



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

September 21, 2025



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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 Fellowship Hall if you need to rock your little ones.



Transcripts of the sermon and large print bulletins are available at the sound table for those who need them.



Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera.



Restrooms are located on the hallway off the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to use the bathroom that best aligns with your gender identity (our gender-neutral, single-occupant restrooms are currently in a part of the building without HVAC).



Announcements | Church Events and Updates



HVAC Update

Things continue to move along with our HVAC replacement. Piece by piece, the system is coming online and we expect to move back into the rest of the building Sunday, October 5th. As the work continues, we'll need volunteers to help come clean and reset the parts of the building that have gone unused the past few months, so keep an eye out for when we ask for help with that. Also, if you've pledged a gift to the HVAC project, you can go ahead and fulfill those pledges as invoices are now coming in for the replacement. Thank you so much for everyone's generosity and flexibility this summer!

Teaching Series 9/14-28

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks is leading churchwide Faith Formation during the month of September. In "Apocalypse Now," we will approach the book of Revelation (and other apocalyptic literature) with fresh eyes—not as strange, scary, and violent predictions for the end times, but as a prism for understanding how we can and should relate to the powers-that-be in our own time. It's the end of the world as we know it...do you feel fine?

Jonathan Wilson- Hartgrove

Cary Presbyterian Church invites you to join them for A Morning with Jonathan Wilson Hartgrove: *Looking to the Gospels to Make Sense of Our Current Political Climate*. The event will take place on September 27th in Cary Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall from 10:30 AM to 1:00 Pm. Free lunch will be provided.



Sermon Series

Jesus talked about money and how we relate to each other financially more than most topics. His parables often confront the ways we spend, save, and share in surprising ways for his time and for ours. For the next several weeks in worship, we'll be exploring Jesus's parables in Luke's Gospel for what they have to teach us about our relationship to wealth, possessions, and each other. Join us as we reimagine abundance together!

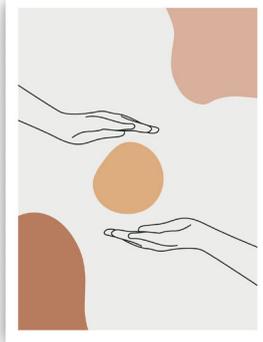
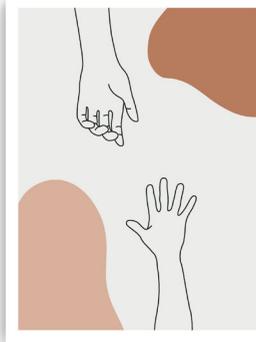
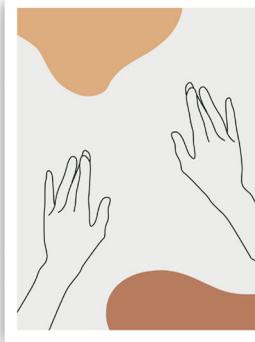
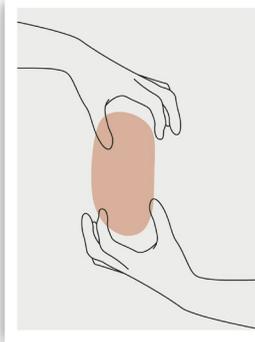
Bulletin Art

"The Unjust Steward" by Nelly Bube

The manager comes to the rich ruler who employs him, clutching the papers that will prove to be his salvation despite his dismissal. The manager has ostensibly cost the ruler a great deal of money, but the ruler doesn't seem angered by it. Is it because he hasn't yet seen the evidence of the managers scheme? Or is it because, as in the parable, he is actually impressed by the ingenuity of his employee?

— Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

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
LeeAnn Price (Susan Beck's Sister)
Barbara Dial (Carol Carter's Sister)
Mac Graham
Jay and Doris Martin
Kathleen Wicker
Steven (friend of GFBC)
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 | Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

† 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 | God Himself Is With Us | arr. Don Phillips

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (from Erik Alsgaard) 📖

O God, we come into your courts with praise and thanksgiving!

We come in celebration and song.

We come in gratitude of your inheritance.

We come as those who have received blessing upon blessing.

We hear the cry of the poor in the land, and ache to offer them relief.

We come to bring them blessing upon blessing, in Jesus' name.

O God, we come into your courts with praise and thanksgiving!

We come in celebration and song.

Invocation | Leanne Glasgow

† **Hymn** | Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Nathan Bullock

Offertory | Take My Life and Let It Be | arr. Victor Labenske

Today's color is **green**, representing spiritual growth.

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: OLD HUNDREDTH 

Transcendent God, we bless your name
Incarnate Christ, the Risen One
The Spirit with us, Immanent
The Source, the Word, the Breath of life. Amen.

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** | Give Me Jesus (pg. 10)

Reading | Luke 16:1-13 | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | My Savior First of All | John R. Sweney (pg. 11)

Sermon | Making Friends with Dishonest Wealth | Rev. Hayes

† **Hymn** | His Eye Is On the Sparrow (pg. 8-9) 

Benediction | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | His Eye Is On the Sparrow | arr. Victor Labenske

The Prayers of the People

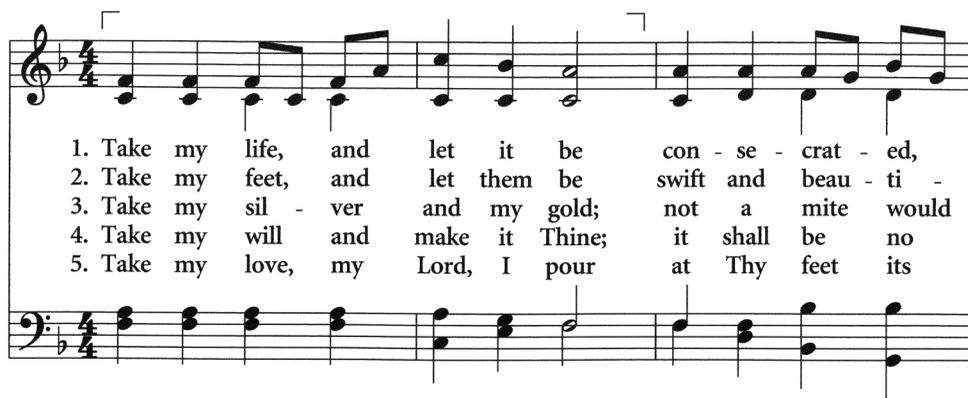
This prayer typically has five parts: a confession, prayers for the earth, prayers for the world, prayers for the church, and prayers for those with needs in our own community.

* = 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!

Take My Life and Let It be Consecrated



1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed,
2. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti -
3. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would
4. Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no
5. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its



Lord, to Thee; take my hands, and let them move
ful for Thee; take my voice, and let me sing
I with - hold; take my mo - ments and my days,
long - er mine; take my heart, it is Thine own,
treasure store. Take my - self and I will be



at the im - pulse of Thy love, at the im - pulse of Thy love.
al - ways, on - ly, for my King, al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
let them flow in cease - less praise, let them flow in cease - less praise.
it shall be Thy roy - al throne, it shall be Thy roy - al throne.
ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee, ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, Why should the shad-ows
2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," His ten-der word I
3. When ev-er I am tempt-ed, When ev-er clouds a-

come, Why should my heart be lone-ly, And
hear, And rest-ing on His good-ness, I
rise, When songs give place to sigh-ing When

long for heav'n and home; When Je-sus is my
lose my doubts and fears; Though by the path He
hope with-in me dies, I draw the clos-er

por-tion? My con-stant Friend is He:
lead-eth, But one step I may see; His
to Him, From care He sets me free;

eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es

me; His eye is on the spar-row, and I

know He watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm

hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free; For His

eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es me.

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.

Anthem My Savior First of All

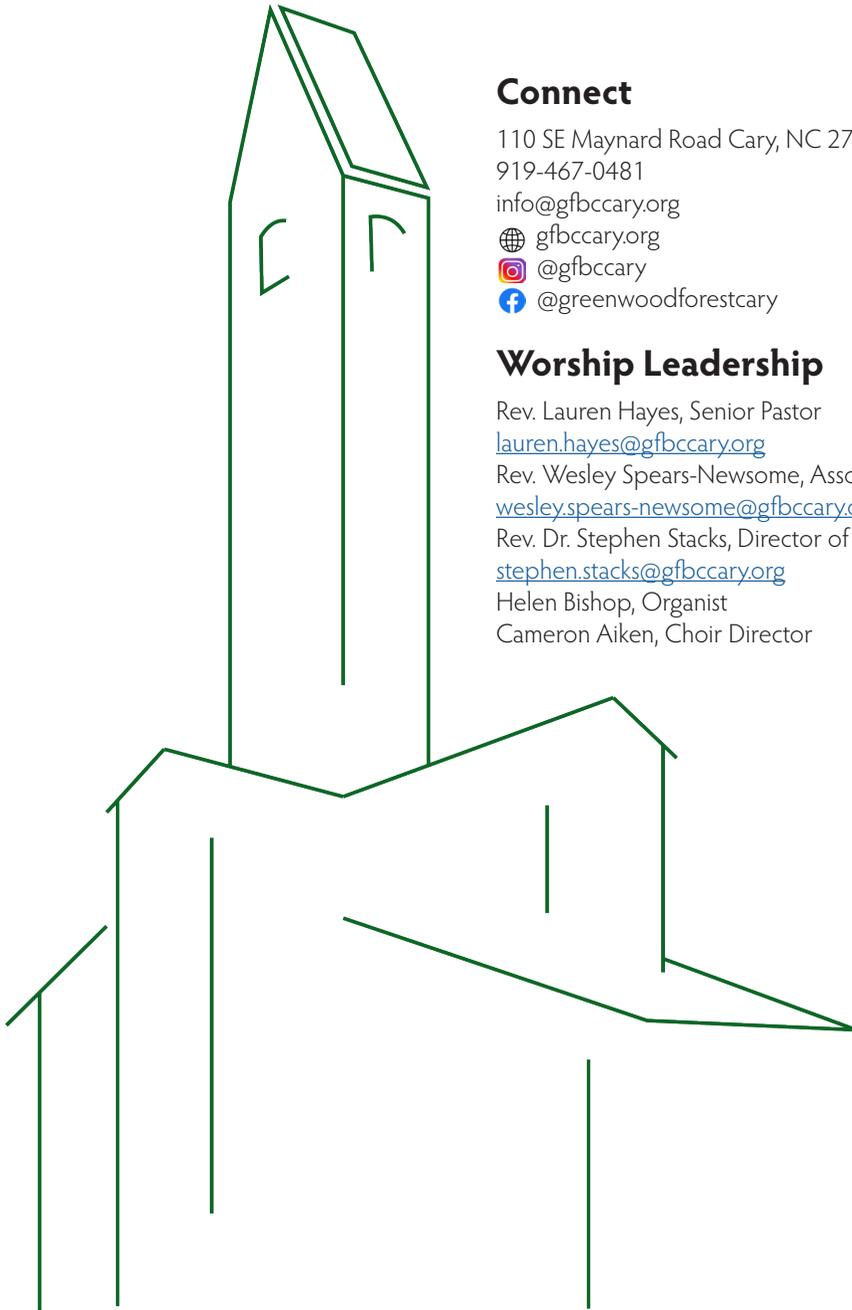
Written by John R Sweney

Performed by Christy Garrison with accompanist Carolyn Shrock

When my lifework is ended and I cross the swelling tide,
When that bright and glorious morning I shall see;
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side,
And his smile will be the first to welcome me.

I shall know him, I shall know him.
And redeemed by his side I shall stand;
I shall know him, I shall know him
By the print of the nails in his hand.

Through the gates to the city in a robe of spotless white,
He will lead me where no tears shall ever fall;
In the glad song of ages I shall mingle with delight,
But I long to see my Savior first of all.



Connect

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Worship Leadership

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

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

stephen.stacks@gbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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