



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

May 25, 2025



Bulletin Art

"Dawn" by Hannah Garrity, paper lace

In this image, I am mesmerized by the lines, the way even in the two-dimensional, this dancer is in perpetual motion. Even in a whirlpool, threatening to suck away her life, this dancer is rising—effortlessly. It is magical.

But fighting oppression in real life is a constant exercise in finding the magic in a moment. Fighting oppression in real life is the antithesis of effortlessness. As I look around our world, I see people doubling down to forward oppression. As I look around our world, I see so many amazing embodiments of our Holy Spirit, pushing back, spinning out, rising up. It is magical. I am amazed.

In this image, I have represented a woman spinning up out of a whirlpool, her face shining up at the sun. She rises above the ruins of ancient cities. Background motion spins up with the energy of the woman who represents the Holy Spirit, who represents the oppressed breaking free from the yoke, breaking 'forth like the dawn' (Isaiah 58:8)."

—Hannah Garrity, A Sanctified Art

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.



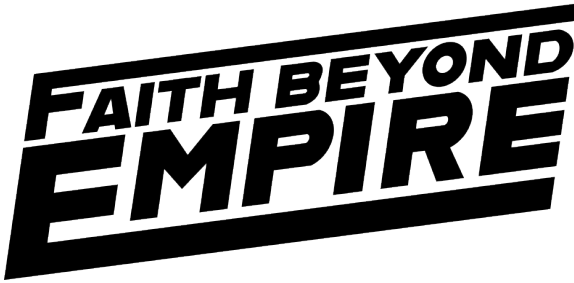
Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera.



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



Announcements | Church Events and Updates



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.

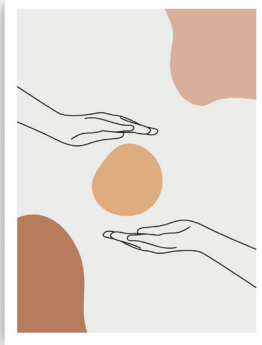
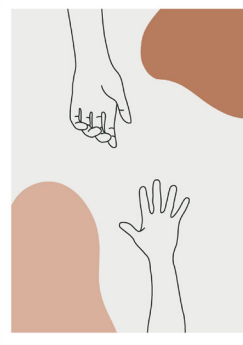
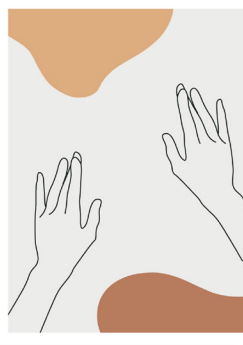
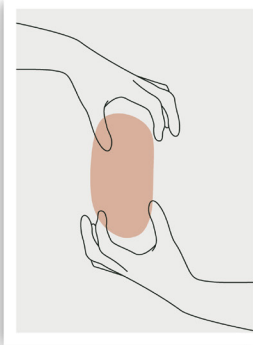
Business Meeting (6/1)

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

Graduation Announcements

Graduation Sunday is June 1 in worship! Send your announcements to Rev. Spears-Newsome including name, institution, and degree. Deadline is Tuesday, May 27.

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.

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 | Fifth 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 | The Lord Bless You and Keep You | arr. Albert Mendoza

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Efirid

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 67) 📖

God, be gracious to us and bless us,

And make your face to shine upon us,

That your way may be known upon earth,

Your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

Let all the peoples praise you!

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

For you judge with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

Let all the peoples praise you!

The earth has yielded its increase;

God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us;

Let the ends of the earth revere the Lord.

Invocation | Nathan Bullock

✝ **Hymn** | To Us All, to Every Nation (pg. 7)

Gratitude Testimony | Anthony Warren

Offertory Prayer | Leta Huntsinger

Offertory | If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee | arr. Böhm 📖

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** | Give Me Jesus (pg. 9)

Reading | Isaiah 58 | Rev. Spears-Newsome
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | A New Heart | Melissa Dunphy

*I will give you a new heart
and put a new spirit within you.
I will take away your heart of stone.
I will give you a heart of flesh.*

Sermon | Why Do We Fast, But You Do Not See? | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

† **Hymn** | The Heart of Worship (pg. 10) 

Benediction | Rev. Efird

Postlude

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).

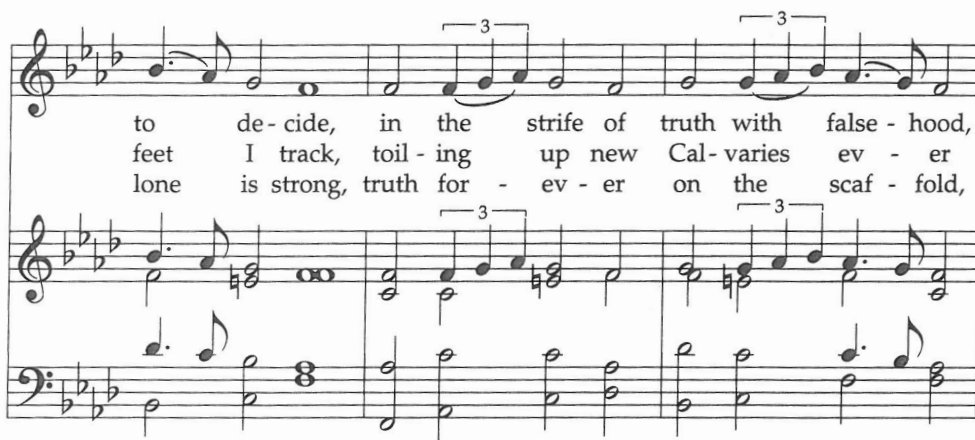
Final Hymn: An Invitation

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!

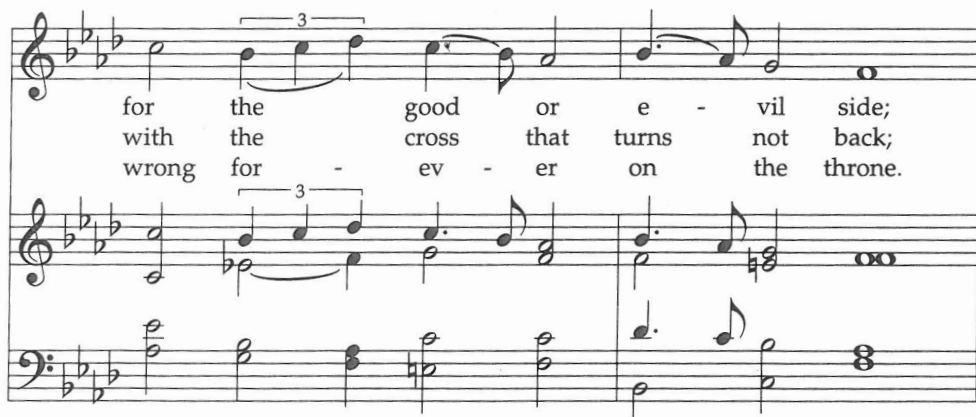
To Us All, to Every Nation



1. To us all, to ev - ery na - tion comes the mo - ment
 2. By the light of burn - ing mar - tyrs, Je - sus' bleed - ing
 3. Though the cause of e - vil pros - per, yet 'tis truth a -



to de - cide, in the strife of truth with false - hood,
 feet I track, toil - ing up new Cal - varies ev - er
 lone is strong, truth for - ev - er on the scaf - fold,



for the good or e - vil side;
 with the cross that turns not back;
 wrong for - ev - er on the throne.

some great cause, God's new en - dea-vor, of - fering each the
new oc - ca - sions teach new du - ties, time makes an - cient
Yet that scaf - fold sways the fu - ture, and, be - hind the

bloom or blight, and the choice goes by for - ev - er
good un - couth; they must up - ward still and on - ward,
dim un - known, God is stand - ing in the shad - ow

'twixt that dark - ness and that light.
who would keep a - breast of truth.
keep - ing watch be - side God's own.

Give Me Jesus

1. In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2. Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
 3. And when I am a - lone, and when I am a - lone,
 4. And when I come to die, and when I come to die,

in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
 and when I am a - lone, give me Je - sus.
 and when I come to die, give me Je - sus.

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus,

you may have all this world, give me Je - sus.

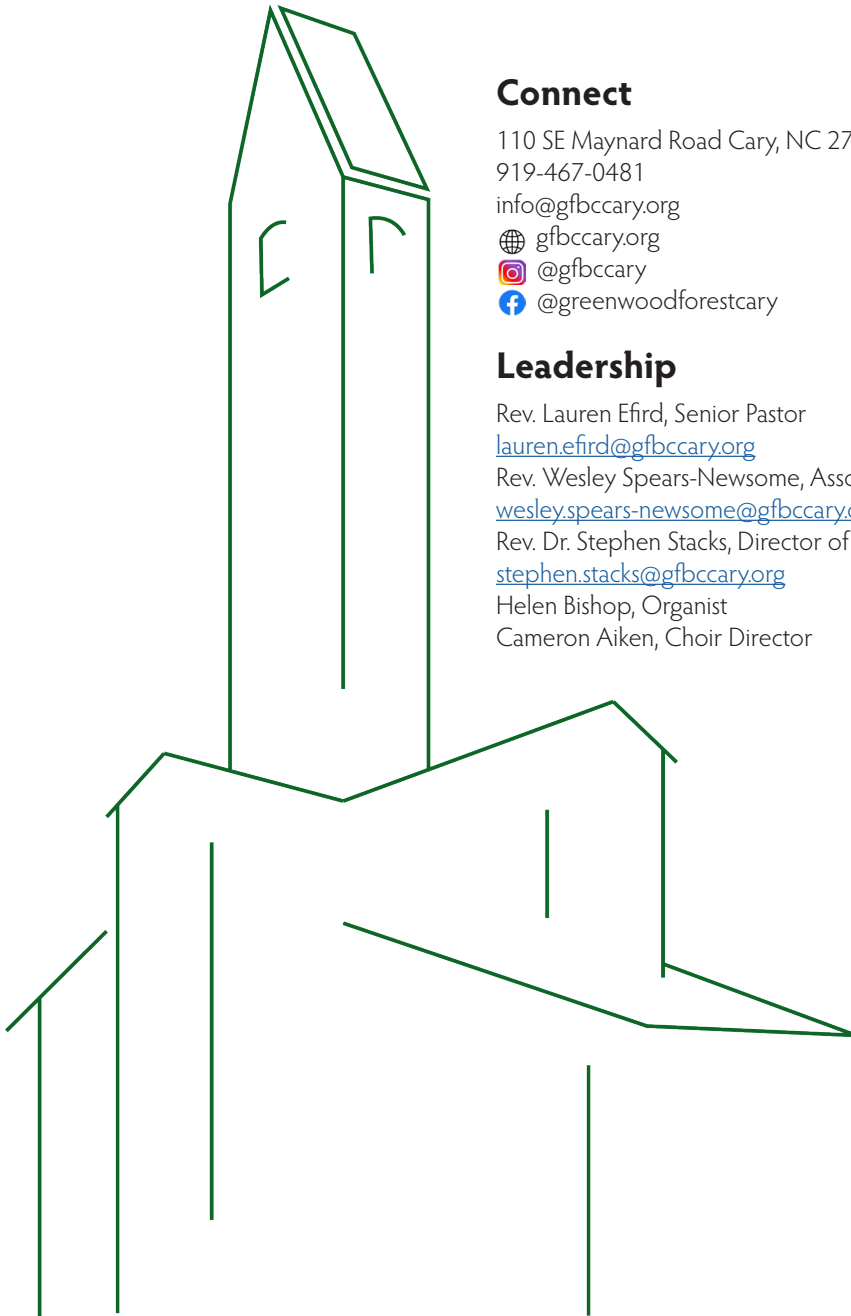
The Heart of Worship

When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longin' just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless your heart

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what you have required
You search much deeper within
Through the ways things appear
You're looking into my heart

*I'm comin' back to the heart of worship
And it's all about you
It's all about you, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about you
It's all about you, Jesus*

King of endless worth
No one could express
How much you deserve?
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is yours
Every single breath



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Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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

stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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