



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

November 16, 2025



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Bulletin Art

The Serviceberry: Abundance 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

Supporting Our Neighbors

Thank you to everyone who donated to our food drive during the government shutdown. SNAP has now been funded through next September! Even so, you can still help children who are hungry in our neighborhood. By making a gift to Backpack Buddies or setting up a recurring donation, you secure a source of food funding for neighborhood children at Briarcliff and Farmington Woods Elementary Schools. We send packs of food home with kids in need every weekend of the school year.

We also need plastic bags for the program. Please provide any double-bagged, flat-stacked plastic bags you have. If you would like to be notified of opportunities to pack bags, email Judy Vaccaro at judyvaccaro@gmail.com.

Your generosity has made a real difference in this difficult time. Thank you!

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 today 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!

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 still need to raise an additional \$40,000 to move into Phase Two of the project.

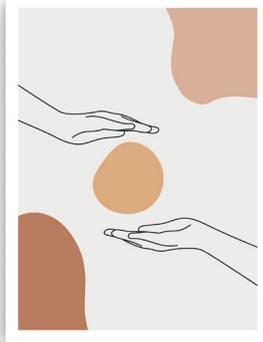
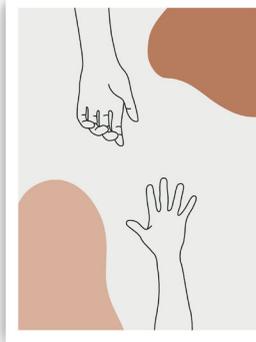
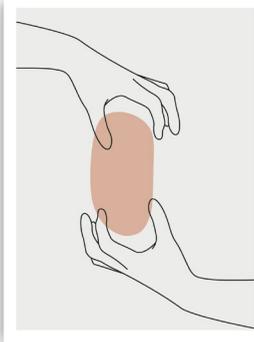
If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge, please do so today or let us know when you will be able to do so. **We are still waiting for \$6,521 in unfulfilled pledges.**

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
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-Third 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 | Heaven and Earth, and Sea and Air | arr. Albert Mendoza

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship | Rev. Paul Mitchell 📖

The world tells us "Compete to thrive."

Paul teaches "If all the parts were alike, where would the body be?"

"They are, indeed, many different members but one body."

We are learning "cooperation is a better model, not only for surviving but for thriving."

Let us worship Creator,
who makes us one.

Invocation | Rev. Amanda Warren

✝ **Hymn** | Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Diana McGahan

Offertory | For the Beauty of the Earth | arr. Joel Raney

✝ **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.

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.

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** | God of the Sparrow (pg. 8)

Reading | Isaiah 65:17-25 | Rev. Hayes
The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | When in Our Music God is Glorified | Abe Caceras

Sermon | Create a World of Joy and Delight | Rev. Hayes

✝ **Hymn** | We Belong to One Another 📖

Benediction | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | We Gather Together | arr. John Carter

The Prayers of the People

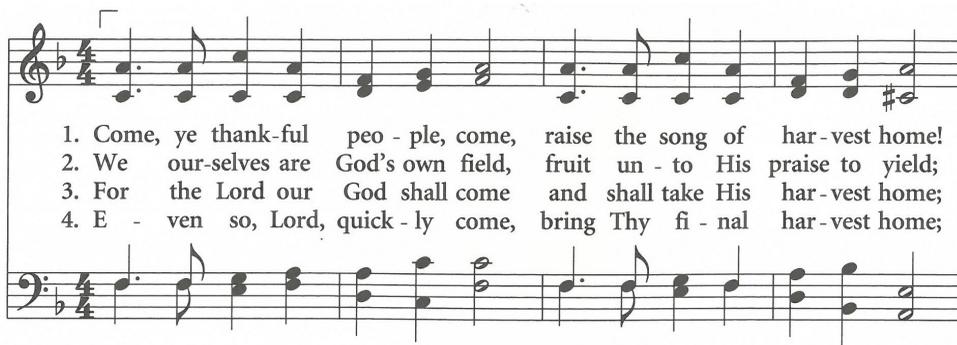
This prayer typically has five parts: a confession, prayers for the earth, prayers for the world, prayers for the church, and prayers for those with needs in our own community.

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

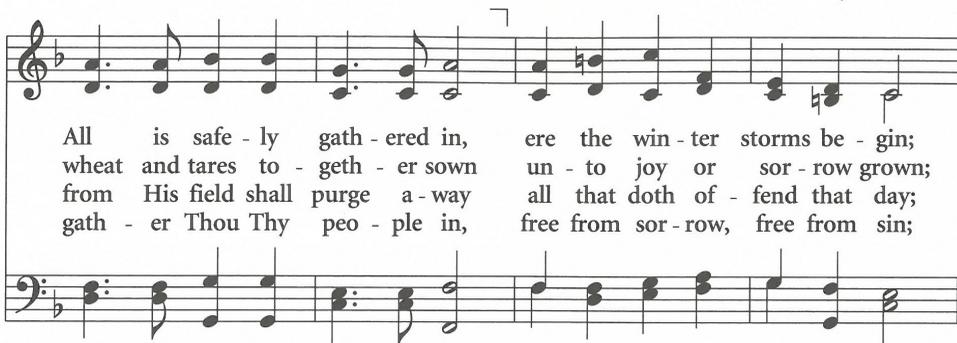
Final Hymn: An Invitation

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!

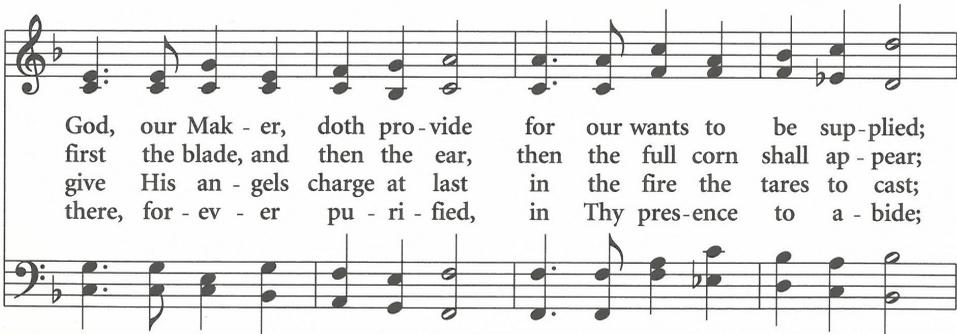
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



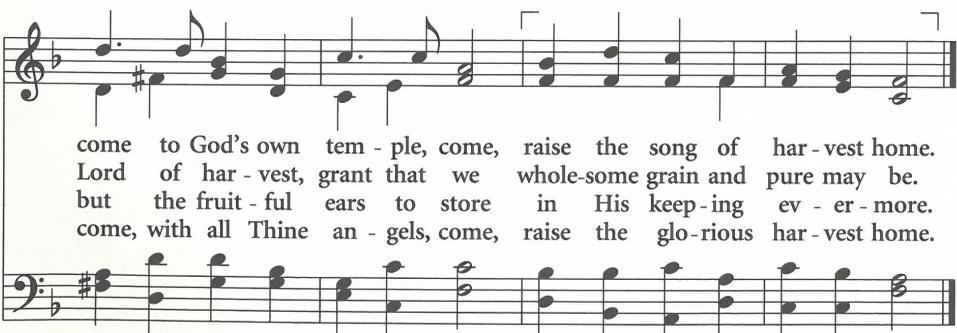
1. Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home!
2. We our-selves are God's own field, fruit un - to His praise to yield;
3. For the Lord our God shall come and shall take His har - vest home;
4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come, bring Thy fi - nal har - vest home;



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown un - to joy or sor - row grown;
from His field shall purge a - way all that doth of - fend that day;
gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin;



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;
first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear;
give His an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in Thy pres - ence to a - bide;



come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in His keep - ing ev - er - more.
come, with all Thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

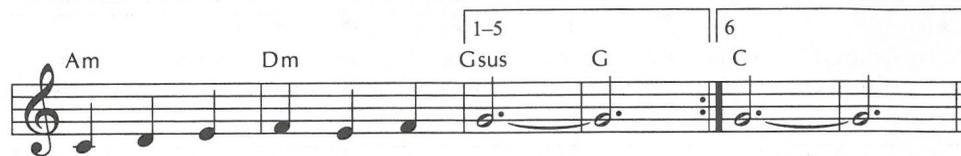
God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life
 How does the crea - ture say Peace
 How do your chil - dren say Home

We Belong to One Another

$\text{♩} = 88$

We be - long to one a - no - ther. To each o - ther we are
 We re - ly on one a - no - ther at the dawn - ing of our
 We give thanks for one a - no - ther, for each heart and hand and

4
 bound as we build a world to - ge - ther full of joy that we have
 days when we learn from those a - round us how to live in lo - ving
 face. We are grate - ful for the bless - ings that in - fuse our lives with

8
 found. What we are we owe to o - thers. When they need us, we re -
 ways. As we grow, we need each o - ther and the gifts that we can
 grace. May we of - fer our a - bun - dance. As we're gi - ven, may we

12
 spond. We be - long to one a - no - ther and we hold a com - mon bond.
 share. As our lives come to their end - ing, how we need each o - ther's care.
 give. In our thanks for one a - no - ther, may we help each o - ther live.

Anthem When in Our Music God is Glorified

arr. Abe Caceras

When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!

So has the Church, in liturgy and song,
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue:
Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a Psalm that night
When utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia!



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