



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

January 25, 2026



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Bulletin Art: *Section of Alto al Fuego en La Misión*

Public Art Mural by Lucia Ippolito, Cristian Munoz, Adrianna Adams, Pancho Peskador, Anna Lisa Escobedo, and Flavia Mora

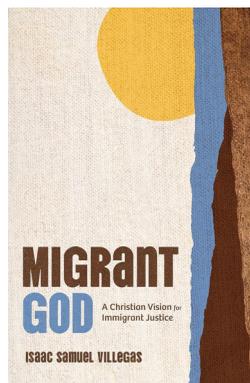
This mural is based on a painting called *Alto al Fuego*, a mural by Juana Alicia in 1988. Alicia's mural is depicted in part on the white t-shirt worn by Amilcar Lopez-Perez, who is the subject of this piece. Amilcar immigrated to the United States alone when he was 17 years old, taking jobs in construction and restaurant service. He would send regular remittances back to his family in Guatemala. Only a few years after his arrival, Amilcar was shot 15ft from his home by the San Francisco Police Department. Officers were in plain clothes. Amilcar's autopsy revealed that he was shot six times in the back, arm, and head. His family campaigned for justice for his death from Guatemala but in the end no one was held accountable.

The mural of Amilcar and his family (not pictured) adorns a central location in the Mission District, a sanctuary for migrants from elsewhere in the Americas. The Sacred Heart of Jesus hovers above Amilcar as unidentified hands come between him and the guns pointed at him. Whose hands are these? Could they be yours?

- Rev. Spears- Newsome

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.

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



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Announcements | Church Events and Updates

Chili Cookoff and Maker's Festival- Today at 4pm!

Join us this afternoon from 4pm-6pm 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) to sign up. We also want to award the Golden Spoon to the best chili chef in the congregation! 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.

In the event of inclement weather, this event will take place on February 1.

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).

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.

Discipleship Retreat: February 20-22

Nothing but the Blood: The Meaning of The Cross

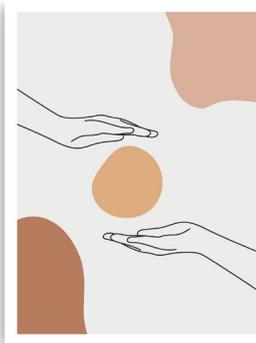
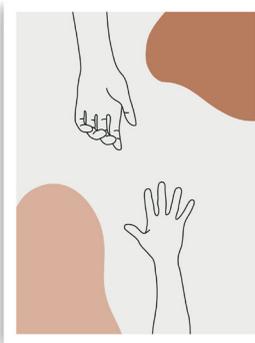
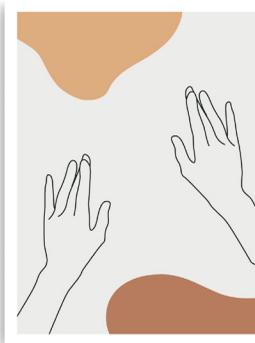
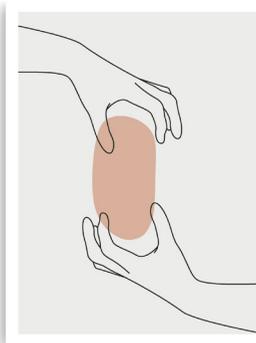
Why did Jesus die by violent execution? Why would God choose this method of saving the world? Why does it matter? For Discipleship Retreat 2026, we will be taking a deep dive into "atonement theory"—how we explain the crucifixion and what it accomplished. The cross is central to our faith, and how we understand it matters greatly to how we practice our faith. Join us as we explore deep questions together over a reflective and inspiring weekend.

Register at gfbccary.org/retreat26

Ramadan Interfaith Meal

The Islamic Center of Cary has invited us to join them at an interfaith dinner during Ramadan. They would like to host some of us on February 26 at 5:30pm for an iftar, the fast-breaking dinner. There would also be a brief presentation on Ramadan and observation of their sunset prayers. If you'd like to come, reach out to Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome (wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org).

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
Valerie Brooks
Jo Brooks
Carrie
George Daniel
Mac Graham
Nancy Watson
Chuck and Susan Beck at the death of Nancy Walters (Chuck's mother)
Anne Whelan
Steven (friend of GFBC)
Kathleen Wicker

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 | Third Sunday After Epiphany

† 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 | In Thee, Lord, Have I Put My Trust | arr. Johann Christoph Bach

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 37:1-11, 39-40) 📖

Do not fret because of the wicked;

Do not be envious of wrongdoers,

For they will soon fade like the grass,

And wither like the green herb.

Trust in the LORD, and do good;

So you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

Take delight in the LORD,

And God will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;

Trust in God, and God will act.

God will make your vindication shine like the light,

And the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for God;

Do not fret over those who prosper in their way, carrying out evil devices.

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.

Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

For the wicked shall be cut off,

But those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;

Though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there

Invocation | Rev. Amanda Warren

† **Hymn** | I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table (pg. 7)

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.

Gratitude Testimony | Meg Spears-Newsome

Offertory Prayer | Jazzmoné Sutton

Offertory | Be Still, My Soul | arr. Cindy Berry

† **Doxology** | Tune: OLD HUNDRETH

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. 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** | Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (pg. 8)

Reading | Isaiah 56:1-8 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

The word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | The Road Home | Stephen Paulus (pg. 10)

Sermon | A Sanctuary for All People | Rev. Hayes

† **Hymn** | A Place Called Home (pg. 9)

Benediction | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | Within Your Shelter, Loving God | ABBEY

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!

I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

1 I'm gon-na eat at the wel - come ta - ble;
 2 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus;
 3 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers;
 4 Here all the world will find a wel - come;
 5 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey;

I'm gon-na eat at the wel - come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.
 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.
 here all the world will find a wel - come, Al - le - lu - ia.
 we're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

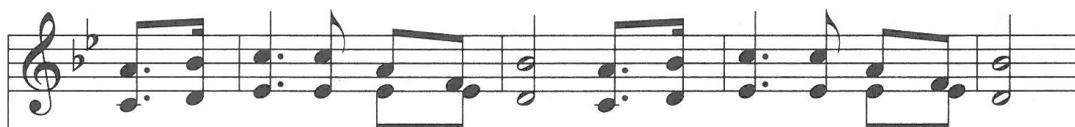
I'm gon-na eat at the wel - come ta - ble; I'm gon - na
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus; I'm gon - na
 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers; I'm gon - na
 Here all the world will find a wel - come; here all the
 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey; we're gon - na

eat at the wel - come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.
 eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.
 join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.
 world will find a wel - come, Al - le - lu - ia.
 feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands.
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side which flowed
Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.
all for sin could not a - tone. Thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.



A Place Called Home



1. A place called home with com-fort for the wea-ry;
2. A place called home where ten-der-ness can flour-ish;
3. A place called home, a prom-ise for to-mor-row;
4. A place called home for ev-'ry hu-man be-ing;



a place called home of nour-ish-ment and rest;
a place called home, a ha-ven from all harm;
a place called home, a vi-sion hand-ed down;
a place called home where arms are o-pened wide;



a place called home that wel-comes in the stran-ger,
a place called home where chil-dren sleep in safe-ty,
a place called home for all God's sons and daugh-ters,
a place called home where all ex-tend the wel-come,



where one un-known be-comes a wel-come guest,
where hurts are healed, a shel-ter from the storm,
where love pre-vails and peace is ev-er found,
where none are lost, a-lone or cast a-side,



where love can find a hu-man hab-i-ta-tion;
where peace can find a hu-man hab-i-ta-tion;
where hope can find a hu-man hab-i-ta-tion;
but mem-bers of a sin-gle hu-man fam-'ly;



God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
God grant us grace to build a place called home.

Anthem The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own
That I left, that I lost
So long ago
All these years I have wandered
Oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home

After wind, after rain
When the dark is done
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day
Through the air there's a calling
From far away
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home

Rise up, follow me
Come away, is the call
With the love in your heart
As the only song
There is no such beauty
As where you belong
Rise up, follow me
I will lead you home



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Cameron Aiken, Choir Director

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