



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

November 30, 2025



# Bulletin Art

## *Zechariah and the Angel*

by Hannah Garrity

*Inspired by Luke 1:5-13*

*32"x20" Paper lace & graphite drawing, backed with cyanotype print*

Within the political landscape of Herod's time, hope was not on the horizon—that's the point. And Elizabeth had been barren for many years. This miracle visited her—in her body, in her womb—because it was so unexpected. In this piece, I imagine the angel in a female form arriving close to Zechariah in the darkened Temple, surprising him by her presence. His reaction is a fearful one in this image. He leans away, squints his eyes, and covers his head. He protects himself from her, from her presence, from her power, from her words, from her gaze. He hides. The incense swirls around them. In contrast to his fear, her message is one of hope: long-yearned-for-joy and family security.

Here the angel's message is represented by the doves and the stars. Her message flows into his space with the same power that invoked his fear. I imagine Zechariah lets his guard down then, and listens to her in shock. I imagine he takes in her words, lets his arm down, meets her gaze, and holds onto joy, despite his ongoing apprehension. In this image, I placed my paper lace over a cyanotype print, which is created using photosensitive paper, objects, and sunlight. The cyanotype didn't work the first time; I had to paint the light-sensitive solution again and then expose the print for longer in brighter daylight. I really needed plexiglass to hold my branches and leaves tightly to the paper, but I didn't have it. Nonetheless, the final print reflected the flow of energy in this text. The movement in the cyanotype is horizontal—perfect for the lateral conversation between the angel and Zechariah. Pine needles created shapes that appear to reiterate the angel's words as they are leaving her mouth toward Zechariah's ear. These words, this unexpected and miraculous hope, are the focal point in the text and the art. In the cyanotype, there are deep blues with silhouettes of leaves and stems, but nothing so powerful as these words, these pine needles creating a high-contrast focal point. God is breaking in.

—Hannah Garrity

## Sermon Series

This year's Advent theme is *What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent*. We'll enjoy art, poetry, reflections, and more from A Sanctified Art. The series looks closely at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and invites us to consider the fears we hold now. Fear can divide and paralyze us, and even be used as a tool for oppression. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work? This series gently invites us to identify where fear is present—both in the Advent story and in our lives—while also finding our way toward hope, with the angels' voices in our ears.



# 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](http://gfbccary.org)



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



[@gfbccary](https://www.instagram.com/gfbccary)

# Announcements | Church Events and Updates

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## 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 [judyvaccaro@gmail.com](mailto:judyvaccaro@gmail.com).

## 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.

## Teaching Series:

### The Bible and Reproductive Justice

November 30-December 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.

## HVAC Update

Things are moving forward with our HVAC campaign and we need your help! We have approved Piedmont to begin **Phase Two of the Boiler Project**- replacing our 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.**

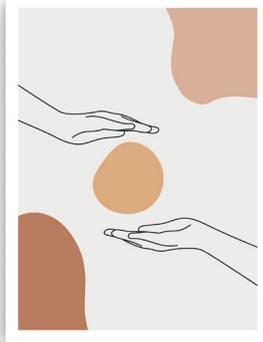
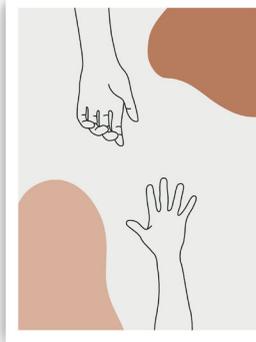
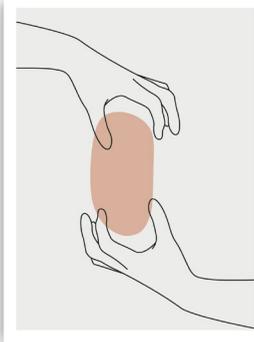
If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge, please do so today or let us know when you will be able to do so. **We are still waiting for \$6,521 in unfulfilled pledges.**

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.

## Staff Love Offering

At GFBC, we have an Advent tradition of collecting a love offering for our staff. The offering is distributed to the staff as an expression of our gratitude for their hard work, dedication, leadership, and faithful service to the church throughout the year. If you would like to contribute, please give your contribution to either Leta Huntsinger or Andy Jarrell. You may make checks payable to Leta Huntsinger or you can use Venmo to send the money to @Leta-Huntsinger (last digits of phone number are 6291). Donations will be collected through Wednesday, Dec. 18. Thank you for your generosity!

# 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  
Jay Martin (at the death of his wife, Doris)  
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](http://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 | First Week of Advent

† 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

† **Processional Hymn** | Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (pg. 7)

**Welcome to Worship** | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Lighting of the Hope Candle** | Christy Garrison and Tom Toms

**Preparation for Worship** | Show Up | arr. Britt Kusserow

**Call to Worship** 📖

On Sundays and Mondays,

**on good days and bad days,**

early in the morning and very late at night,

**here in this room, and out in the world, God, we long for you to break in.**

Meet us in this space.

**Surprise us with your presence.**

Fill this room with your good news.

**With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!**

**Invocation** | Leanne Glasgow

† **Hymn** | O Come, O Come Emmanuel (pg. 8)

**Gratitude Testimony** | Henry Meador

**Offertory Prayer** | Nathan Bullock

**Offertory** | Offertory on HYFRYDOL | arr. Mark Hayes

† **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 **purple**, representing repentance and reflection on the coming 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.

## 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.**

## Reading | Lamentations 3:55-57 & Luke 1:5-13 | Rev. Dr. Stacks

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem | Come, Peace of God | Eugene Butler

## Sermon | We Long for God to Break In | Rev. Hayes

## ✝ Hymn | In The Time of Herod (pg. 10)

## Benediction | Rev. Hayes

## Postlude | Comfort, Comfort Now Ye People | arr. Michael Burkhardt

## 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!

# Advent and Christmas

at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

**November 30** - First Sunday of Advent (11am)

**December 7** - Second Sunday of Advent (11am)

**December 14** - Third Sunday of Advent (11am); Youth Advent Party (5pm)

**December 17** - Service of Lament (6pm)

**December 21** - Christmas Breakfast (9:45am) & Lessons and Carols (11am)

**December 24** - Children's Christmas Eve (11am) & Candlelight Christmas Eve (8pm)

**December 28** - First Sunday of Christmas (11am)

**January 4** - Epiphany Sunday (11am)



# Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy  
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us;  
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear de - sire of  
Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by Thine all - suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines.

# O Come, O Come Emmanuel

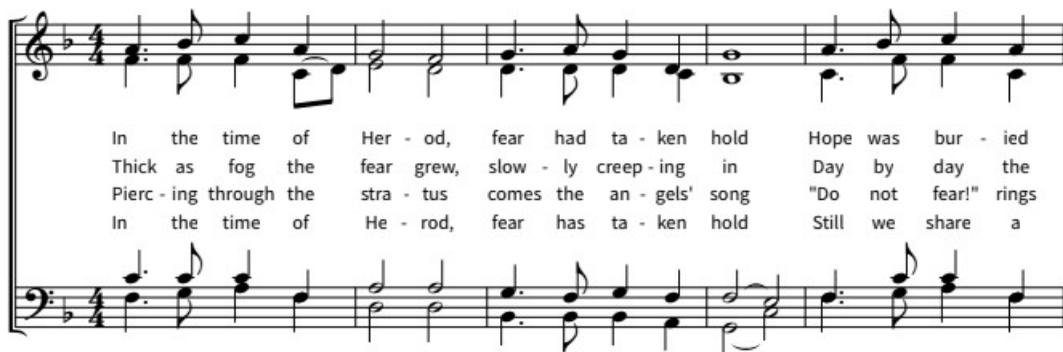
1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive  
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir-its by Thine  
3. O come, Thou Wis-dom from on high, and or-der all things,  
4. O come, De-sire of na-tions, bind all peo-ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -  
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and  
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and  
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; fill

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
cause us in her ways to go.  
all the world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

# In the Time of Herod



In the time of Her - od, fear had ta - ken hold Hope was bur - ied  
Thick as fog the fear grew, slow - ly creep - ing in Day by day the  
Pierc - ing through the stra - tus comes the an - gels' song "Do not fear!" rings  
In the time of He - rod, fear has ta - ken hold Still we share a

5



deep and hid - den, rare as gold Or - di - na - ry peo - ple dared  
peo - ple bent and drew with - in With the clouds so hea - vy, who  
hol - low when we've feared so long Still in the re - cess - es of  
long - ing for a glimpse of hope Or - di - na - ry peo - ple shout



not speak a - loud Dreams of the Mes - si - ah break - ing through the clouds  
could see the stars? Hope - less - ness had trapped them, strong as pris - on bars  
our wea - ry souls Some - thing is a - wak - ened— could it be our hope?  
the truth we trust: God will stop at no - thing to be here with us

# Anthem Come, Peace of God

arr. Eugene Butler

Come, peace of God, and dwell again on earth,  
Come with the calm that hailed thy prince's birth,  
Come, peace of God, that this world needs so much.  
Break ev'ry weapon forged in fires of hate,  
Turn back the foe that would assail thy gate;  
Where fields of strife lie desolate and bare  
Take thy sweet flow'rs of peace and plant them there.  
Bring selfish lives from shadowlands of loss  
Into the radiance of the savior's cross,  
Where in that gift, yet so lone,  
Life finds its brotherhood and love its throne.  
Come, peace of God.  
Come, blessed peace as when in hush of eve  
God's benediction falls on sould who grieve;  
As shines a star when weary day departs,  
Come, peace of God, and rule within our hearts.



## Connect

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

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Hayes, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

[wesley.spears-newsome@gbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gbccary.org)

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

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Helen Bishop, Organist

Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

[alex.filby@gbccary.org](mailto:alex.filby@gbccary.org)

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