



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

March 9, 2025



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everything [in] between

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

Lent Series: Everything [in] Between

This year, we're spending time in Luke's Gospel with some stories that may be familiar to you: the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, Zaccheus, and more. In all of the stories we'll study, we will see how Jesus' ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted and challenged the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. Jesus intentionally highlighted the cultural and political polarities of his time to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God. This series is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. We invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to notice the dichotomies that define our lives, but also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.

Bulletin Art

Steve Prince, "Neighbors," ink on paper | inspired by Luke 10:25-37

Each individual carries generations within them, made up of billions of people who have occupied this earth before us. We have an individual and collective responsibility to be good stewards (Good Samaritans) of our bodies, neighbors, and communities, rooted in love. Every day we make a dance of life and death—celebrating the entrance and exit of life, the progression of age and maturity, and the expansion of our tent, grafting to people who share our blood and our beliefs. We are the structures, those temporal buildings that weather the storms, that creak and wither away daily, but are fortified by our relationships to each other and with the sharing of the good news planted by the Heavenly Father. This dance is an open profession of our vow to live by God's commandments and find a way to collectively preserve the truth of our origin while moving as one communal body into an untouched future.

- Steve Prince

Prompts for Contemplation from the Artist:

- Observe the figures' posture and movement. Do you see connection, conflict, or both? How does this reflect your own relationships?
- Focus on the textures and shading. What story might these elements tell about resilience or fragility?
- Pay attention to the empty spaces around the figures. What do these spaces evoke for you?
- Imagine yourself as part of this scene. What role would you play in this dance of connection, tension, and movement?

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, 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

ONE Wake Annual Meeting

Join hundreds of leaders from ONE Wake institutions across the county for our 2025 Annual Meeting. During this important event ONE Wake leaders will ratify a Strategic Plan and Budget for 2025, along with a Strategy Team slate. The Annual Meeting will also serve to coordinate our action agenda for the year. Your voice is needed!

All ONE Wake institutions are asked to send 5-10 leaders, as well as any members who are interested in learning more about ONE Wake's work.

Please register in advance at onewake.org/events. All who register will receive a draft copy of the Strategic Plan and Budget proposal, as well as the proposed 2025 Strategy Team slate, in advance of the meeting.

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.

Columbarium Refresh

Pardon our mess! If you've noticed the columbarium is looking a bit empty of greenery, it's because we're removing troublesome or expired plants and refreshing the foliage just in time for spring.

GFBC Game Night (3/21)

On March 21 from 5-8pm in the Fellowship Hall, come join us for a time of fellowship, games, food, and even some March Madness! Bring something for dinner with you, but we'll have desserts for everyone. Come drop in whenever you'd like to play board games, watch basketball or just chat with friends. You can sign up at the Discipleship Retreat with Vivian Denning or on Realm.

Lent at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of the Lenten season, a time when we reflect and repent. Here are some important dates to save during Lent:

April 13: Palm Sunday and Children's Ministry Egg Hunt (following worship)

April 18: Good Friday Tenebrae Service (7pm)

April 20: Easter Sunday

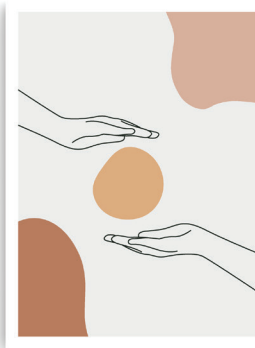
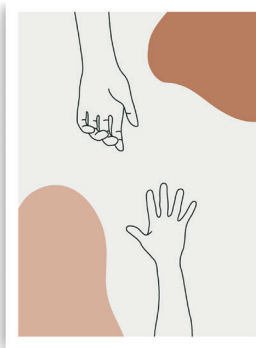
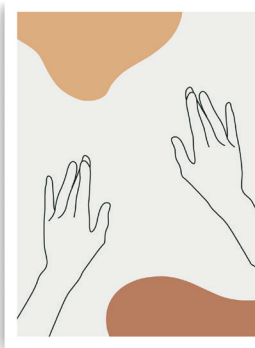
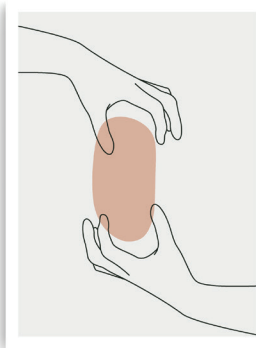
Thank You Note

Thank you to our GFBC family. We appreciate the love, support, and sympathy you showed us through your prayers, calls, visits, cards, flowers, food, and much more.

With gratitude and love, we thank you.

The Paul Smith Family

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)
Anne Whelan
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 | 1st Sunday of Lent

† 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 | I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ | Bilotti

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efirid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (from A Sanctified Art) 📖

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

Who is my neighbor?

How can I help?

What do I have to learn?

Where is God in it all?

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

So may we listen. May we learn.

May we stay curious, and may we look for God.

Let us worship our holy God.

Invocation | Lynn McLaughlin

† **Hymn** | Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy (pg. 7)

Gratitude Testimony | Jennifer Whaley

Offertory Prayer | Blair Biser

Offertory | "The Peace May Be Exchanged" | Locklair 📖

† **Doxology** | Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, who forms us from the dust.

Praise Christ, who frees us through the cross.

Praise Holy Ghost who drives us on

To meet God in the wilderness. Amen.

Today's color is **purple**, representing reflection and repentance.

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. 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 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 | We Are Travelers on a Journey (pg. 8)

Reading | Luke 10:25-37 | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | What Does the Lord Require | Eric Nelson (pg. 10)

Sermon | Stranger & Neighbor | Rev. Efird

† Hymn | I Saw a Stranger (pg. 9) 

Benediction | Rev. Efird

Postlude | Sonate No. 2 in C Minor | Mendelssohn

II Allegro maestoso e vivace

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).

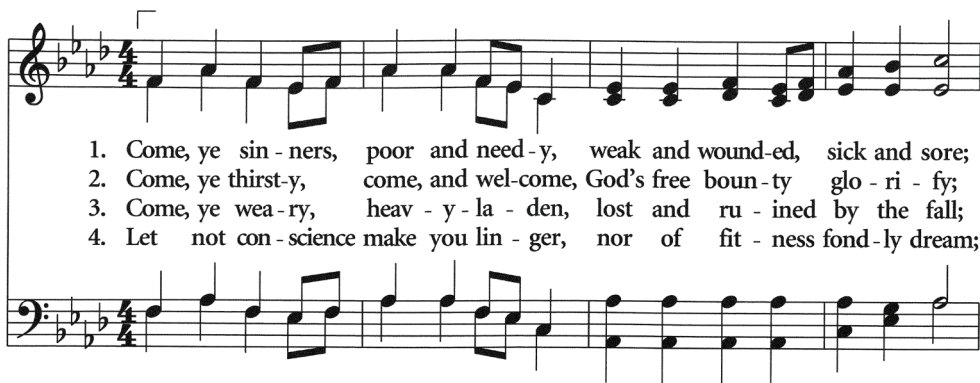
Final Hymn: An Invitation

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!

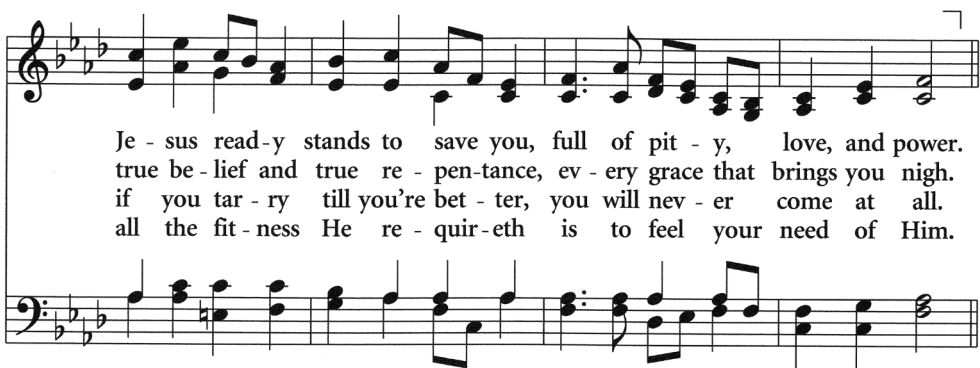
Thank You

Thank you to Bob Brewer for joining us in worship today while Helen Bishop is recovering!

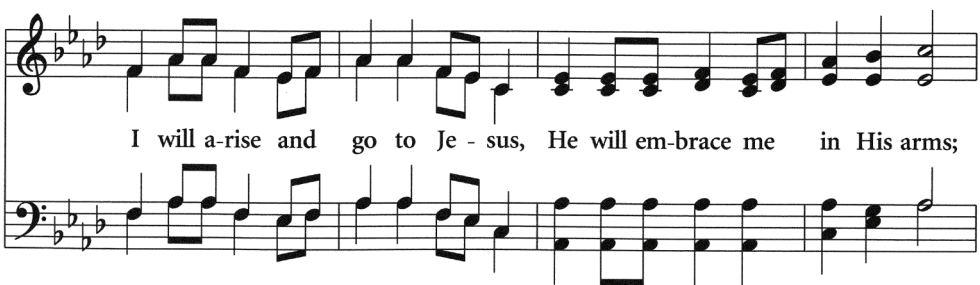
7 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy



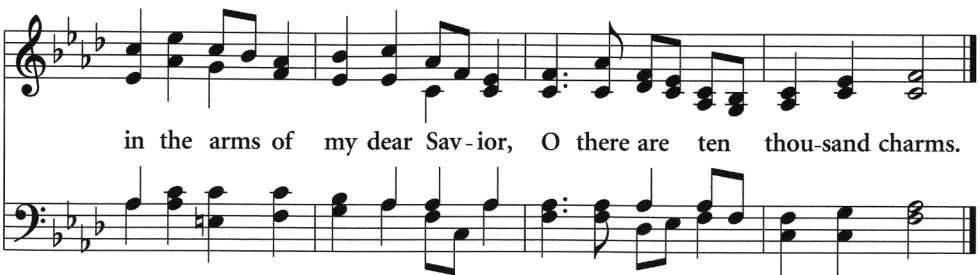
1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound - ed, sick and sore;
2. Come, ye thirst - y, come, and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
3. Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y - la - den, lost and ru - ined by the fall;
4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;



Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y, love, and power.
true be - lief and true re - pen - tance, ev - ery grace that brings you nigh.
if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er come at all.
all the fit - ness He re - quir - eth is to feel your need of Him.



I will a - rise and go to Je - sus, He will em - brace me in His arms;

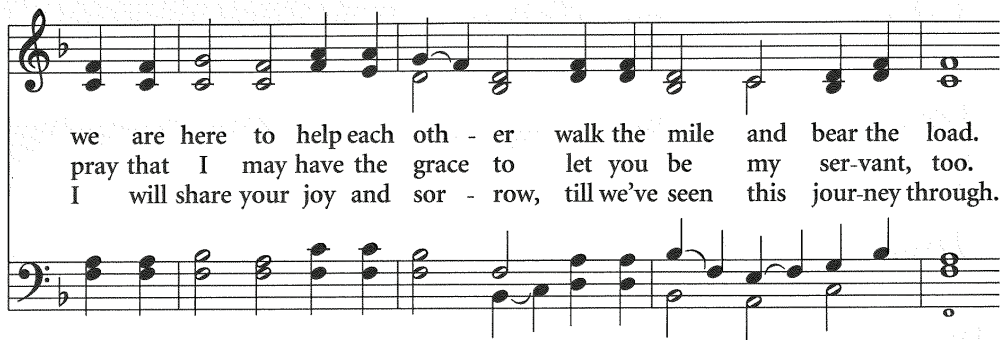


in the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

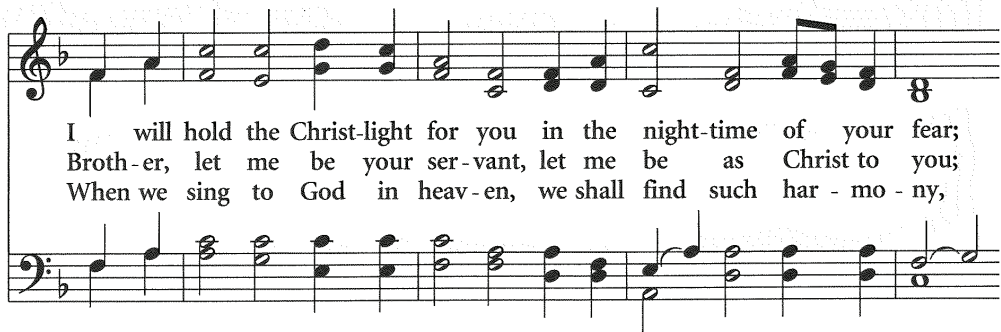
We Are Travelers on a Journey



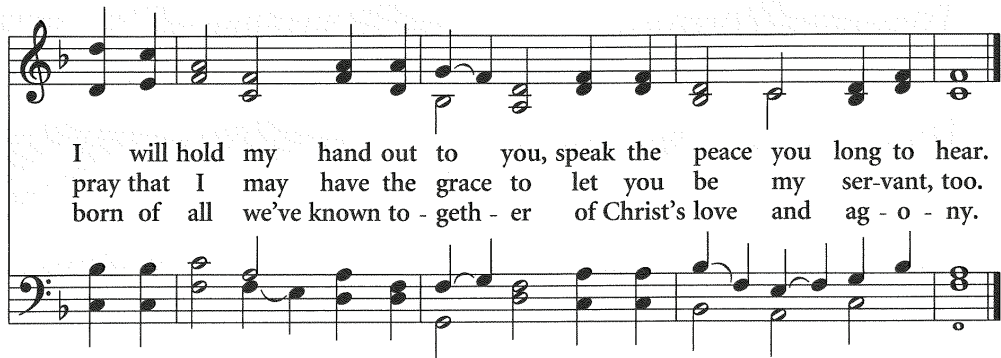
1. We are trav-ers on a jour - ney, fel - low pil - grims on the road;
2. Sis-ter, let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you;
3. I will weep when you are weep - ing, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;



we are here to help each oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.
I will share your joy and sor - row, till we've seen this jour-ney through.



I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
Broth-er, let me be your ser-vant, let me be as Christ to you;
When we sing to God in heav-en, we shall find such har - mo - ny,



I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.
born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

Words: Anna Strickland, 2024 Music: English trad., arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

I Saw a Stranger



I saw a stran - ger on the road in need of help and
I laid there des - perate by the road in need of help and
In our em - brace the mem - o - ry re - turned from E - den's



care No clues to their i - den - ti - ty, just hu - man
care As one by one they passed me by, too bu - sy
dust Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, my kin whom



flesh laid bare A thought had flut - tered through my
or too scared Then one ap - proached and my first
I can trust The ar - ti - fi - cial walls we



mind: "Is this one of my own?" My tri - bal mind
thought was "Do they mean me harm?" To my sur - prise
build a - round the tribes we claim Make us for - get



made me for - get that they're bone of my bone
they met my eyes and held me in their arms
the gos - pel truth: "Be - lo - ved" is your name

Anthem What Does the Lord Require

Eric Nelson

What does the Lord require for praise and offering?

What sacrifice, desire, or tribute bid you bring?

To do justice; love mercy; and walk humbly with your God.

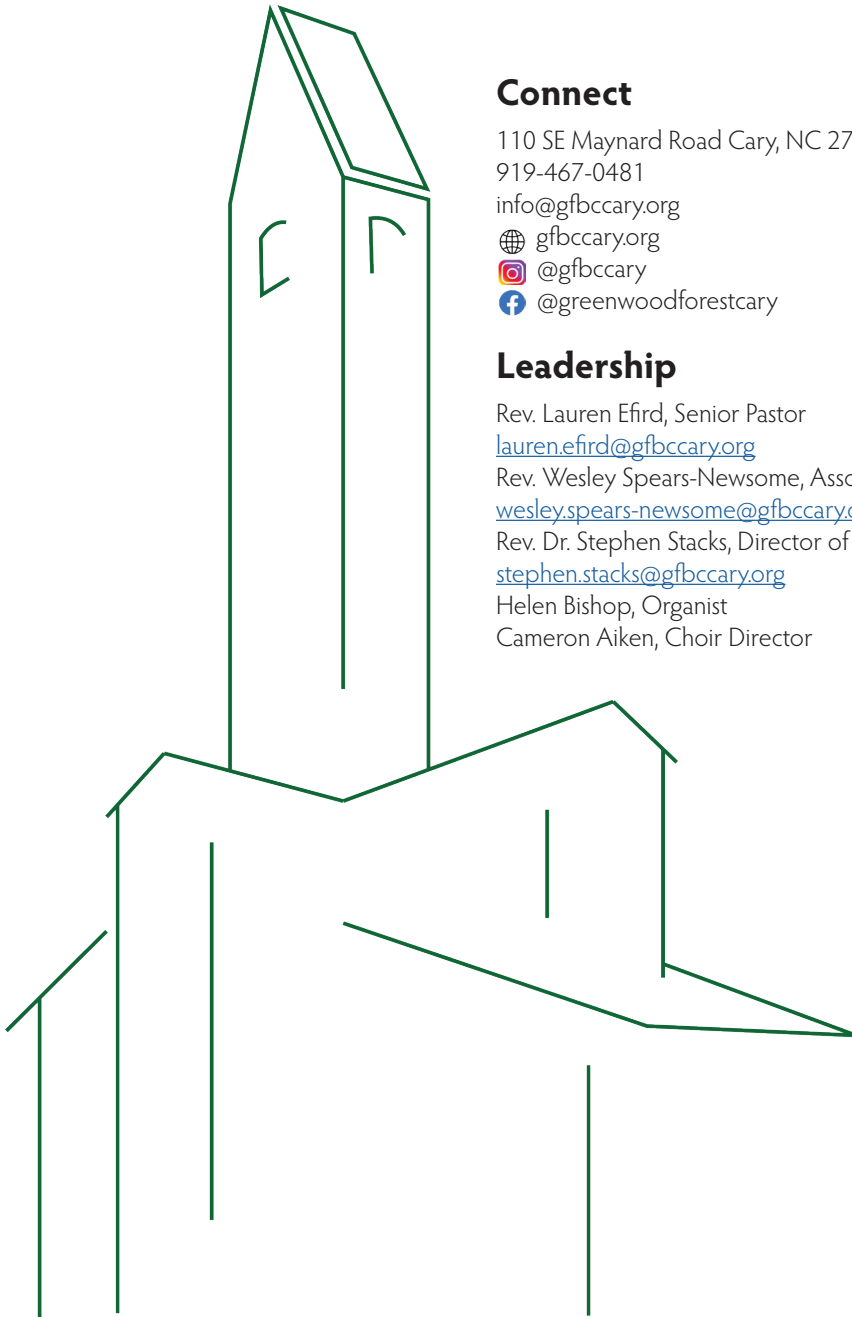
Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice know?

Will God your pleading hear, while crime and cruelty grow?

Then do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.

How shall our life fulfill God's law so high?

Let Christ endue our will with grace.



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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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