



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

April 20, 2025



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# everything [in] between

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

## Bulletin Art

Steve Prince, "Fill My Cup," Pen and ink on paper | inspired by Luke 24:1-12

For me, to not know Christ is to live a life thirsty for truth, meaning, understanding, and purpose. We search and search and it feels like we cannot find the thing that we were hoping for. It is not until we surrender and trust in faith that we are able to find peace. We must open the door of our hearts to allow the Holy Spirit to enter and to do the work. Many will see us and not believe that the peace we exude is real, looking at us with skeptical eyes. Many will come thirsty, wondering from whence cometh our help, and some will know, and they shall rejoice for we have seen the light. Our daily prayer is that God will have us thirst no more and fill our cup.

### Prompts for Contemplation

- Look at the three women. What expressions do you see? How do their eyes, faces, and postures impact the mood of the image?
- Focus on the middle woman. What do you think the house in her body symbolizes?
- Notice the flow of energy and movement in the image. What direction does it seem to be moving in, and how does it impact the feeling or message of the artwork?
- What does the man's position in the image suggest about his role in the scene? How does he relate to the figures and the action surrounding him?

– Steve Prince

### About the Artist: Steve Prince



Steve Prince (he/him) is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, and currently resides in Williamsburg, Virginia. He received his BFA from Xavier University of Louisiana and his MFA in Printmaking and Sculpture from Michigan State University. He is the Director of Engagement and Distinguished Artist in Residence at the Muscarelle Museum of Art at William and Mary University. Prince has shown his art internationally in various solo, group, and juried exhibitions.

# 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

## Carr Center at Cary Town Council on April 24

### Please note the change of date!

The vote for rezoning of our land to build the Carr Center will be on April 24 at 6:30pm at Cary Town Hall. We invite everyone to come for what we anticipate to be a positive result. Anyone is also invited to join in celebrating at Bond Brothers Brewery (202 E Cedar St, Cary, NC 27511) afterward to mark this milestone!

## May 18 Block Party!

Save the date for a Block Party celebrating the Carr Center on May 18, 3-5pm in the GFBC Parking Lot. We'll be gathering the whole Cary community in support of the project and welcoming them to a time of fun, food, and games for all ages! Stay tuned for more.

## Deadline for Youth Trip to Asheville is 4/23

Our youth will be heading to Asheville this summer (July 19-23) with other youth groups in the Triangle region that share our faith commitments. We'll be working with local church Circle of Mercy to do service activities, learn about recovery efforts, and build friendships between our churches. Middle and High School students are welcome to attend. Cost is \$250/person. Deadline to sign up is April 23.

Contact Rev. Spears-Newsome at [wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org) with questions. Sign up is on Realm.

## Eastertide Flowers

Our Sanctuary Adornment team would like everyone to bring flowers from their gardens (or a local store if you lack a green thumb!) on Easter Sunday (April 20) for the Easter Cross decorations!

Also, our nursery has stopped carrying Easter Lilies, so we won't be doing dedications this year. In lieu of that, we invite anyone who wants to dedicate flowers to sign up on the sheet outside the office for any of the weeks in Eastertide (you can team up, too!). Dedications of those flowers will be printed in the bulletin.

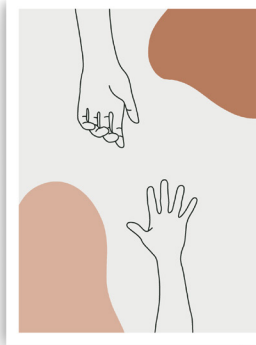
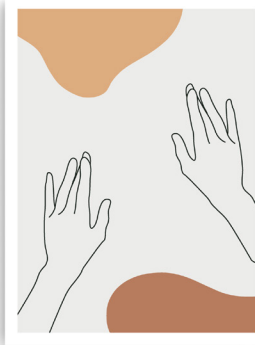
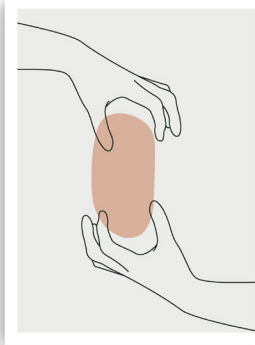
## Thank You Note

The GFBC Family inundated me with cards filled with good wishes after my mid-February knee replacement surgery. Those little notes bolstered my spirits as I toughed out the initial weeks of pain and challenging physical therapy. I especially appreciated your prayers and did indeed feel God's presence in my healing. I especially thank everyone who assumed many of my work tasks so that I could free my mind to heal. While my recuperation will continue for some time to come, I am so glad I was able to return to the church office over two weeks ago.

With so much gratitude to the wonderful people of Greenwood Forest,

Karen Burden

# Community Notes | Prayer Requests and Giving



Scan to Give  
Online Today!

## 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  
Doris Martin  
Jennie Pegram  
Fred Seeger  
Joyce Spencer (mother of Allan Huntsinger and Leta Huntsinger)  
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](http://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: The Carr Center

GFBC and the Greenwood Forest Children's Center are in a partnership with DHIC, The Caring Place, and the YMCA to develop a mixed-use affordable housing center on our land. The Carr Center, named for Tim Carr who spearheaded its development, will include a new preschool, program housing and services from The Caring Place, and affordable housing by DHIC. The rezoning required for the project to continue is up for a vote on April 24 at 6:30 at Cary Town Hall. Join us there and celebrate after!

# Order of Worship | Easter 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

**Processional** | Christ the Lord is Risen Today (pg. 7)

**Welcome to Worship** | Rev. Lauren Efirid

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship (from A Sanctified Art)** 📖

My dear friends, we have known grief. We have known loss. We have known the long road, tired and winding. We have whispered prayers on bended knees. We have stared at the sky, empty of stars. But today...

**Today we know hope!**

Today we know life.

**Today we know the sound of Alleluias!**

Today we know that death does not have the last word.

**Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.**

It is Easter. May hope find you. And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

**Invocation** | Steve Denning

**Baptism** | Lucy Beal

✝ **Hymn** | The Day of Resurrection (pg. 8)

**Offertory Prayer** | Susan Beck

**Offertory** | Because He Lives | arr. Schrader 📖

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: 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** | 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** | Now the Green Blade Rises (pg. 9)

**Reading** | Luke 24:1-12 | Rev. Spears-Newsome  
The word of God for us, the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

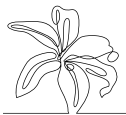
**Anthem** | Alleluia | Ralph Manuel

**Sermon** | Grief & Hope | Rev. Efirid

† **Hymn** | Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (pg. 10) 📖

**Benediction** | Rev. Efirid

**Postlude** | Alleluia Chorus | Handel



*The flowers on the altar were placed today by  
the Generations Faith Formation Class.*

### 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).

### Hallelujah Chorus

If you'd like to join the choir in singing the Hallelujah Chorus, come join them in the loft during "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"!

### Thank You

Thank you to Tom Hoch for joining us in worship today while Helen Bishop is recovering!

# Christ the Lord is Risen Today

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2. Love's re-deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Earth and heav - en join to say, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Where, O Death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Death in vain for - bids Him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Dy - ing once He all doth save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth, re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ hath o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!



# The Day of Resurrection

1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;  
2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right  
3. Now let the heavens be joy - ful! Let earth her song be - gin!

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness; the Pass - o - ver of God.  
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;  
The world re - sound in tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,  
and, lis - tening to His ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend;

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.  
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

# Now the Green Blade Rises

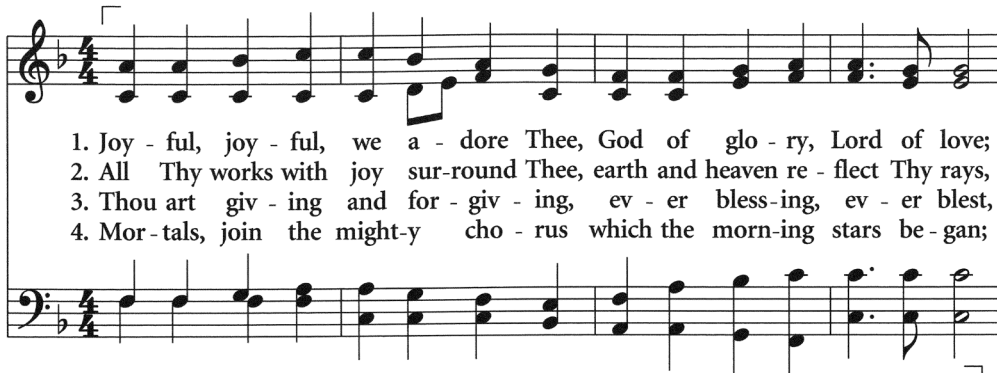
1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain;

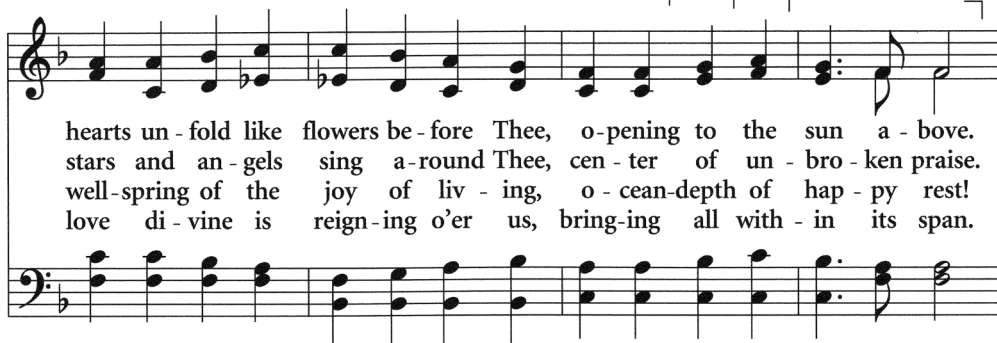
love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

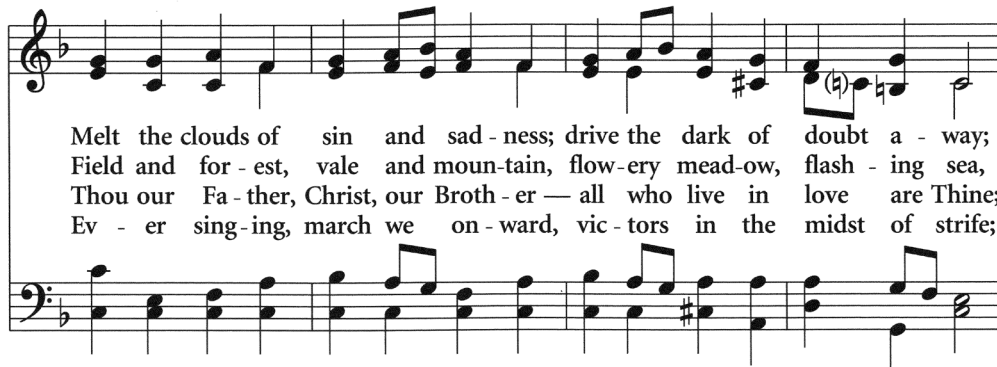
# Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



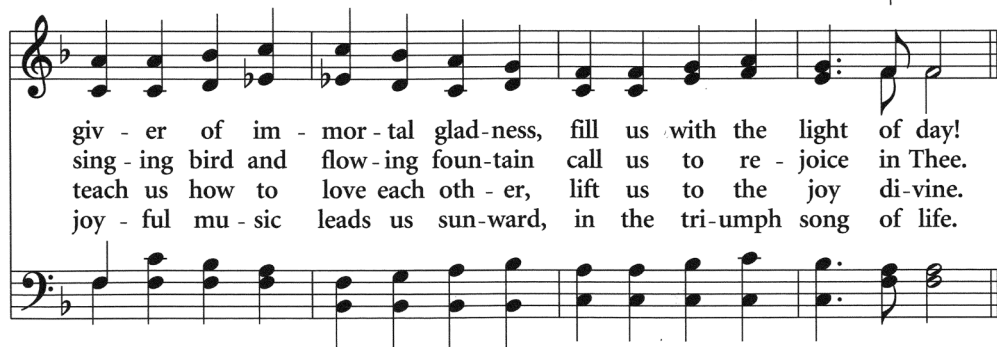
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,  
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,  
4. Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



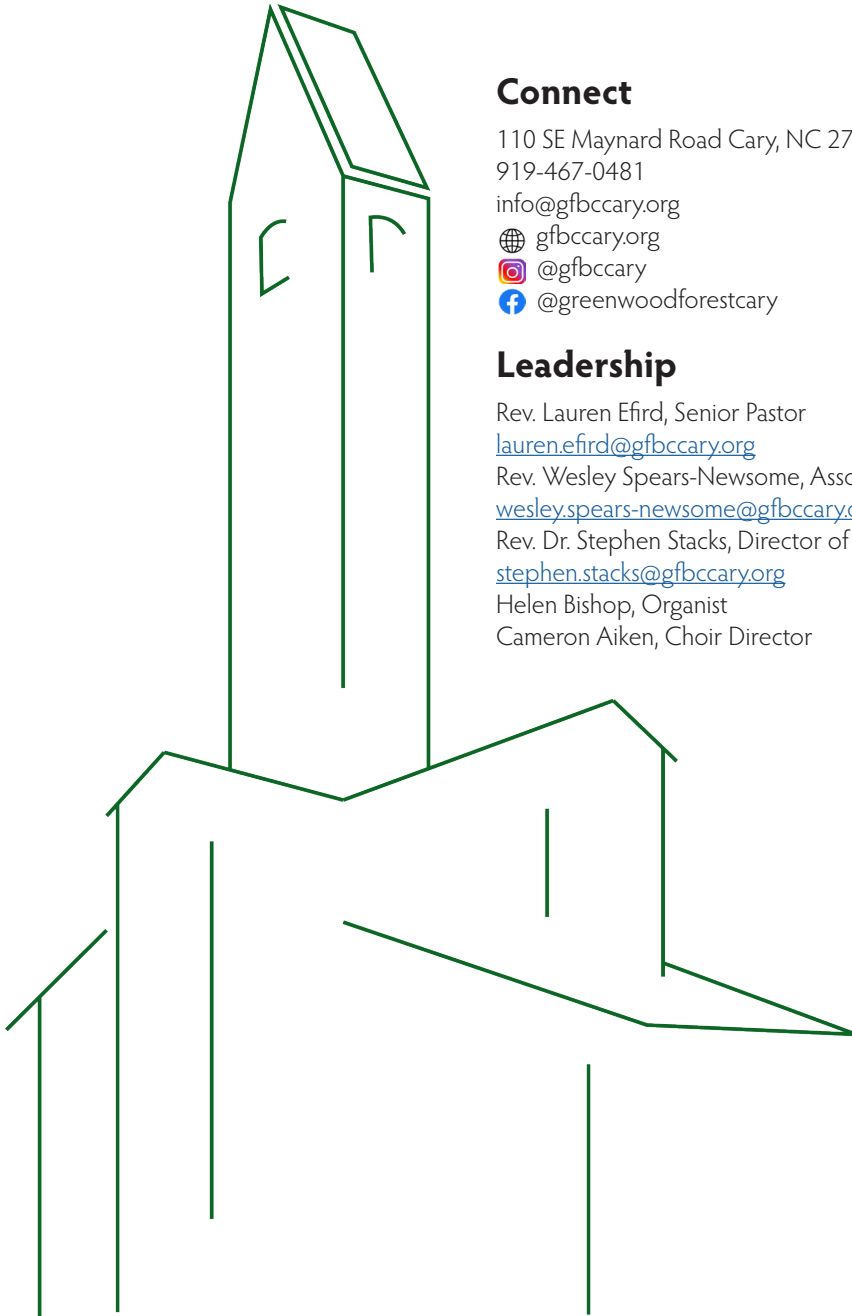
hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, o - pening to the sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!  
love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, bring - ing all with - in its span.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ, our Broth - er — all who live in love are Thine;  
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!  
sing - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in Thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.  
joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward, in the tri - umph song of life.



## Connect

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919-467-0481

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 [gfbccary.org](http://gfbccary.org)

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

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

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

[lauren.efird@gfbccary.org](mailto:lauren.efird@gfbccary.org)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

[wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org)

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

[stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org](mailto:stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org)

Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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