



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

November 23, 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*

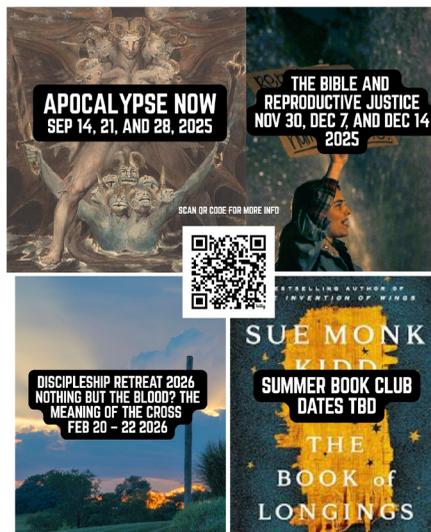
Upcoming Teaching Series:

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.

TEACHING SERIES 25-26



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.

Contents

- 3 | Announcements
- 4 | Community Notes
- 5 | Order of Worship
- 7 | Songbook



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

Faith Giving Sundays

We ask you to consider making a special investment of \$20 on the last Sunday of every month. This collective effort is essential in ensuring our budget remains on track, allowing us to continue making a difference in our community and beyond.

Contact Susan Beck if you have any questions or want to give a Gratitude Testimony about what GFBC means to you and why you give.

Next Sunday, Henry Meador will be sharing his Gratitude testimony!

Souper Love Feast and Sanctuary Decorating

Today after worship, we'll gather to decorate the church and make crafts with our kids. Everyone is invited to decorate the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas! We'll enjoy a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall together before decorating.

Red Cross Blood Drive

On December 1st, we will be partnering with the Red Cross to host a blood drive in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to fill their patients' need for 20 units of blood. Please see Alex Filby after worship at the Visitors Table for more information on how to sign up.

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 judyvacaro@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 still need to raise an additional \$35,000 to move into Phase Two of the project.**

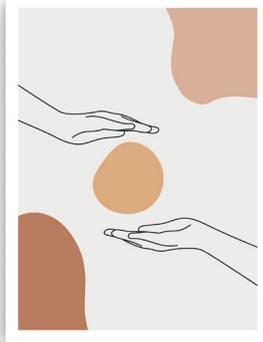
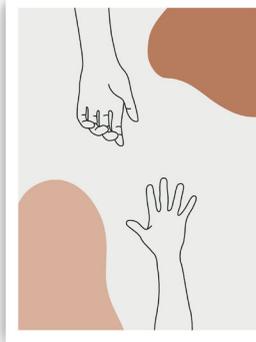
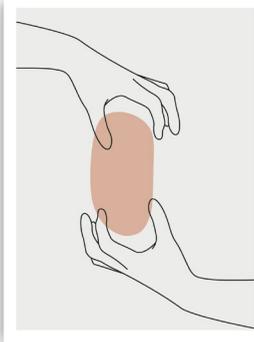
If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge, please do so today or let us know when you will be able to do so. **We are still waiting for \$6,521 in unfulfilled pledges.**

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
Doris Martin
Susan and Chuck Beck (at the death of LeeAnn Price)
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 | Reign Of Christ Sunday

✝ 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 | How Great Thou Art | arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome to Worship | Nathan Bullock

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship | Anna Claire Jarrell 📖

Children of God, when we recognize the ways in which our society takes advantage of God's abundance, how will we answer?

God of hope, renew us this day that, in your abundance, we may find new ways to support your creation.

Children of God, when our efforts toward change leave us feeling drained, how will we answer?

God of hope, replenish us this day that, in your love, we may stand invigorated, ready to accomplish your work.

Children of God, just as rain sent from heaven waters the earth, nourishing life and accomplishing its purpose, let God's presence wash afresh over us.

Renew and refresh us, O God, that we may embrace your presence so that we may be your conduits of hope in our world.

Invocation | Jeff McLaughlin

✝ **Hymn** | For the Beauty of the Earth (pg. 7)

Offertory Prayer | Rev. Evan Owoc-Edwards

Offertory | What a Friend We Have in Jesus | arr. Glenda Austin

Today's color is **white**, representing the glory of God and the resurrection of the dead.

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. Randy Palmer 

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** | Many and Great (pg. 8)

Reading | Jeremiah 23:1-6 & Colossians 1:11-20 | Melissa Rincon

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

Thanks be to God.

Reflection | Carole Sydnor

Anthem | The Gift of Love | Hal Hopson

Reflection | Dylan Melton

† **Hymn** | How Great Thou Art (vv. 1, 2, and 4) 

Benediction | Vivian Denning

Postlude | Amazing Grace | arr. Raluca Bajor

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!

Thank You Lay Leaders!

Say a special thank you to all our lay leaders listed in the bulletin today and to Addie Smith and Christy Garrison for providing service music and hymns!

For the Beauty of the Earth

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
4. For the church that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
5. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
6. For Thy - self, best Gift Di - vine! to our world so free - ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
of - fering up on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
for that great, great love of Thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each corresponding to a system of music. The first system contains six numbered lines of lyrics. The second system contains two lines of lyrics. The third system contains one line of lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines in the bass clef.

Unison

1. Man - y and great, O God, are Thy works,
2. Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with Thee,

Mak - er of earth and sky. Thy hands have
Thou star a - bid - ing one; come un - to

set the heav - ens with stars; Thy fin - gers spread the
us and dwell with us; with Thee are found the

moun - tains and plains. Lo, at Thy word the wa - ters were
gifts of life. Bless us with life that has no

formed; deep seas o - bey Thy voice.
end, e - ter - nal life with Thee.

Many and Great

How Great Thou Art



1. O Lord my God! When I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, and hear the
3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar-ing, sent Him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me



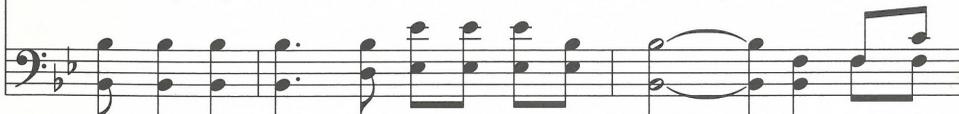
all the *worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the *roll-ing
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



thun-der, Thy power through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played.
gran-deur, and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze:
bear-ing, He bled and died to take a-way my sin.
ra-tion, and there pro-claim, "My God, how great Thou art!"



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee; How great Thou



art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to

Thee; how great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Anthem The Gift of Love

arr. Hal Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed



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