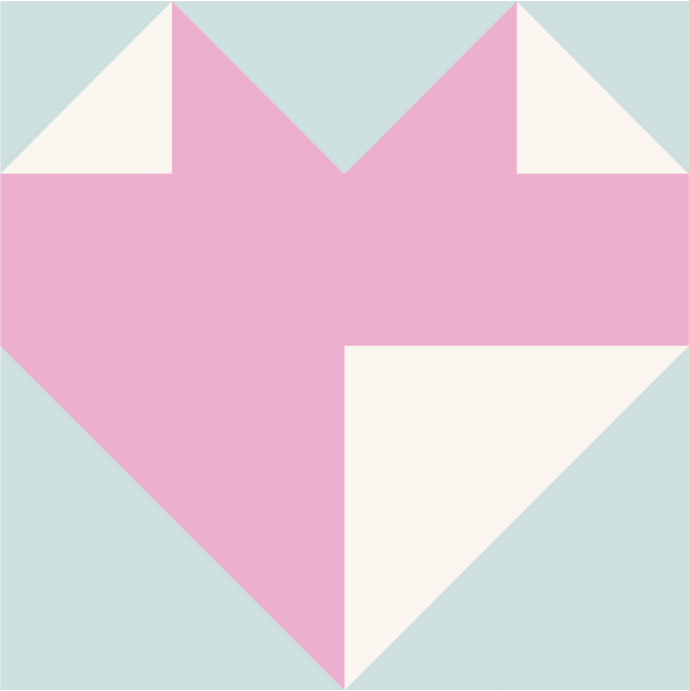
Anthem O Holy Night

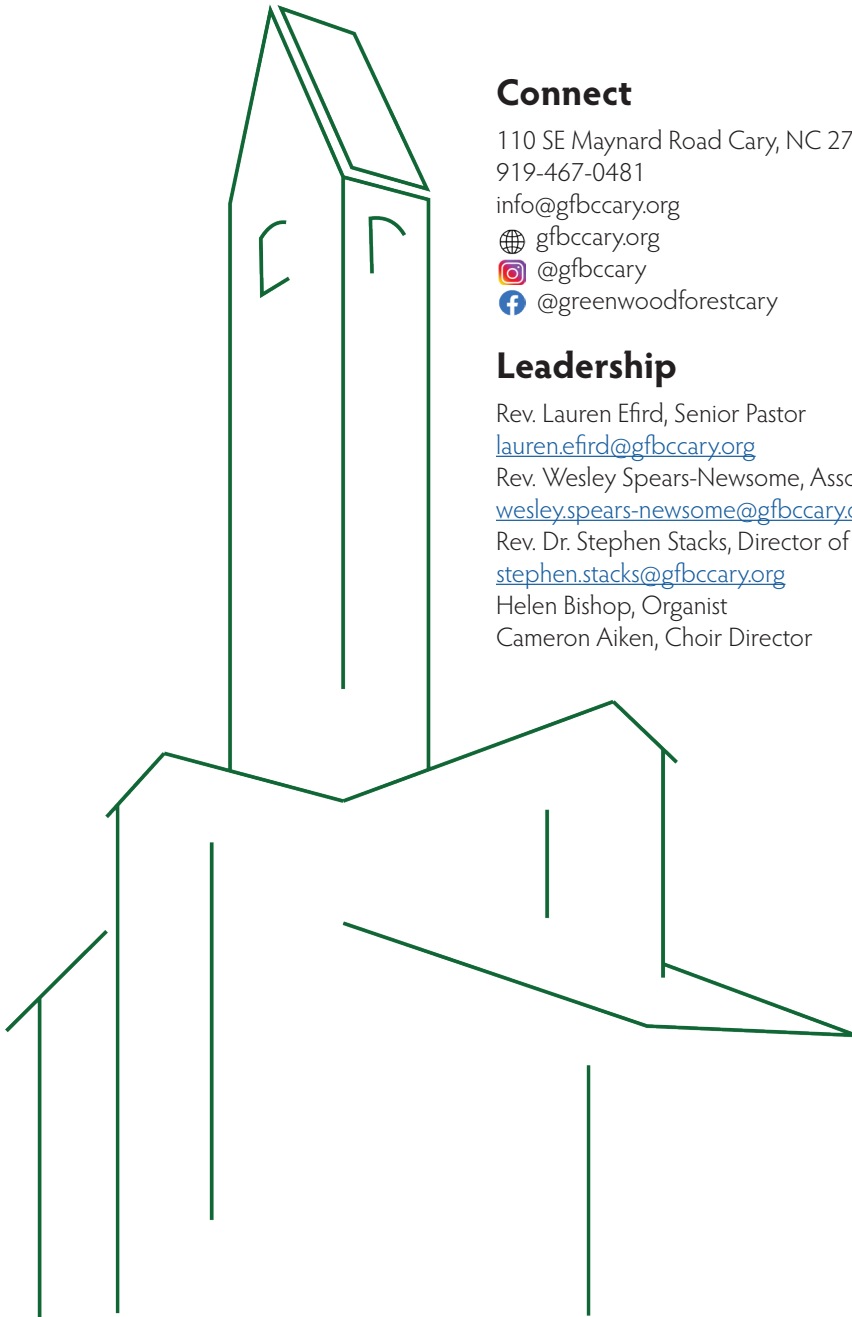
Adolphe Adam

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Can you find this square on the pulpit quilt?





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Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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