



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

February 16, 2025



Guest Preacher

Rev. Dr. Rose Cornelious



Rev. Dr. Rose Cornelious has served in business, government, nonprofit and ministry for over 30 years. She has led ministry teams to over twenty-six nations on six continents taking needed medical, school, and dental supplies. She has also served as a chaplain at WakeMed Hospital in Raleigh and the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville, VA.

Reverend Cornelious recently served as the President of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce and formerly served as the Development Director at Dorcas Ministries, where she raised millions of dollars for programs and services to help people in crisis. Over her career, she has spearheaded fundraising initiatives for local nonprofits and international projects.

Rose has served as the President of the Rotary Club of Morrisville, served on the boards of the Cary and Morrisville Chambers of Commerce, is the past president of the Heart of Cary Association, and past President of the Royal Senter Homeowners Association. Rev. Cornelious currently serves as a board member of the Pleasant Grove Foundation, the Fairview Homeowners Association, The Rotary Club of Morrisville, the WakeMed Foundation Board, and is a member of the Cary Area Ministerial Alliance.

Reverend Cornelious holds a B.A in Public Administration (Augustana College, Rock Island, IL), a Master of Science in Business (Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL), Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry (North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago). She and Tony, her husband of 46 years, have four children and eight grandchildren.

Bulletin Art

Aaron Douglas, "The Judgment Day," (1939) oil or tempera on board

Originally from Kansas, artist Aaron Douglas relocated to Harlem in New York City to take part in the growing movement of Black art, literature, music, and thought now known as the Harlem Renaissance. He first started painting in the European traditions but his fellow artists encouraged him to look into traditional African art, technique, symbolism, and motifs. He went on to study in Paris and Haiti to develop his artistic voice and aesthetic.

In this work, "The Judgment Day," Douglas depicts Gabriel, the angel of God, summoning the living and the dead to judgment. Given today's text and its emphasis on the blessing and woes Jesus pronounces in Luke's Gospel, Douglas' work should call us to consider our place in Jesus' words. When judged, will we be among the blessed (the poor, the hungry, the weeping, the persecuted) or among those who receive woes (the rich, the satisfied, the scoffing, and the well-respected)?

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 | Announcements
- 4 | Community Notes
- 5 | Order of Worship
- 7 | Songbook

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, transcripts of the sermon, and large print bulletins are available at the back of the sanctuary.



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

Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, our worship services during February will feature music from Black composers and artists, as well as liturgical elements from the African American Heritage Hymnal. Here at GFBC, we celebrate Black History Month alongside our Black congregants and Black siblings everywhere as a way to honor Black stories, beauty, and contributions, but also as a way to signal our continued commitment to Black lives throughout the year. For us, Black History Month is not a way to absolve ourselves of the year-round and life-long work of anti-racism, but a moment to celebrate and to recommit ourselves to the gospel work of inclusivity in our worship and in our lives.

Guest Preachers:

February 9 - Rev. Dr. Mycal Brickhouse

February 16 - Rev. Dr. Rose Cornelious

February 23 - Dr. Latonya Penny

Cary Housing Survey

The Town of Cary is looking for input on the future of housing in our town. Please consider giving your input to a survey at housing.carync.gov to support affordable housing development.

Thank You

Thank you to Tom Koch for accompanying us in worship today while Helen Bishop is recovering!

Discipleship Retreat

Make plans to join us for the 2025 Discipleship Retreat on March 7 through 9! This year will focus on the theme of Vocation in Daily Life as a pathway to deeper direction and spiritual growth in this time of uncertainty and anxiety. Register on Realm now! If you need help accessing Realm or registering, please contact Rev. Spears-Newsome.

Lord's Prayer Update

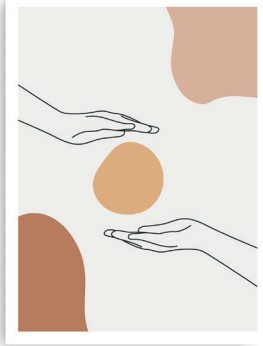
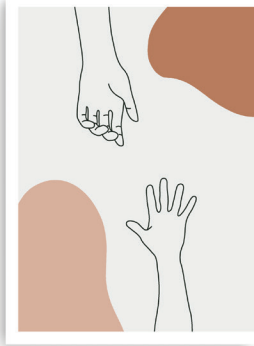
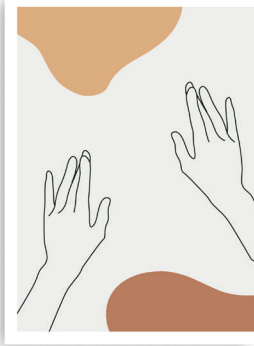
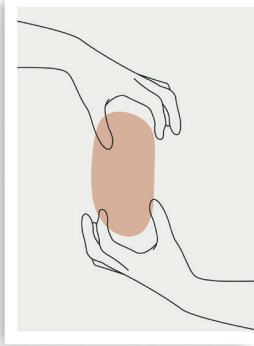
During our recent churchwide Faith Formation series on the Lord's Prayer, we've made some updates to our liturgy. First, you'll see an asterisk next to "Father" at the beginning indicating that you may say any title/name of God to begin the prayer. Second, there was broad consensus that "debts" rather than "transgressions" was a more faithful rendering of the prayer and better spoke to its intentions. Many English-speaking traditions already use this language. That is now reflected in the bulletin.

Last Call for Memories and Reflections

If you were unable to attend the memorial service for Gilles Bkindou, you can still submit memories and/or reflections to be interred in his columbarium niche this week. Please submit them before Thursday evening (2/20).

Our contributions will be interred in the columbarium on February 23, the anniversary of Gilles' deportation.

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.

Helen Bishop
Jo Brooks
Karen Burden
Barney Graham
Doris Martin
Jennie Pegram
Fred Seeger
Mathias Warne (family of Gail and Virgil Jones)
Kathleen Wicker
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: Discipleship Ministry

Our Discipleship Ministry first and foremost consists of our Faith Formation teachers who lead classes and small groups. We also have churchwide Faith Formation sessions focused on specific topics, like the one recently concluded on the Lord's Prayer. In March, we are hosting our annual Discipleship Retreat at the church focused this year on Christian vocation in our daily lives. We hope you'll join us March 7-9 for these important reflections and conversations!

Order of Worship | 6th Sunday after Epiphany

✝ 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 | Voluntary in D minor | Herschel

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 (based on *Black Liturgies* by Cole Arthur Riley) 📖

Gratitude be my guide.

Love be my breath.

I wasn't made to be perfect.

I was made to be loved.

I'm no burden.

I am gift.

God delights in me,

And forgives me all the times I've replicated

lovelessness in the world.

So, as people nourished by mercy,

We now extend it, remembering that we are healed by

love received and by love given.

Invocation | Amanda Warren

✝ **Hymn** | Lift Every Voice and Sing (v. 3, pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Diana McGahan

Offertory | Adagio in E minor | Bach 📖

✝ **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.

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. 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Hymn | Guide My Feet (pg. 9)

† Reading | 2 Samuel 22:1-4 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | Witness

Soloist: Cameron Aiken

Who'll be a witness for my Lord

I'll be a witness for my Lord


Now there was a man of the Pharisees
His name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe
The same came to Christ by night
Wanted to be taught out of human sight
Nicodemus was a man desired to know
How a man can be born when he is old
Christ told Nicodemus as a friend,
"Man, you must be born again.
Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise,
Repent, believe, and be baptized."

Then you'll be a witness for my Lord

Soul is a witness for my Lord.

You read about Samson, from his birth
he was the strongest man that ever lived
on earth.

Sermon | Rev. Dr. Rose Cornelious

† Hymn | Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (pg. 10) 

Benediction | Rev. Spears-Newsome

Postlude | This Little Light of Mine | arr. Kobayashi

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.

* = In the Lord's Prayer, you may say any name for God (e.g., Mother/Father/Parent).

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!

Way back yonder in the
ancient times
He killed ten thousand of
the Philistines.

Then old Sampson went
a-wandering about.
Samson's strength was never found out.
'Til his wife sat up on his knee.
She said, "Tell me where you strength lies,
if you please"
Well old Samson's wife, she talked so fair
Samson said, "cut off a my hair"
"Shave my head just as clean as your hand,
and my strength will come like a natural man."

*Sampson was a witness for my Lord
Soul is a witness for my Lord*

*There's another witness for my Lord
My soul is a witness for my Lord.*

Lift Every Voice and Sing

1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en
2. Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had
tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning
died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry
way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us in - to the

skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
feet Come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?
light, Keep us for ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee,

Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new
 slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we
 get Thee; Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for

day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 stand at last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.
 ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Guide My Feet

1. Guide my feet
2. Hold my hand
3. Stand by me
4. Search my heart

while I run this race,

yes, my Lord!

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The vocal line begins with a dotted quarter note, followed by eighth notes, and then a half note. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line of quarter notes and chords in the treble staff.

guide my feet
hold my hand
stand by me
search my heart

while I run this race,

yes, my Lord!

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The vocal line has a similar rhythmic pattern to the first system. The piano accompaniment remains consistent.

guide my feet
hold my hand
stand by me
search my heart

while I run this race, for I

The third system introduces the phrase "for I" at the end of the line. The vocal line continues with the same rhythmic structure.

don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

The fourth system concludes the piece with the phrase "don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)". The vocal line features a melodic flourish before ending on a half note. The piano accompaniment provides a solid harmonic foundation.

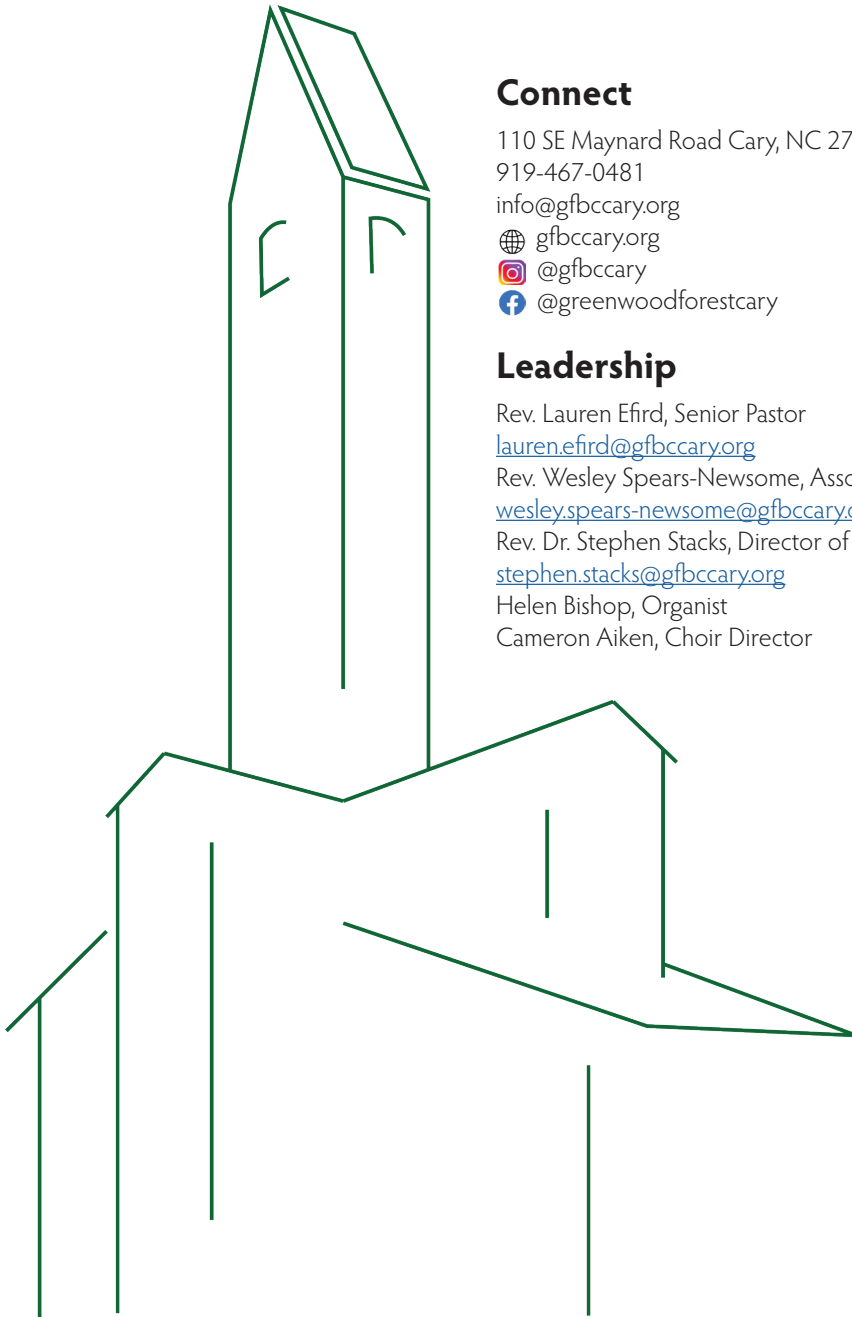
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart, in my
2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In my heart, in my
3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart, in my
4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart, in my

heart; Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart,
heart; Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In my heart,
heart; Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart,
heart; Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart,

In my heart, In my heart,
In my heart, In my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart.



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Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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