



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

March 2, 2025



Bulletin Art

The Saviour's Transfiguration Icon (c. 1403) traditionally thought to be by Theophanes the Greek;
Digitally Modified by Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

One of the things that stuck out to our youth when reading the story of the Transfiguration was the prefix: trans. They recognize the plight of their trans friends and the threat posed to trans people across the country right now. Many theologians have connected the Transfiguration with queer coming out stories. Jesus gathered a close circle of friends to reveal something about himself that was known to him but not to them, much like when queer folx come out to their loved ones.

This ancient icon stuck out to me this week because the halo around the Transfigured Christ already had the colors of the trans flag (blue, pink, and white) around Jesus. Here, I've isolated those colors in the icon to bring them forward for contemplation. What might be transfigured in you?

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

Property Repurposing Update

We have two updates for you on the ongoing property repurposing effort!

First, we can now officially start calling it by a name: The Timothy Ash Carr Center. Tim Carr was in so many ways at the center of this project before his death. He also served alongside all of the organizations involved in the project, having built with DHIC, volunteered and served on the board of The Caring Place, and, of course, as a deacon and leader at Greenwood Forest. The Carr Center will house efforts of which he'd be proud: childcare, housing, and programming for working homeless families with children.

Second, we are excited to announce that the Carr Center plans received unanimous approval from the Town of Cary's Planning and Zoning Board! On Monday night, the board agreed that the plan was in line with Cary's goals and growth framework, sending it on to Town Council for final approval. We'll be sure to let you know when final approval is set to take place.

Ash Wednesday

Join us on March 5 at 6:15pm in the Sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday service of reflection and the imposition of ashes.

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.

The deadline to register is March 3!

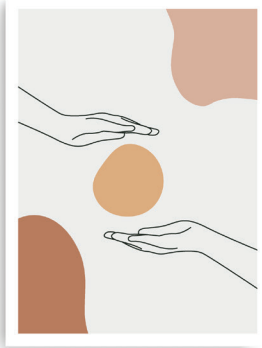
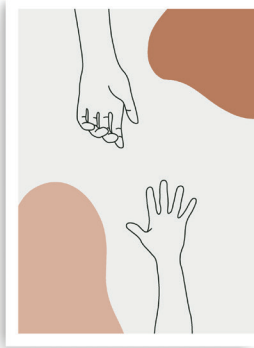
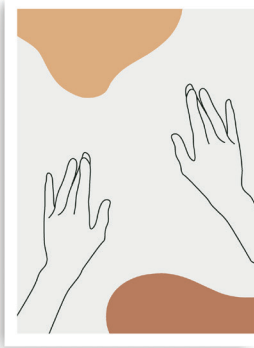
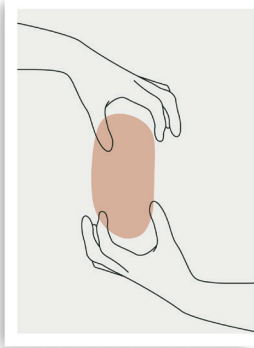
Lord's Prayer Update

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.

Churchwide Training: Know Your Rights

On March 16 at 9:45am, we will all gather in the Fellowship Hall for a churchwide training on your rights particularly when encountering US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Please plan to be present to learn this important information and learn what to do if ICE shows up to church.

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
Chrissy Gunn (friend of Valerie Brooks)
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: Youth Ministry

To begin the month of March, the GFBC Youth led worship on Transfiguration Sunday where they also wrote the prayers and helped plan the sermon. Our youth meet every Sunday morning to dive into Scripture, current events, and what's going on in their lives. Right now, they're planning on a summer trip to Asheville, NC with partner churches there and here in the Triangle to go learn and help rebuild after Hurricane Helene. If you'd like to serve with our awesome youth, reach out to Rev. Spears-Newsome!

Order of Worship | Transfiguration Sunday

✝ 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 | Te Deum | Charpentier

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 Romans 12) | Ella Biser 📖

Based on God's mercy

We present ourselves as living sacrifices

We are holy and acceptable to God

This is our act of worship

Let us not be conformed to this age

Let us be transformed!

Invocation | Lucy Beal

✝ **Hymn** | Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Susan Beck

Offertory | Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring | Bach 📖

✝ **Doxology** | Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

O praise God. Alleluia!

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

O praise God! O praise God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Prayers of the People | Brooks Jarrell 📖

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

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.

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

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** | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (pg. 8)

Reading | Luke 9:28-36 | Alyssa Medford
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | Anna Claire Jarrell and Ella Biser

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** | Abide With Me (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction

Postlude | The March of the Women | Ethel Smyth

our own community.

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

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!

Postlude

In honor of Women's History Month, today's postlude was composed by British suffragist Dame Ethel Smyth, whose "The March of the Women" (1910) became the anthem of the suffrage movement.

Thank You

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

7 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
in all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice, like moun - tains, high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish — but naught chang - eth Thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven to earth come down,
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast!
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all Thy grace re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Let us all in Thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
let us see Thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee:



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
Take a - way our bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.



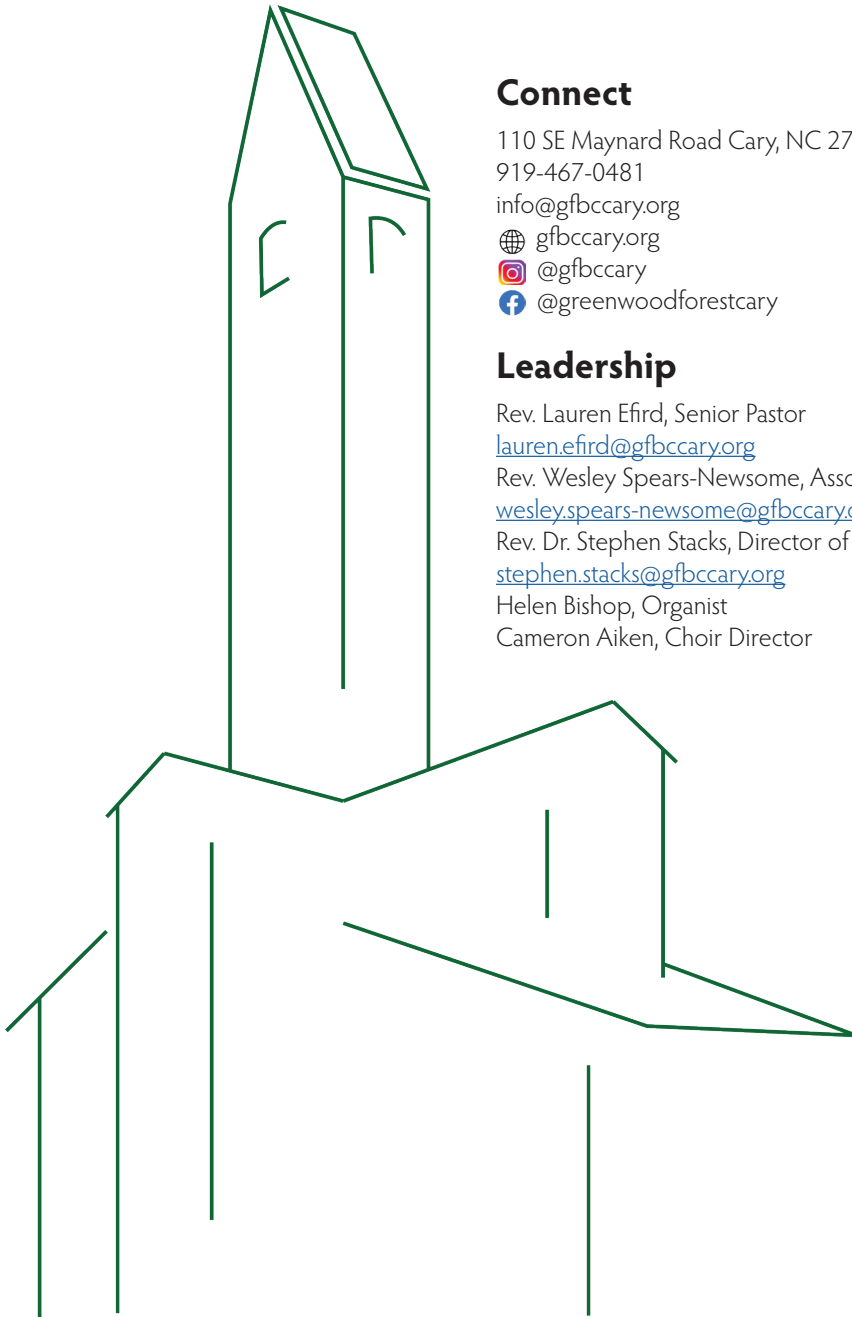
Abide With Me

1. A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3. I need Thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
4. Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
what but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee.

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me!
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me!
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me!
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me!



Connect

110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

919-467-0481

info@gfbccary.org

 gfbccary.org

 [@gfbccary](https://www.instagram.com/gfbccary)

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

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

lauren.efird@gfbccary.org

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

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

stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

Reprinted hymns come from Celebrating Grace, Glory to God, or the The African American Heritage Hymnal unless otherwise noted. Copyrighted music use covered by CCLI License #1243530, OneLicense #A-721397.