

# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

January 11, 2026



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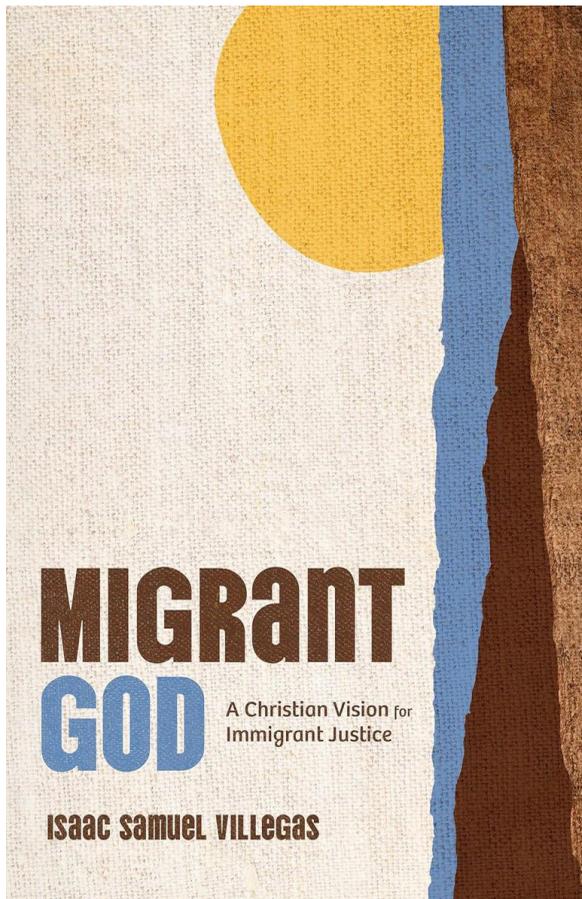
# Bulletin Art

## Cain and Abel

By Henry Meador

## Current Sermon Series:

Our Current Sermon Series until January 25th is based on Rev. Isaac Villegas Book *Migrant God* which can be purchased on Amazon, Barnes and Noble's online storefront, and Bookshop.org



# 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)



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# Announcements | Church Events and Updates

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## Documentary Screening: No Other Land (Today!)

The Agora Initiative, an organization dedicated to peace in Palestine and Israel, will host a screening of the Academy Award-winning documentary *No Other Land* today, January 11 at 3pm in the Fellowship Hall. The film was recorded between 2019 and 2023 and covers the destruction of a Palestinian community in the occupied West Bank. Directed by a collective of Israeli and Palestinian peace activists, *No Other Land* is a moving diary of the experience of occupation. Following the screening, a panel conversation will follow featuring Khalil Sayegh (founder of The Agora Initiative) and Celeste Marcus (Executive Editor at *Liberties: A Journal of Culture & Politics*). The event is free and open to the public, but attendees need to register at [gfbccary.org/notherland](http://gfbccary.org/notherland) to register.

## Newcomer's Reception

All those new to GFBC are invited to a reception after worship today! Join us in the narthex (the entrance/foyer area to the sanctuary) to get more information about this community, make connections, and find your place here at GFBC.

## Thank you GFBC Family!

GFBC staff would like to express our sincere gratitude for the thoughtful love offering collected on our behalf. We truly appreciate each and every member of our church community and look forward to continuing to serve and support you in the coming year. Thank you for thinking of us this holiday season, and for all you do to make Greenwood Forest a thriving and inclusive community.

## Chili Cookoff and Maker's Festival

Join us on January 25 for a special time of congregational sharing in food, fellowship, and craft! We want to share our gifts with one another, so if you're good at painting, pottery, quilting, music, writing, drawing, woodworking, or any other craft and want to share something you've made, we want to see it! Email Rev. Spears-Newsome ([wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org)) to sign up. We also want to award the Golden Spoon to the best chili chef in the congregation again! If you'd like to participate in the chili cookoff that will provide our meal for this event, email Rev. Spears-Newsome to reserve a spot.

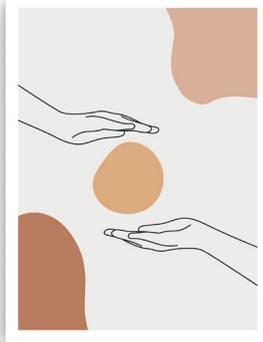
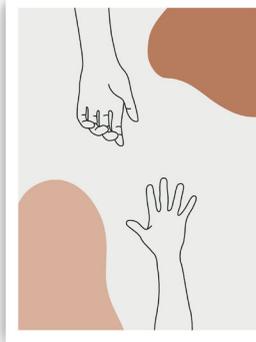
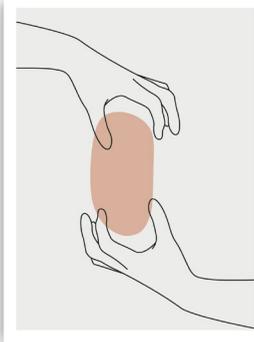
## Backpack Buddies

The Community Missions special fund which supports Backpack Buddies is running low. We need your financial support to continue Backpack Buddies in the new year. GFBC shares the cost of the food with the Kirk of Kildaire. The GFBC portion is \$4 a week per child. We are currently serving 105 children each week, for a total of about \$1700 per month. With \$100 we can serve 1 child through the end of this school year. Please consider giving to support this important ministry. Mark your contributions for Backpack Buddies.

We will continue to need double bagged, flat stacked plastic bags, keep them coming!

If you have questions about the Backpack Buddies ministry or how you can help contact Karen Upchurch ([kaupchurch@gmail.com](mailto:kaupchurch@gmail.com)).

# 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.*

Bess Averre  
Jo Brooks  
Carrie  
Mac Graham  
Nancy Watson  
Nancy Walters (Susan Beck's mother-in-law)  
Anne Whelan  
Steven (friend of GFBC)  
Kathleen Wicker  
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 | Baptism of Our Lord

✝ 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** | Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing | arr. Cindy Berry

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship** (Based on Psalm 146) 📖

Praise the Lord!

**Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

**We will sing praises to our God all our life long.**

Do not put your trust in princes,

**In mortals, in whom there is no help.**

When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

**On that very day their plans perish.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

**Whose hope is in the Lord their God,**

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

**Who keeps faith forever;**

Who executes justice for the oppressed;

**Who gives food to the hungry.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

**The Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the strangers;

**God upholds the orphan and the widow.**

The Lord will reign forever.

**Praise the Lord!**

Today's color is **white**, representing the glory 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.

**Invocation** | Rev. Lee Webb

† **Hymn** | Come Thou Fount (pg. 7)

**Offertory Prayer** | Leta Huntsinger

**Offertory** | God of Ages, History's Maker | arr. Faye López

**Doxology** | Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

O praise God. Alleluia!

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

O praise God! O praise God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**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** | Who is My Mother, Who is My Brother? (pg. 8)

**Reading** | Genesis 4:1-16 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | Center of My Joy | Richard Smallwood (pg. 10)

**Sermon** | Am I My Brother's Keeper? | Rev. Hayes

**Reaffirmation of Baptism**

† **Hymn** | Nothing But the Blood (pg. 9) 

**Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

**Postlude** | Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing | arr. Becky Slagle Mayo

### 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.

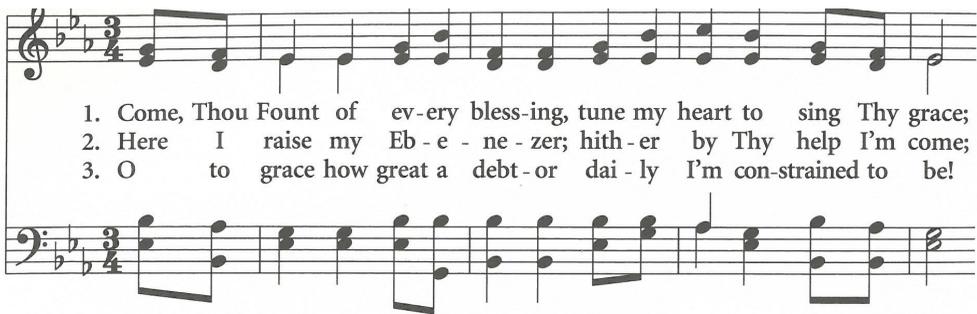
\* = In the Lord's Prayer, you may say any name for God (e.g., Mother/Father/Parent).

### Final Hymn: An Invitation

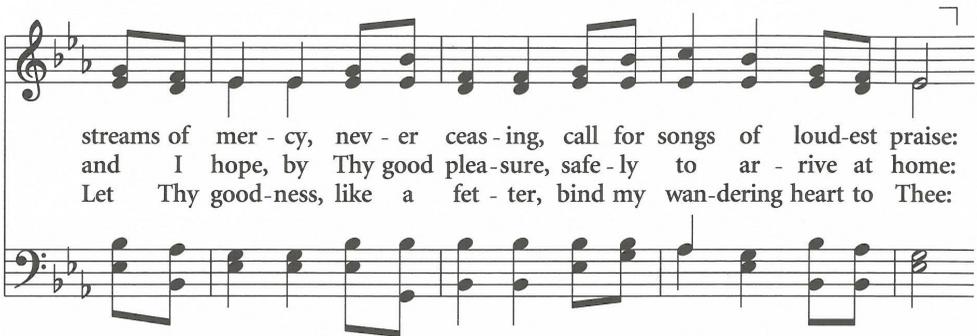
During the final hymn, if you'd like to join our community at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, we invite you to come forward to the altar. When you come forward, you'll be greeted by a minister and a deacon who will then introduce you to the congregation after the hymn.

Welcome!

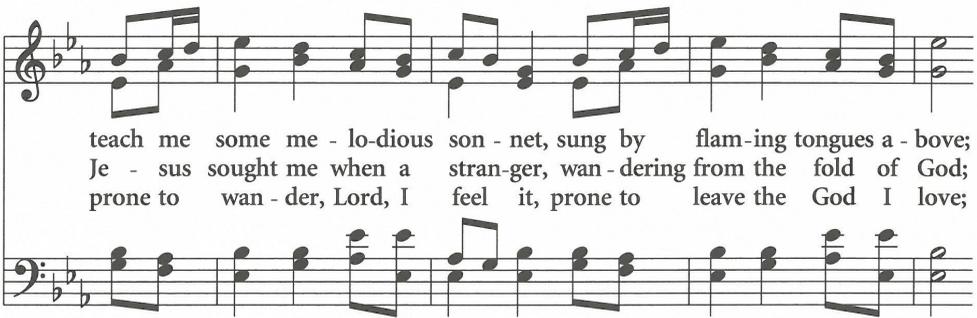
# Come Thou Fount



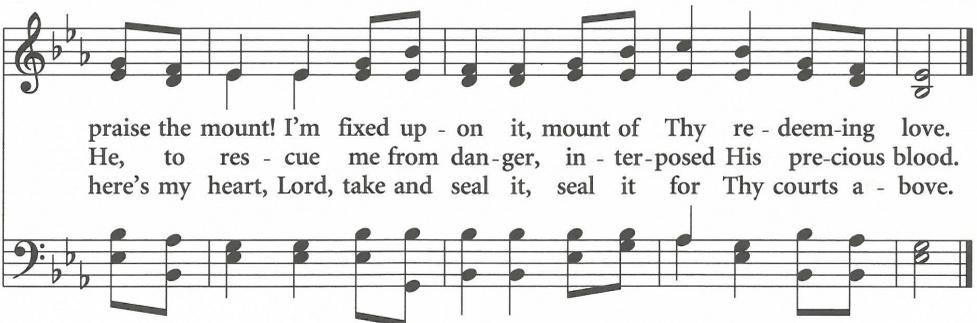
1. Come, Thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
2. Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by Thy help I'm come;  
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise:  
and I hope, by Thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home:  
Let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to Thee:



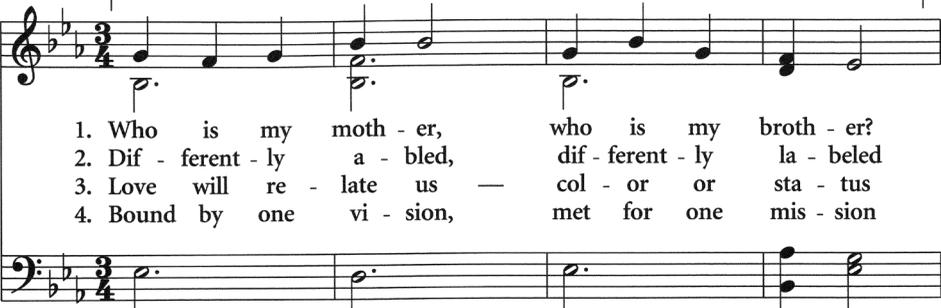
teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;  
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;  
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



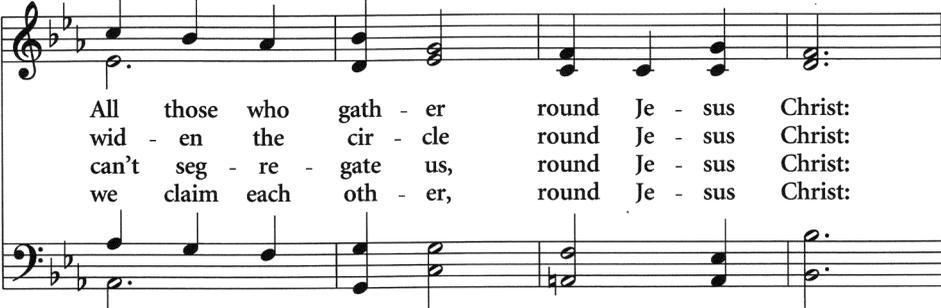
praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of Thy re - deem - ing love.  
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.  
here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

# Who is My Mother, Who is My Brother?

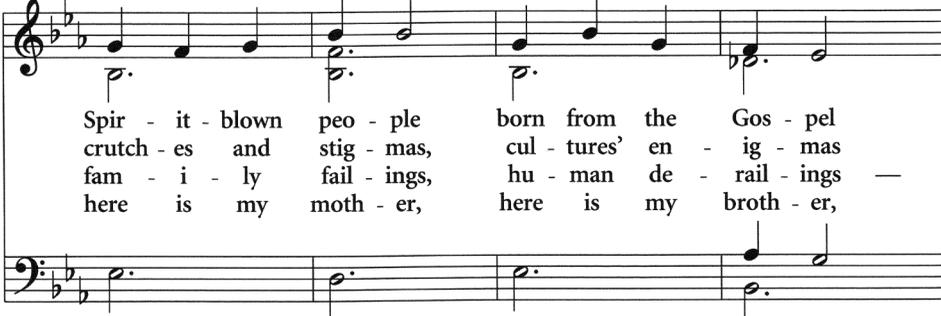
*Unison*



1. Who is my moth - er, who is my broth - er?  
2. Dif - ferent - ly a - bled, dif - ferent - ly la - beled  
3. Love will re - late us — col - or or sta - tus  
4. Bound by one vi - sion, met for one mis - sion



All those who gath - er round Je - sus Christ:  
wid - en the cir - cle round Je - sus Christ:  
can't seg - re - gate us, round Je - sus Christ:  
we claim each oth - er, round Je - sus Christ:



Spir - it - blown peo - ple born from the Gos - pel  
crutch - es and stig - mas, cul - tures' en - ig - mas  
fam - i - ly fail - ings, hu - man de - rail - ings —  
here is my moth - er, here is my broth - er,



sit at the ta - ble, round Je - sus Christ.  
all come to - geth - er round Je - sus Christ.  
all are ac - cept - ed, round Je - sus Christ.  
kin - dred in Spir - it, through Je - sus Christ.

# Nothing But the Blood

1. What makes us all ci - ti - zens? Nothing but the blood of  
 2. What tears down our bor - der walls? Nothing but the blood of  
 3. What se - cures our lib - er - ty? Nothing but the blood of  
 4. What calls us to move past hate? Nothing but the blood of

Je - sus. What re - names us as God's kin? Nothing but the blood of  
 Je - sus. What force can u - nite us all? Nothing but the blood of  
 Je - sus. What dis - arms the pow'rs that be? Nothing but the blood of  
 Je - sus. What trans - forms our bro - ken state? Nothing but the blood of

Je - sus. O pre - cious is the flow that de - stroy the  
 Je - sus.  
 Je - sus.  
 Je - sus.

sta - tus quo. — No oth - er fount I know, nothing but the blood of Je - sus!

Text by Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

# Anthem Center of My Joy

Richard Smallwood  
Randy Palmer, soloist

Jesus, you're the center of my joy  
All that's good and perfect comes from you,  
You're the heart of my contentment  
Hope for all I do,  
Jesus, you're the center of my joy

When I've lost my direction  
You're the compass for my way  
You're the fire and the light  
When the nights are long and cold  
In sadness you are the laughter that shadows all my fears  
When I'm down and out, your hand is there to hold



## Connect

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## 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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