



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

May 11, 2025



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Current Sermon Series: Faith Beyond Empire

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.

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.

Bulletin Art

"The Manna" by Nicolas Poussin, oil on canvas

This depiction of the Israelites in the desert lacks obvious historical referent as the subjects are European, but it has some intriguing concepts within it. Nicolas Poussin (d. 1665) was a leading painter in the Baroque period who was French but spent most of his time in Rome. He was famous for classical Greco-Roman paintings depicting the mythologies of these cultures. This painting, however depicts the famous biblical scene of the gathering of manna. From *the Christian Century*:

Nicolas Poussin painted this work in 1637–1639 for Paul Fréart de Chantelou, an admirer of Christian art, who would become one of his most benevolent patrons. The painting is based on Exodus 16:2–15, which depicts God sending food to the Israelites during their desert wanderings. Poussin is most famous for his nontraditional ordering of his compositions. The painting shows the delivery of manna through the responses of the various figures. Some people fight for the food while others wait patiently. Poussin asks us to contemplate whether we would respond calmly and share with our neighbors or be selfish. In the center, Moses points commandingly to heaven while Aaron prays, appreciating God's intercession at their time of need.

While easy to assume Moses is pointing to God, the pose bears striking resemblance to a painting Poussin would likely have seen in his time in Rome. *The School of Athens* by Raphael adorns one of the rooms in the Apostolic Palace in Vatican City. In it, a similar chaotic assembly of people sits, sprawls, and stands in disagreement with each other. In the center, the Greek philosopher Plato takes the same pose as Moses in Poussin's painting. It's widely assumed that Raphael was referencing Plato's preoccupation with the ideal of things particularly because he walks next to his student Aristotle who has his hand directed at the earth. Aristotle was more focused on things as they are than their ideal form, as Plato was. Moses is likewise paired with his second, Aaron, who adopts a posture of prayer. What might Poussin be trying to tell us with the dichotomy between Moses' commanding posture and Aaron's supplication? Are these things at odds or do they work together (as has often been the debate about Plato and Aristotle)?

- 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!

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 you 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!

This meeting will be virtual (on Zoom).

Group A (6-6:45pm): Outreach/Fellowship, Children, Properties, Finance, Discipleship

Group B (6:45-7:30pm): Congregational Care, Personnel, Youth

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.

Business Meeting (6/1)

We'll be having a business meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45am on June 1.

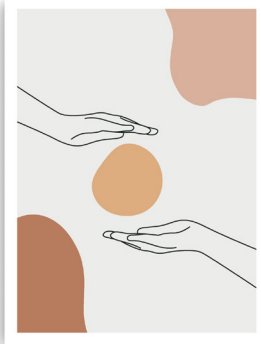
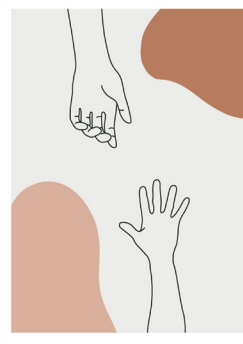
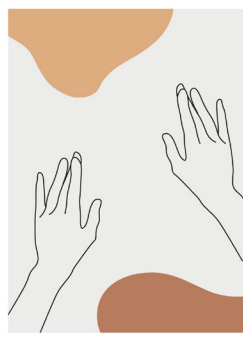
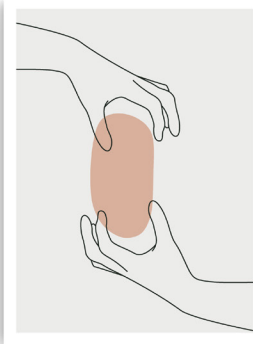
Thank You Notes

Thank you so much for your support through my past several months of recovery. Your notes, calls and visits really brightened my days. I am especially grateful to everyone who played piano during my absence, and to our church staff, who were able to find these amazing substitutes - that's not an easy task for a single planned absence, yet they managed to find coverage for months on very short notice. It is so good to be back "warming the bench," and worshiping through music with you.

Thank you,
Helen Bishop

We are truly grateful for the many cards, kind words, and expressions of sympathy we received after the passing of our wonderful mother. Your prayers and encouragement have been a great comfort to us during this time of loss. Thank you for your love and support — it has meant more than words can express. With heartfelt thanks,
Allan and Leta Huntsinger

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
Sandra Jarrell
Doris Martin
Tammy Panayiotou (friend of Valerie Brooks)
Jennie Pegram
Fred Seeger
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 | Fourth 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 | Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us | arr. Cindy Berry

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efird

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 23) 📖

You are my shepherd,

I shall not want.

You make me lie down in green pastures;

You lead me beside still waters;

You restore my soul.

You lead me in right paths for your name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

Your rod and your staff—

They comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy

Shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

My whole life long.

Invocation | Diana McGahan

✝ **Hymn** | All Who Hunger Gather Gladly (pg. 7)

Gratitude Testimony | Janice Medford

Offertory Prayer | Diana McGahan 📖

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.

Offertory | Center of my Joy, arr. Smallwood | Rev. Randy Palmer

✠ **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 | Steve Denning 📖
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** | Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken (pg. 8)

Reading | Exodus 16:2-15 | Leta Huntsinger
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | God's Gonna Set This World on Fire (pg. 10)

Sermon | If only we had died sitting by the fleshpots! | Rev. Efird

✠ **Hymn** | You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (pg. 9) 📖

Benediction | Rev. Efird

Postlude | My Shepherd is the Living God | arr. Albert Mendoza

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).

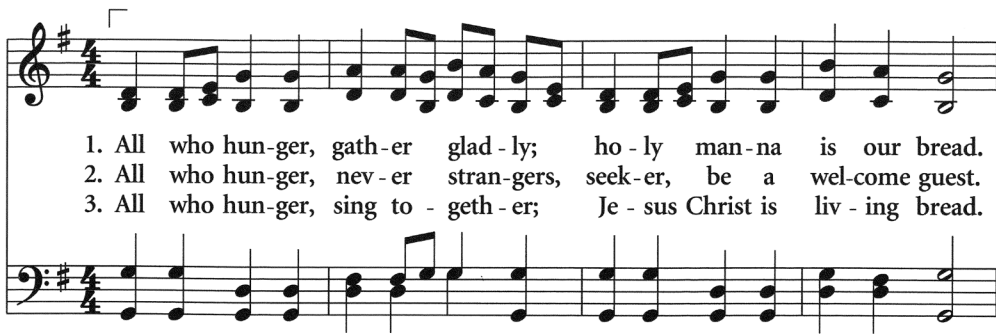
Final Hymn: An Invitation

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!

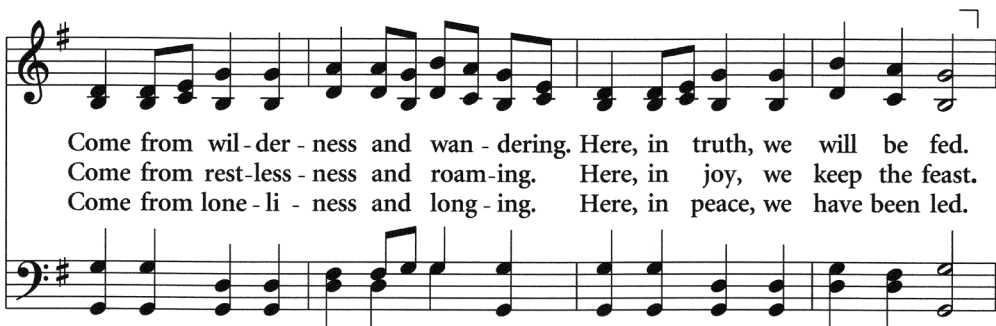


*The flowers on the altar were placed today by
Greg and Carol Carter in honor of Ruth Allsbrook
who will celebrate her 100th birthday on May 13th.*

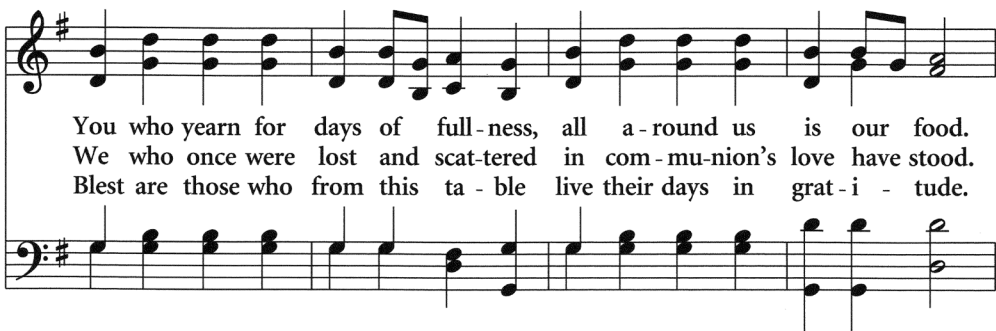
All Who Hunger Gather Gladly



1. All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
2. All who hun-ger, nev-er stran-gers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3. All who hun-ger, sing to-geth-er; Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

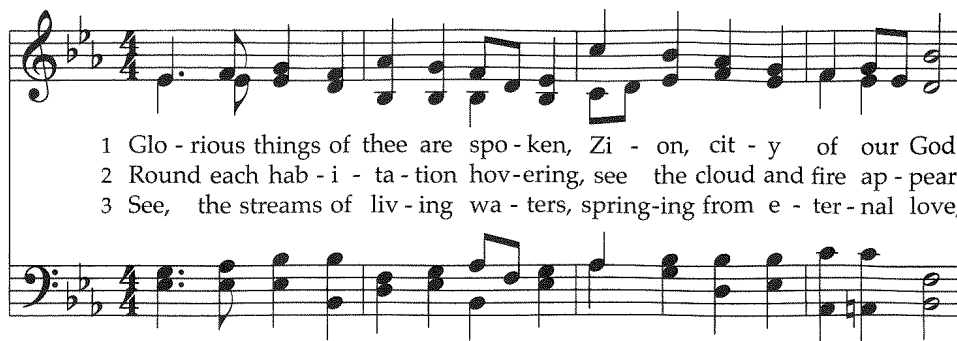


You who yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We who once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.

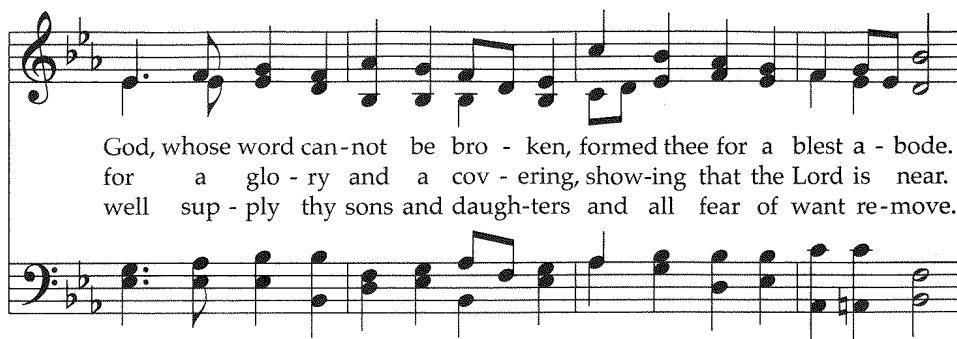


Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
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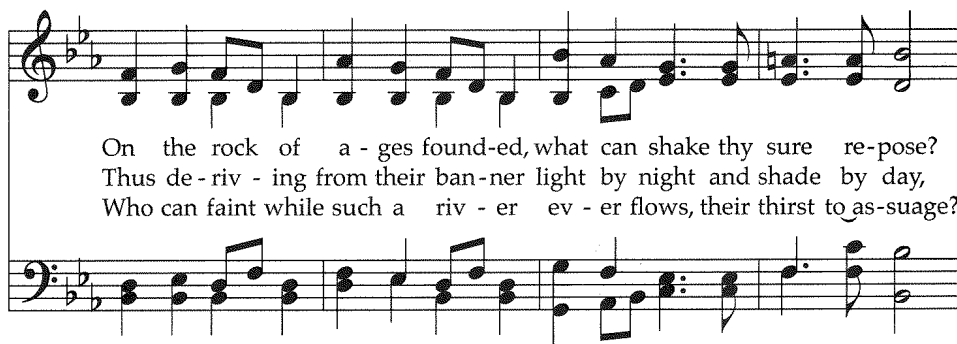
Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken



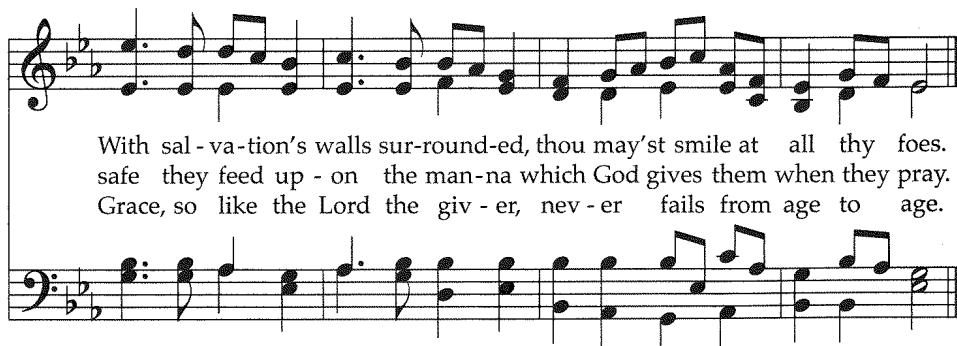
1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.
 2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
 3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,



God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.
 for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.



On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.
 Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Unison

You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin-est wheat;

Fine

come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

1. As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
2. With joy-ful lips we sing to You our praise and grat-i-tude,
3. Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
4. The mys-tery of Your pres-ence, Lord, no mor-tal tongue can tell;
5. You give Your-self to us, O Lord; then self-less let us be,

D.C.

so when You call Your fam-ily, Lord, we fol-low and re-joice.
that You should count us wor-thy, Lord, to share this heaven-ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de-clare our one-ness in the Lord?
the One the world can-not con-tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth-er in Your name in truth and char-i-ty.

Anthem God's Gonna Set This World on Fire

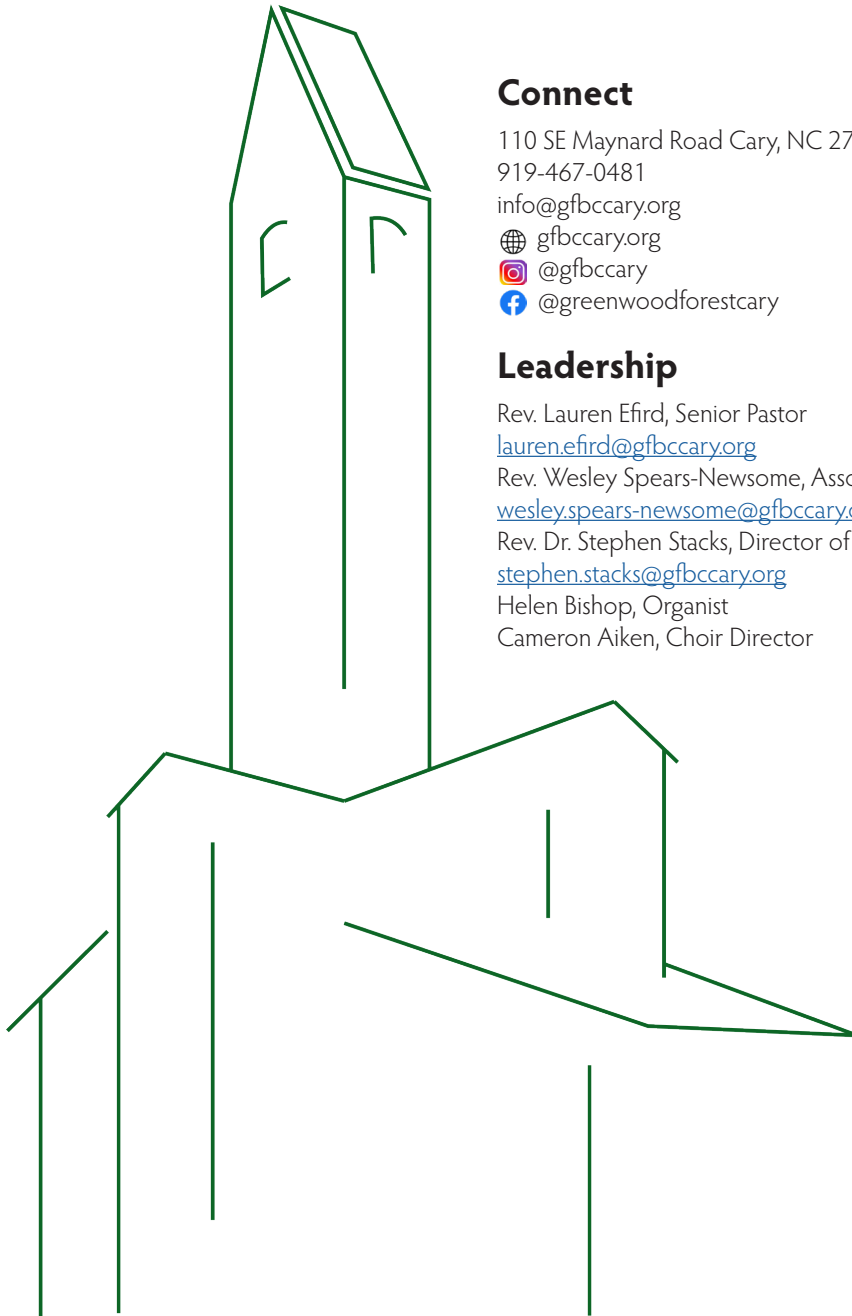
arr. Moses Hogan

God's gonna set this world on fire,
God's gonna set this world on fire one of these days, hallelujah!
God's gonna set this world on fire,
God's gonna set this world on fire one of these days!

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table...

I'm gonna eat and never get hungry...

I'm gonna drink and never get thirsty...



Connect

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Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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