



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

November 9, 2025



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Bulletin Art

The Serviceberry: Aundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World by **Robin Wall Kimmerer**

Illustration by John Burgoyne

You can purchase 'The Serviceberry' at <https://birchbarkbooks.com/products/the-serviceberry>

As Indigenous scientist Robin Wall Kimmerer harvests Serviceberries alongside the birds, she considers the ethic of reciprocity that lies at the heart of the gift economy. How, she asks, can we learn from Indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine what we value most? Our economy is rooted in scarcity, competition, and the hoarding of resources, and we have surrendered our values to a system that actively harms what we love. Meanwhile, the Serviceberry's relationship with the natural world is an embodiment of interconnectedness and gratitude. The tree distributes its wealth—its abundance of sweet, juicy berries—to meet the needs of its natural community. And this distribution ensures its own survival. As Kimmerer explains, "Serviceberries show us another model, one based upon reciprocity, rather than accumulation, where wealth and security come from the quality of your relationships, not from the illusion of self-sufficiency."

- Goodreads Publisher Description of *The Serviceberry*

Upcoming Teaching Series:

The Bible and Reproductive Justice | Nov 30-Dec 14

Accompanying Podcast Recommendation: Liberty Lost

What does it look like in our post-Roe v. Wade world to fight alongside our sisters for justice and freedom? In this series, we will first return to scripture and wade through the lies and proof-texting of the religious right to come to a truer understanding of what our Biblical mandate is when it comes to abortion, adoption, and other issues of reproductive justice. We'll then place that Biblical mandate in context, hearing the stories and testimonies of women who will give us powerful insights and awaken our undeniable calling to do justice.

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.



gfbccary.org



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



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Announcements | Church Events and Updates

Essential Food Aid

Due to withheld federal funds, many local families and children are losing vital benefits. Here's how you can help:

1. Donate Supplies: Bring maseca, cooking oil, oatmeal, pasta sauce, canned chicken/peas/peaches/mandarins/pineapple, deodorant (men's/women's), and toilet paper to church any Sunday. This will go to our collaborative program with Kirk of Kildaire.
2. Donate Funds: Resume or begin a recurring donation to our Backpack Buddies program as needs are expected to rise quickly.
3. Support Dorcas: Consider a donation to Dorcas Ministries' pantry (check their website for current needs).

Souper Love Feast and Sanctuary Decorating

Mark your calendars for November 23 after worship! We'll gather to make crafts with our kids and everyone is invited to decorate the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. We'll enjoy a potluck lunch together before decorating. Sign up to bring food at gfbccary.org/souper!

Churchwide Business Meeting: November 16

Stick around after worship on Sunday, November 16th to hear what we have planned for the holiday season, get updates on important churchwide projects, and help us vote on key issues before the start of the new year!

Backpack Buddies Update

Our numbers are increasing and we are running out of plastic bags! We urgently need your double bagged, flat stacked plastic bags. If you'd like to be notified of opportunities to pack bags email judyvaccaro@gmail.com.

HVAC Update

Things are moving forward with our HVAC campaign and we need your help! Piedmont will soon begin **Phase One** of the Boiler Project (replacing our pipes). We hope to move into **Phase Two** (replacing the actual boilers).

If you have not yet contributed to the project and are able to do so, prayerfully consider making a donation today.

We need to raise an additional \$50,000 to move in to Phase Two of the project.

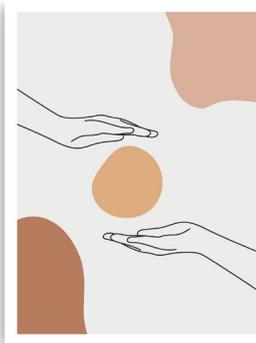
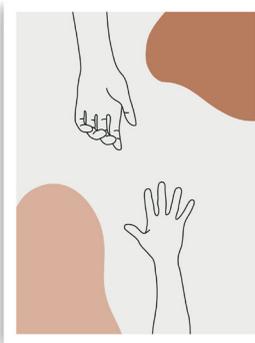
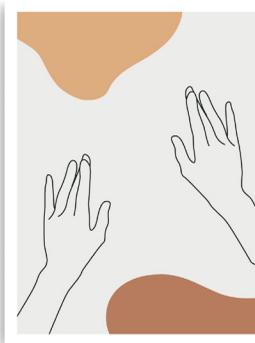
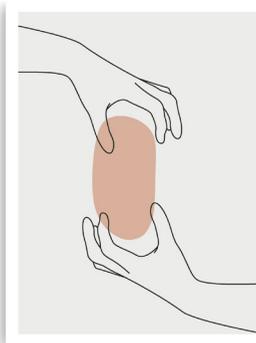
If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge, please do so today or let us know when you will be able to do so. **We are still waiting for \$34,860 in unfulfilled pledges.**

We are truly grateful to everyone who has donated to our HVAC campaign already. Thank you for helping us keep GFBC a safe, warm, and inclusive space of worship and community.

Please see the 'Giving Pyramid' for an idea of how your contribution could help us complete this crucial project.



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
Sue Daniel
Doris Martin (at the death of her sister, Betty)
LeeAnn Price (Susan Beck's sister-in-law)
Mac Graham
Carrie
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 | Twenty Second 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 | What God Ordains Is Always Good | arr. J. Gottfried Walther

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship 📖

When God's grace falls abundantly upon us,
May we embrace God's grace and share God's grace.

When God's abundant love overflows within us,
May we embrace God's love and share God's love.

When we find God's blessings abundant in our lives,
May we embrace God's blessings and share our blessings with all we meet.

For we know that it is God who creates all things,
that to hoard the limited abundance of our world is to take abundance from one another.

Then let us receive and give God's grace and love, sharing the abundant blessings of our world with all people,
that in giving and receiving we may find new ways to live and flourish.

Invocation | Nathan Bullock

✝ **Hymn** | God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Leta Huntsinger

Offertory | Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit | arr. Albert Mendoza

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 |

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** | For the Fruit of All Creation (pg. 8)

Reading | Matthew 20:1-16 | Rev. Hayes

The word of God for us, the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | Canticle of the Turning | Rory Cooney

Sermon | Scarcity or Gift? | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

† **Hymn** | They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love 

Benediction | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | Let All Things Now Living | arr. Lloyd Larson

The Prayers of the People

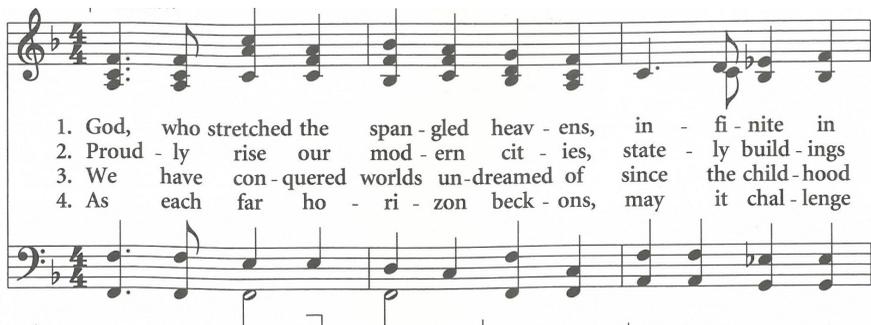
This prayer typically has five parts: a confession, prayers for the earth, prayers for the world, prayers for the church, and prayers for those with needs in our own community.

* = In the Lord's Prayer, you may say any name for God (e.g., Mother/Father/Parent).

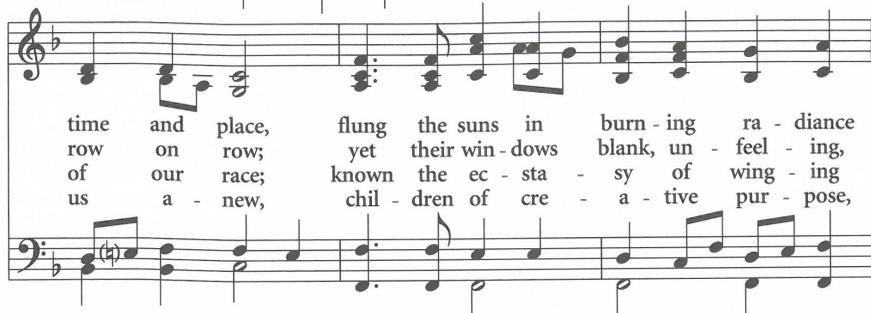
Final Hymn: An Invitation

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!

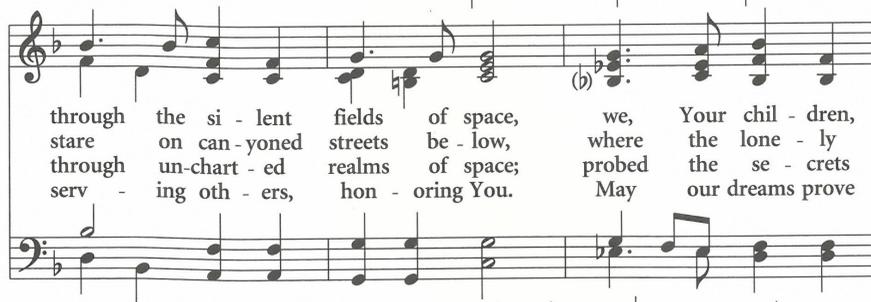
7 God Who Stretched The Spangled Heavens



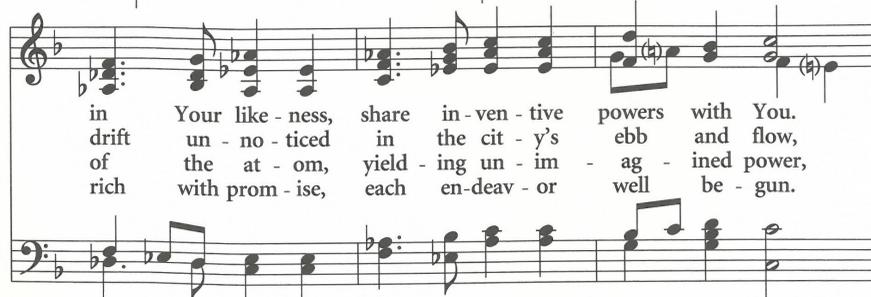
1. God, who stretched the span-gled heav-ens, in-fi-nite in
2. Proud-ly rise our mod-ern cit-ies, state-ly build-ings
3. We have con-quired worlds un-dreamed of since the child-hood
4. As each far ho-ri-zon beck-ons, may it chal-lenge



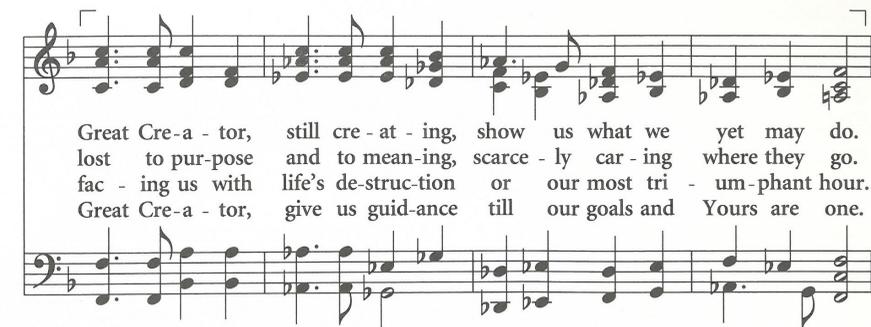
time and place, flung the suns in burn-ing ra-diance
row on row; yet their win-dows blank, un-feel-ing,
of our race; known the ec-sta-sy of wing-ing
us a-new, chil-dren of cre-a-tive pur-pose,



through the si-lent fields of space, we, Your chil-dren,
stare un-can-yoned streets be-low, where the lone-ly
through un-chart-ed realms of space; probed the se-crets
serv-ing oth-ers, hon-oring You. May our dreams prove



in Your like-ness, share in-ven-tive powers with You.
drift un-noticed in the cit-y's ebb and flow,
of the at-om, yield-ing un-im-ag-ined power,
rich with prom-ise, each en-deav-or well be-gun.



Great Cre-a-tor, still cre-at-ing, show us what we yet may do.
lost to pur-pose and to mean-ing, scarce-ly car-ing where they go.
fac-ing us with life's de-struc-tion or our most tri-um-ph-ant hour.
Great Cre-a-tor, give us guid-ance till our goals and Yours are one.

For The Fruit of All Creation

1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For His gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spir - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

They'll Know We Are Christians

Unison

1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

love. Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

Anthem Canticle of the Turning

Rory Cooney

Performed by Lou and Evan Owoc-Edwards

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blessed.
Could the world be about to turn?

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.*

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.



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