

Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

May 4, 2025



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Bulletin Art

"The (Little) Tower of Babel" by Pieter Bruegel, oil on wood panel

Bruegel did at least three renditions of his famous Tower of Babel painting, perhaps the most well-known depictions of the mythical structure in the world. This one, named for the size of the painting not the size of the tower, like the others shows us the Tower as it is being built. Bruegel was known for the intricate details in his art and these Babel paintings are no exception. You can note the breadth of human involvement and commitment to the construction as well as the attention to individual architectural elements. Notable here are the obviously Romanesque touches to the Tower.

Bruegel could have used the architecture of many cultures from around the world, contemporary or past. Painted in the sixteenth century, he would have had plenty of reference material. However, it is suspected that Bruegel made the first painting (now lost) while in Rome. The Towers we have are seemingly deliberately evocative of the Roman Colosseum. The Colosseum is not far from the famed Roman Forum, which has similar motifs. The Colosseum is representative of both hubris and persecution. Hubris with its ties to an empire that thought itself eternal and persecution because of the stories of Christian martyrs who died in arenas like it.

What do you think Bruegel is saying by tying Babel to Rome?

If you were to depict the Tower of Babel today, what architectural elements would you include?

What are contemporary examples of the hubris and violence of the Colosseum that could inspire a new depiction of the Tower of Babel?

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

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.



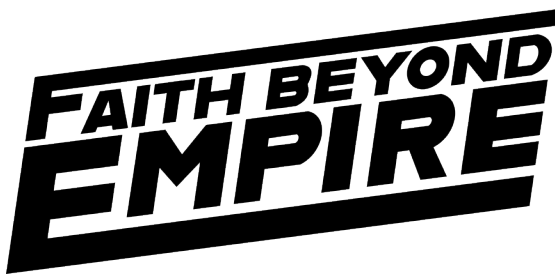
Gender-neutral, single-occupant bathrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary in the Narthex.



Announcements | Church Events and Updates

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.



New Sermon Series

In Faith Beyond Empire, we'll be exploring the ways our Scriptures lead us to resist imperial impulses like the desire to conquer, control, exploit, and consume. From Genesis to Revelation, we'll examine stories, parables, and poems to determine how we identify and respond to empire in our midst today based on God's people have responded in Scripture.

The series is inspired by the book *"Come Out My People!" God's Call out of Empire in the Bible and Beyond* by Wes Howard-Brook. He depicts the struggle in reading the Bible as the conflict between a religion of empire and the religion of creation. One seeks to dominate and explore and the other follows God's way of life and peace.

Each week we'll have new art in the bulletin but also discussion questions around the art. You can

get these art pieces in a devotional book to use by yourself or in your faith formation class by picking up a copy in the back or by getting a digital copy in the church's weekly email. If you have any questions contact Rev. Spears-Newsome.

Congratulations Helen Bishop on 25 Years!

We're marking Helen Bishop's 25th anniversary at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church this year! When Helen returns, please congratulate her and thank her for all she's done for GFBC over the years. We're excited for her to return to worship with us.

Spiritual Life Survey

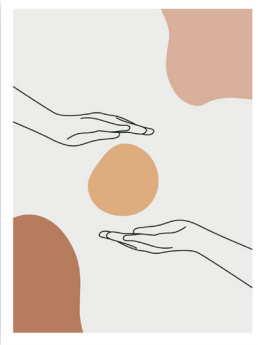
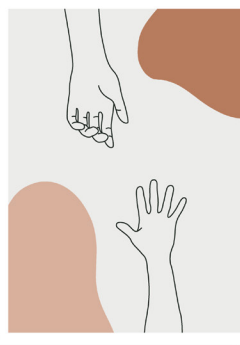
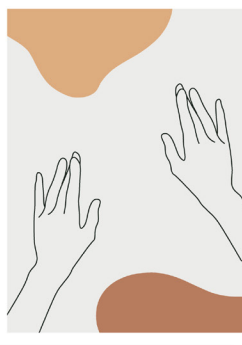
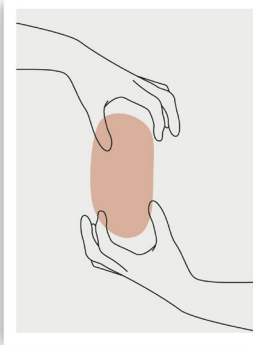
Every year, we release a Spiritual Life survey to find out where you are spiritually and to help us discern what GFBC should focus on in the next church year (2025-2026). You can find it at gfbccary.org/lifesurvey.

We hope that everyone will take their time to fill this out as it really helps us develop initiatives, sermon series, retreats, and more based on your feedback. It also helps us know where your gifts, interests, and passions are so we know where you'd like to put your time and energy in the church. The survey will be open through May 19, but please take some time to fill it out as soon as you can!

Ministry Monday (5/12)

Keep an eye out for instructions from your ministry chairs for the 5/12 Ministry Monday!

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
The family of Johnny Jackson at her death
Sandra Jarrell
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.



Scan to Give
Online Today!

Order of Worship | Third Sunday of Easter

✝ 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 | Be Thou My Vision (arr. Krug) | GFBC Handbells

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efrid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 30) 📖

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,

And did not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,

And you have healed me.

O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,

Restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you faithful ones,

And give thanks to God's holy name.

For God's anger is but for a moment;

God's favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night,

But joy comes with the morning.

Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!

O LORD, be my helper!"

You have turned my mourning into dancing;

You have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

So that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Invocation | Leanne Glasgow

✝ **Hymn** | Guide My Feet (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Nathan Bullock

Offertory | This Little Light of Mine | arr. Calvin Taylor 📖

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. Dr. Stephen Stacks 
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** | All My Hope on God is Founded (pg. 8)

Reading | Genesis 11:1-9 | Rev. Efirid
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | The Road Home | Stephen Paulus (pg. 10)

Sermon | Let's Make a Name for Ourselves! | Rev. Wesley 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** | Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race (pg. 9) 

Benediction | Rev. Efirid

Postlude | Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling | setting by Calvin Taylor

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).

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!

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!

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

while I run this race,

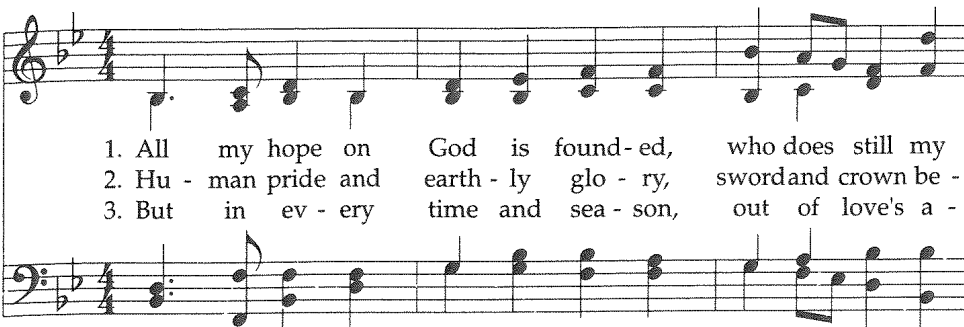
yes, my Lord!

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

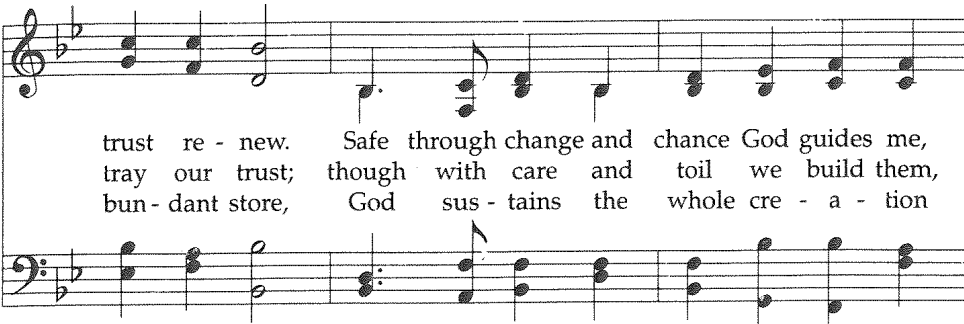
while I run this race, for I

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

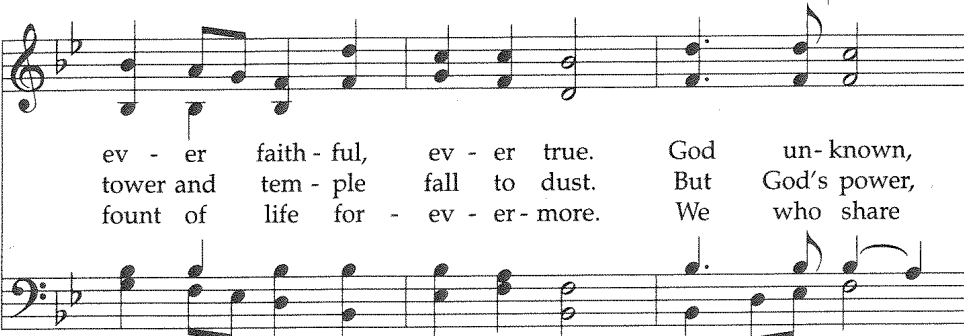
All My Hope on God is Founded



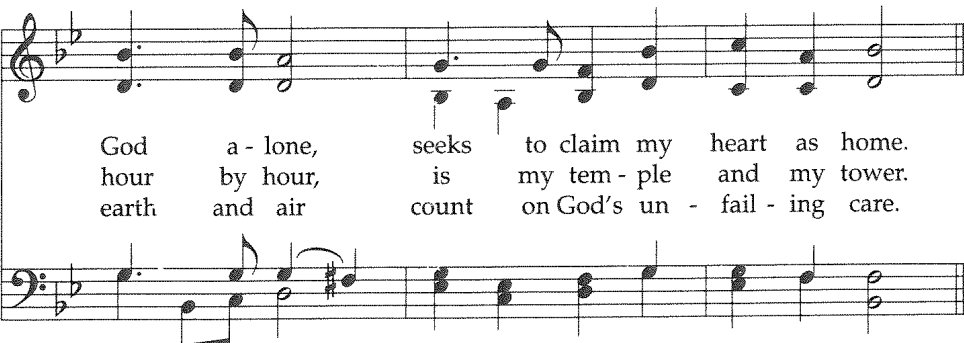
1. All my hope on God is found-ed, who does still my
 2. Hu - man pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
 3. But in ev - ery time and sea - son, out of love's a -



trust re - new. Safe through change and chance God guides me,
 tray our trust; though with care and toil we build them,
 bun - dant store, God sus - tains the whole cre - a - tion



ev - er faith - ful, ev - er true. God un - known,
 tower and tem - ple fall to dust. But God's power,
 fount of life for - ev - er - more. We who share



God a - lone, seeks to claim my heart as home.
 hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.
 earth and air count on God's un - fail - ing care.

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

1. Di - verse in cul - ture, na - tion, race, we
 2. God, let us be a bridge of care con -
 3. When cha - sms wid - en, storms a - rise, O
 4. God, let us be a ta - ble spread with

come to - geth - er by Your grace. God, let us be a
 nect - ing peo - ple ev - ery - where. Help us con - front all
 Ho - ly Spir - it, make us wise. Let our re - solve, like
 gifts of love and bro - ken bread, where all find wel - come,

meet - ing ground where hope and heal - ing love are found.
 fear and hate and lust for power that sep - a - rate.
 steel, be strong to stand with those who suf - fer wrong.
 grace at - tends, and en - e - mies a - rise as friends.

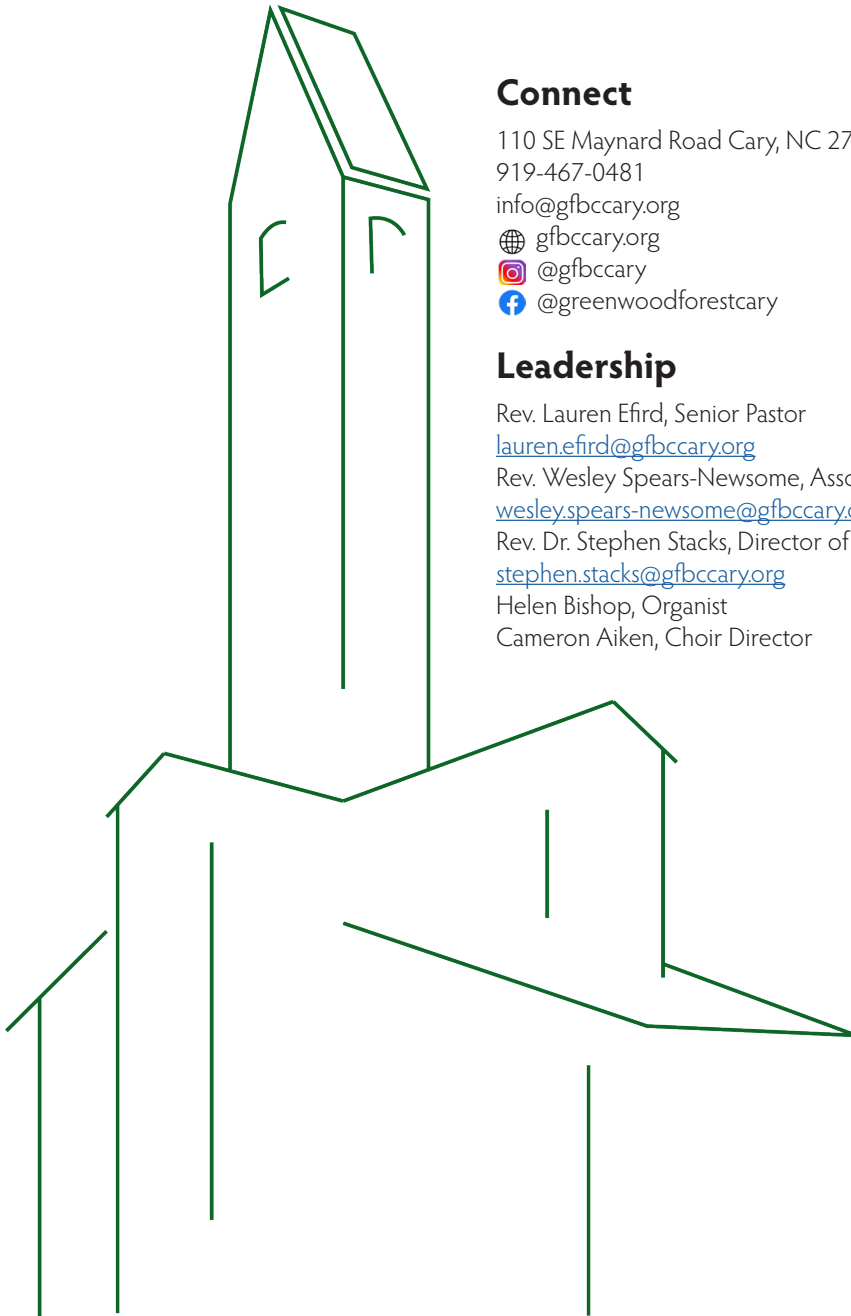
Anthem The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own
That I left, that I lost
So long ago
All these years I have wandered
Oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home

After wind, after rain
When the dark is done
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day
Through the air there's a calling
From far away
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home

Rise up, follow me
Come away, is the call
With the love in your heart
As the only song
There is no such beauty
As where you belong
Rise up, follow me
I will lead you home



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Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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