



L. Vale



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

April 18, 2025



Scan for Digital



everything [in] between

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

Bulletin Art

Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity, "A Wide Embrace"

Newspaper & gold leaf collage with digital drawing | inspired by Luke 23:32-49

I began this image contemplating Jesus' posture on the cross. The crucifix inherently spreads its victims' arms out wide, willing the body into the shape of surrender. There is no fighting back. It forces one to face death with open arms.

As I contemplated this, the iconic image of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, entered my imagination and my sketchpad. While the sculpture was commissioned and created for several different reasons, I find it striking that the final design evolved into Christ with open arms and hands, intended to be a symbol of peace.

In this image, I referenced the Christ the Redeemer statue, drawing Jesus' dying position into a posture of warm embrace. I omitted his face in order to focus merely on his arms stretched wide. I repeated this pattern four times, which formed the shape of an open cross. As I worked, I realized the image resembles a cross crosslet, which carries as many varied meanings as the crucifix itself. In this image, my intention is to thwart the brutality and violence of the crucifix with the imagery of a wide embrace, which will soon become a symbol of death-defying resistance.

In the negative space at the center, I placed two sheep. They primarily represent the two men—charged as criminals—who die alongside Jesus on the cross. I depicted them as sheep to recall the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7) and to portray them as what they are: vulnerable, desperate, helpless. One turns away; he sees Jesus' surrender on the cross as a pathetic and pointless defeat. The other trusts in the promise and sets his eyes on paradise. The one who turns away symbolizes all of the people who defy Christ at the end: those who cast lots, scoff, and mock him. The one who looks straight at us symbolizes all who remain steadfast: the Centurion, those who beat their chests, and those who stay, watching from a distance.

In the background, you will see glimpses of newspaper headlines and articles collaged together. In response to the noise and violence of this world, this image is a visual prayer for peace.

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Order of Worship | Service of Tenebrae

Prelude | When I Survey the Wondrous Cross | arr. Middlebrooke

Welcome and Opening Prayer | Rev. Lauren Efirid

Hymn | When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (vv. 1, 3, 4; pg. 3)

Meditation on the Cross | The Solemn Reproaches | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome
Leader: Holy God, holy and strong,
All: Holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

Communion | Rev. Efirid

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.**

Stripping of the Altar | Surely, He Hath Born Our Grievs | R. Evan Copley (pg. 6)

Lesson I | The Arrest | Rev. Efirid

Hymn | What Wondrous Love (v. 1; pg. 4)

Lesson II | The Denial | Rev. Spears-Newsome

Hymn | O Sacred Head (v. 1; pg. 5)

Lesson III | The Trial | Rev. Efirid

Hymn | What Wondrous Love (v. 2; pg. 4)

Lesson IV | The Sentencing | Rev. Spears-Newsome

Hymn | O Sacred Head (v. 2; pg. 5)

Lesson V | The Crucifixion | Rev. Efirid

Hymn | What Wondrous Love (v. 3; pg. 4)

Lesson VI | The Death | Rev. Spears-Newsome

Hymn | O Sacred Head (v. 3; pg. 5)

Lesson VII | The Burial | Rev. Efirid

Musical Response | Were You There

3 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross, on which the
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sor - row and
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

What Wondrous Love

Unison

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2. When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing; to
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm

this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
down be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown for my
Lamb Who is the great "I Am," while mil-lions join the theme, I will
free I'll sing and joy - ful be; and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul.
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on.

O Sacred Head

1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weigh'd down,
2. What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fer'd was all for sin - ners' gain:
3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank Thee, dear - est Friend,

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, Thine on - ly crown;
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but Thine the dead - ly pain.
for this, Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?

how pale Thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
O make me Thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,

How does that vis - age lan - guish which once was bright as morn!
look on me with Thy fa - vor, and grant to me Thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to Thee.

Stripping of the Altar

Surely, He Hath Borne Our Grievs

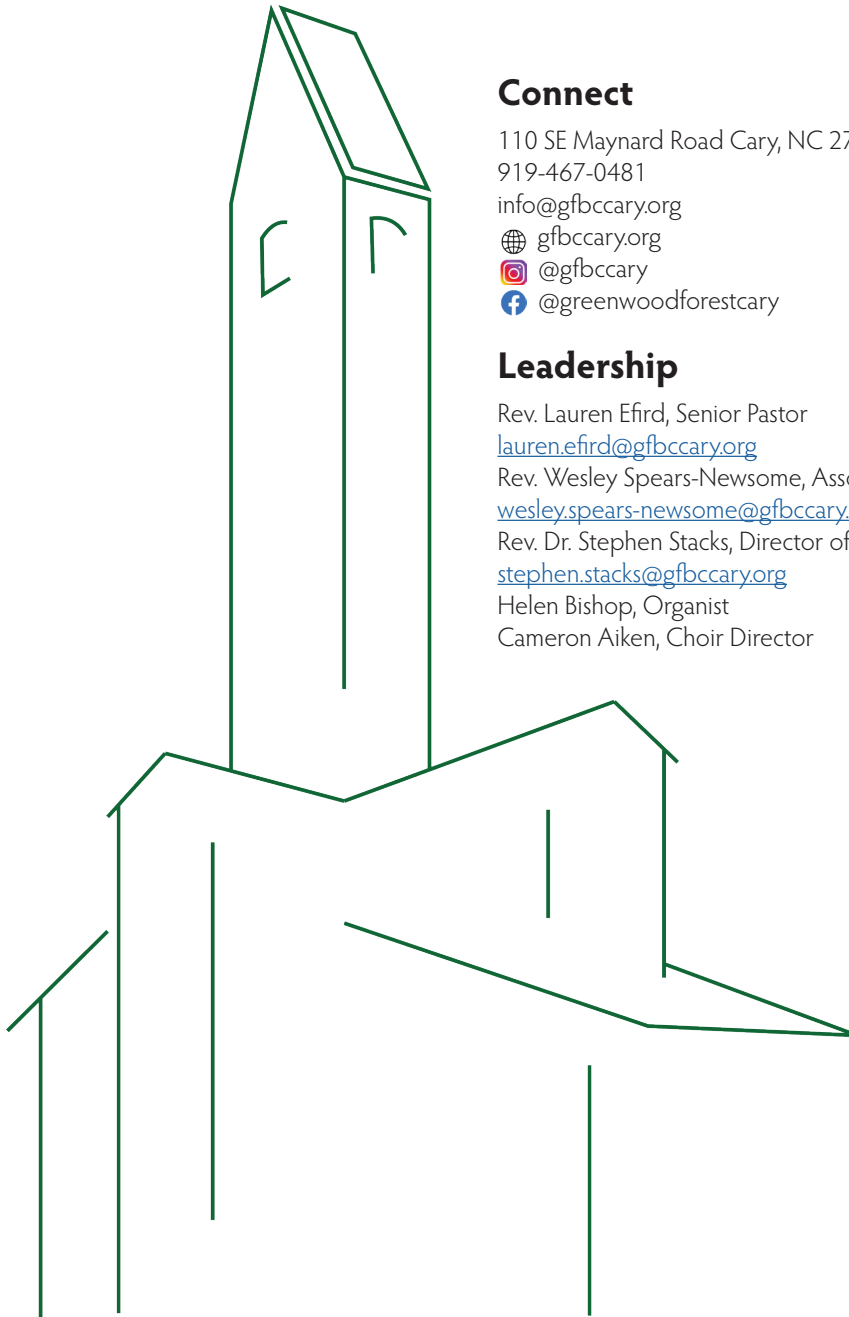
R. Evan Copley

Surely he hath borne our griefs,
and carried our sorrows.

He was wounded for our transgressions.

He was wounded for our iniquities.

The chastisement of our peace was upon him,
and with his stripes we are healed.



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