

# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

March 8, 2026





# 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

- 5 | Announcements
- 7 | Community Notes
- 7 | Order of Worship
- 9 | 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](http://gfbccary.org)



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



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

# Bulletin Art

*Scarce Abundance*

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Mark 6:32-44

18"x18" Paper lace with watercolor

In this account from Mark, Jesus had compassion. This word, *splagchnizomai* in Greek, comes from the root *splagchnon* (meaning "bowels") which has a sense of a visceral, gut-level form of compassion. It intrigues me that this deep, embodied compassion prompted Jesus to teach. Leading up to this moment, Jesus is trying to get away, to rest. His disciples row him toward the people; however, he is compelled by compassion to teach. As he is teaching, I imagine the crowd turning to one another—What did he say?—repeating his words, passing them along. In this artwork, the elements of the story are framed in a stained glass window design. Centered, the people gather in circles, passing the scarcely abundant food to one another. Waves encircle the crowd, representing the twelve disciples. The outer architectural elements portray the twelve baskets full of pieces of bread and fish—a representation of abundance from scarcity, powered by collective belief. Jesus did not have a microphone. It was the people in the front who passed the still, small voice of God back to those behind them. It was the people in the front who passed more than enough food back to those who were hungry. In our propaganda-filled global information system, we must remember: God is not holding the mic. God is present in the still, small voice and in the smallest offerings, multiplying one by one. The message, the compassion, the corners of bread, and the pieces of fish all return in abundance. —Hannah Garrity

# New Lent Series Begins February 18

*from A Sanctified Art*



Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. As we crafted this series, we asked: what are the core, foundational concepts of Jesus' life and ministry? What makes each of these good news? Can we trust that the good news is truly good, even when it challenges us?

If we're being honest, we can easily distort or sanitize Jesus' teachings. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it's not necessarily comfortable. We often describe Jesus' ministry as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God's unending grace.

The good news is extravagant, untamed, illogical, and persistent. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed that flourishes rapidly into a tree to shelter the birds. It smells like expensive perfume poured from an alabaster jar and like crumbling bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like children laughing and like stones dropped to the ground instead of violently thrown. It feels like feet washed with tender care. The good news is alive in the world.

We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, may the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. Let the good news ground us. And let that good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

## **Key Dates:**

March 29 (11am) - Palm Sunday

April 3 (7pm) - Good Friday

April 5 (11am) - Easter Sunday

**Devotional Books Now Available!**

# Announcements | Church Events and Updates

---

## HVAC Update

Thanks to your generosity, our HVAC project is almost fully funded! Only \$2,080 remains. If you feel led to give, now is a wonderful time to help us cross the finish line. Thank you for your faithful support.

## Ministry Highlight

Greeters and Ushers serve our weekly worship service in two ways. Greeters stand (or sit) in the Narthex to welcome all who enter our church on Sundays. They provide a warm smile and get to know new members and visitors. You can help by taking this role on a rotating weekly or monthly basis to ensure all who enter our doors feel welcomed. Ushers serve to help make sure our service runs smoothly. They hand out bulletins, answer questions, and occasionally assist with other logistics. Most importantly, the ushers oversee the passing of the collection plates during the offering. If you are interested in joining this team, please speak with Nathan Bullock or reach him by email at [nathan.f.bullock@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.f.bullock@gmail.com)

## 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.

## Spring Cleaning Sunday: March 15

On the third Sunday of each month, we are asking for 3–4 volunteers to stay briefly after service to help sort, organize, and clean one specific area of the church. This Sunday March 15 we will be cleaning the downstairs storage closets. Please reach out to Alex at [alex@gfbcary.org](mailto:alex@gfbcary.org) to register.

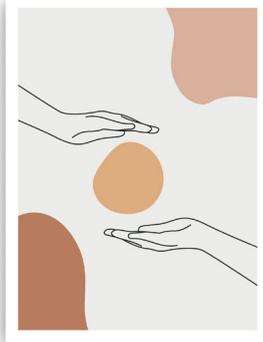
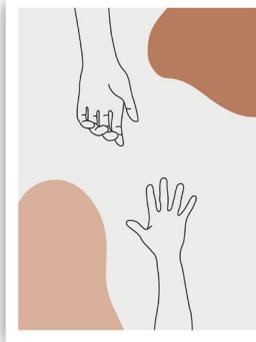
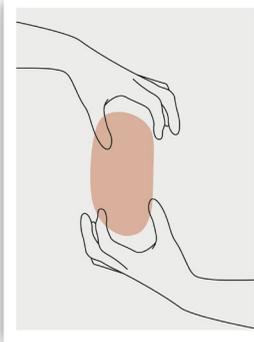
## Palm Sunday Egg Hunt

On Palm Sunday (March 29), we will have an Egg Hunt for children following worship! Kids will need to bring baskets with them that Sunday and all are welcome to participate. Anyone who wants to help prepare is welcome to come by the rainbow room nest Sunday and grab an empty bag of eggs to fill and return by 3/22. Toys/stickers/and candy all make good fillers, but no chocolate or candy that will melt.

## NCCU Collaboration 3/22

Don't miss our annual collaboration with the NCCU University Choir on Sunday, March 22 during worship. This year, the Sanctuary Choir and University Choir will perform a musical tribute to gospel luminary Richard Smallwood, who died in December 2025. Smallwood's oeuvre includes favorites such as Total Praise, I Love the Lord, and Center of My Praise so make plans to join us for this joyous occasion!

# 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  
Lee Taylor  
Nancy Watson  
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 | The Third Sunday of Lent

✝ 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** | O Lamm Gottes unschuldig | arr. Johann Pachelbel

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

Leader: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

**Call to Worship** 📖

If you need good news, settle into this space.

**We have good news to share.**

If you need a word of hope, then trust us when we say,

**there is hope enough to go around.**

If you need a glimmer of joy, then you're in luck!

**We have resilient joy abounding.**

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

**then know that this is God's house.**

This is the good news of the gospel.

**God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.**

**Let us worship our with-us God!**

**Invocation** | Rick Chappell

**Hymn** | I Will Arise (pg. 9-10, v. 3)

**Offertory Prayer** | Diana McGahan

✝ **Offertory** | Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing | Labenske

Today's color is **purple**, representing contemplation and repentance.

## 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 

Praise God, who forms us from the dust.  
Praise Christ, who frees us through the cross.  
Praise Holy Ghost who drives us on  
To meet God in the wilderness. Amen.

**The Prayers of the People** | Greg Upchurch 

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** | All Who Hunger Gather Gladly (pg. 11)

**Reading** | Mark 6:32-44 | Rev. Hayes

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

**Anthem** | Improbable | Britt Kusserow

**Sermon** | Together, the Impossible is Possible | Rev. Hayes

† **Hymn** | Human Minds Just Can't Imagine (pg. 12) 

**Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

**Postlude** | Higher Ground | Berry

**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).

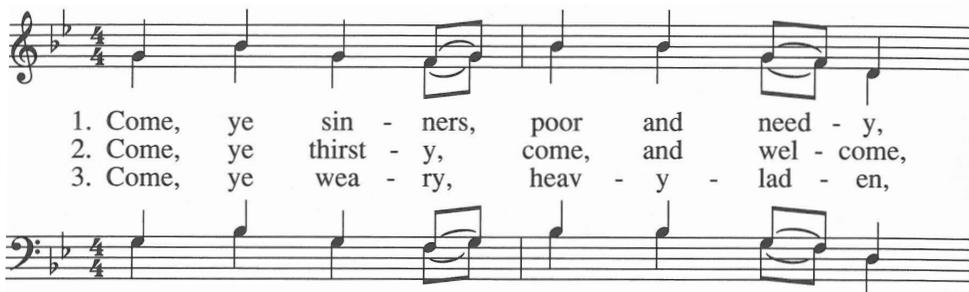
**Final Hymn: An Invitation**

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!

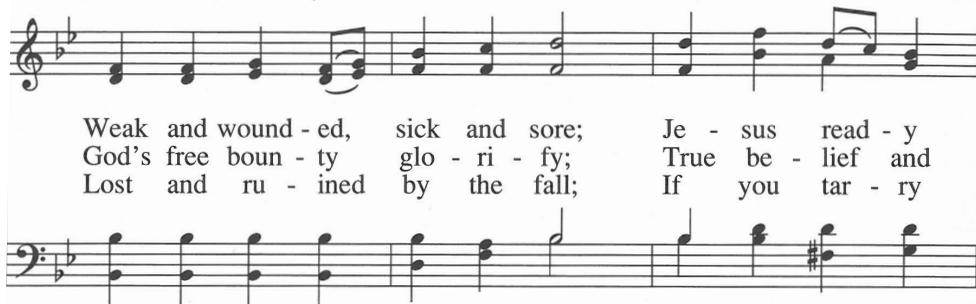
**Thank You!**

Our songleader today is  
Jazzmoné Sutton

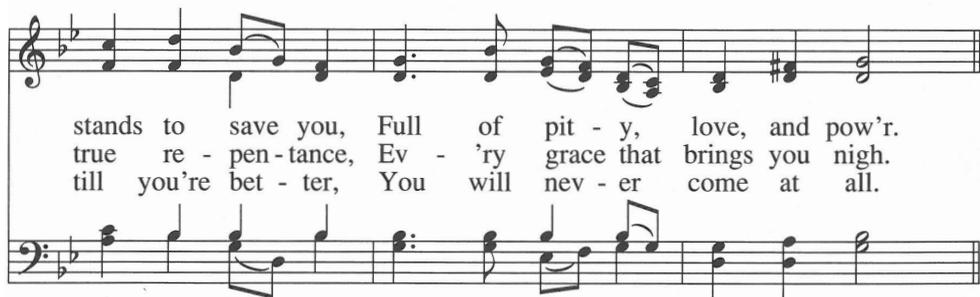
# I Will Arise



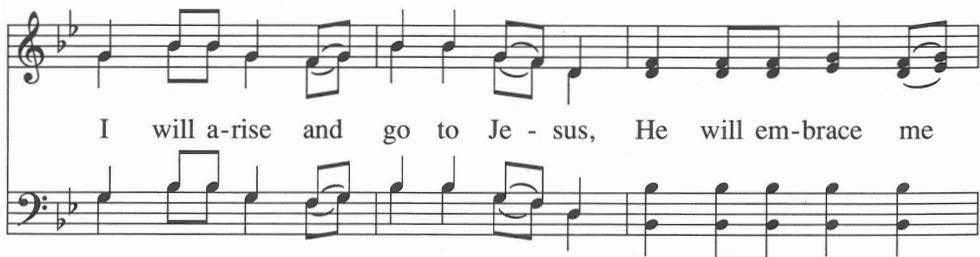
1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y,  
2. Come, ye thirst - y, come, and wel - come,  
3. Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y - lad - en,



Weak and wound - ed, sick and sore; Je - sus read - y  
God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy; True be - lief and  
Lost and ru - ined by the fall; If you tar - ry



stands to save you, Full of pit - y, love, and pow'r.  
true re - pen - tance, Ev - 'ry grace that brings you nigh.  
till you're bet - ter, You will nev - er come at all.

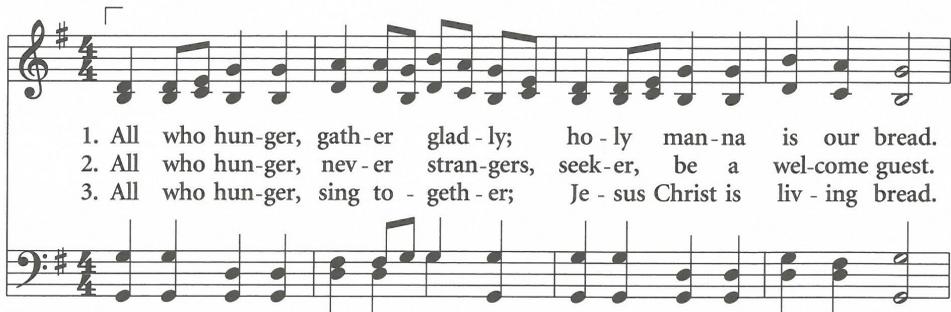


I will a-rise and go to Je - sus, He will em-brace me

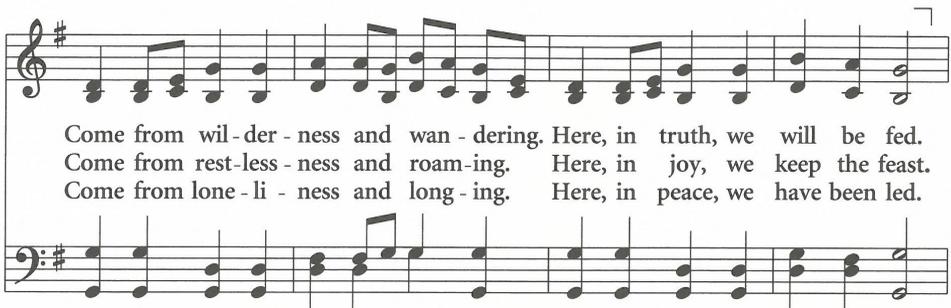
in His arms; In the arms of my dear

Sav - ior, O there are ten thous - sand charms.

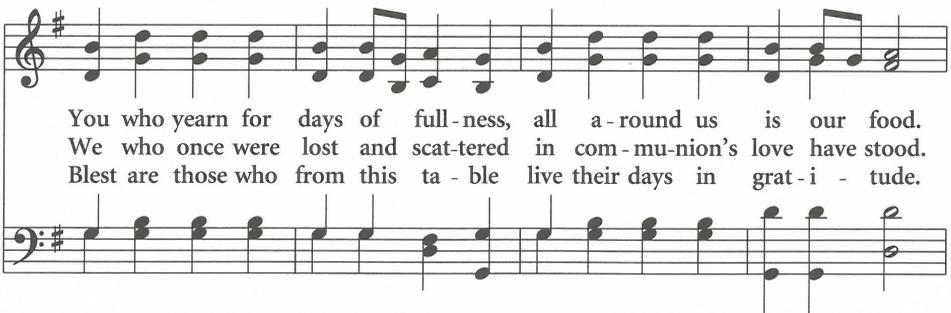
# **E** All Who Hunger Gather Gladly



1. All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
2. All who hun-ger, nev-er stran-gers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
3. All who hun-ger, sing to-geth-er; Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.  
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You who yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
We who once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

# Human Minds Just Can't Imagine



Hu - man minds just can't i - ma - gine all that God can bring  
God, ex - pand our dreams and vi - sion when we think our gifts  
Like the grains of wheat are ga - thered from the vast and roll -



to bear Through our small and sep - arate be - ings, e - ven  
too small Help us trust your great pro - vis - ion and to  
-ing fields Like the grapes from vi - ny bran - ches whose small



when we join to share Still we fol - low where Christ leads us,  
an - swer when you call You who gave us time and ta - lents  
fruit the wine will yield We re - mem - ber as one bo - dy,



ma - ny pie - ces of one whole That we might al - low  
will up - hold and see us through As we join to - geth -  
each of us a cru - cial part In the glo - bal church



our dream - ing to trans - form our bro - ken world  
-er in the work you've gi - ven us to do  
pro - fess - ing: we be - long to God's own heart

# Anthem Improbable

Written by: Britt Kusserow

Performed by Lou and Evan Owoc-Edwards

Tell me something good  
Tell me something true  
Tell me what's behind the beating hearts of me and you  
Tell me what does justice mean when the world just seems so cruel?  
Tell me that the love of God's surprising  
Tell me something new  
We are welcomed in and asked to do the same  
Here within these walls and any time we hear your name  
We are asked to trust when everything feels lost  
That the price of newness and of springtime is the frost

And everything's possible for a love that's improbable  
For a God that's unstoppable  
Are you ready to try?  
When nothing is permanent resurrection is imminent  
For a love that looks different than the fear in their eyes  
I am ready to shine

Will you use your light to reshape the world around?  
Will you stand in affirmation of the love you've found?  
Will you let yourself be held, protected just the same?  
Will you speak with trembling voice to banish hate and shame?

Because nothing's impossible for a love that's improbable  
For a God that's unstoppable  
Are you ready to try?  
When hate isn't permanent resurrection is imminent  
For a love that looks different than the fear in their eyes

Are you ready to try?

May the words of my mouth and the song in my heart be much more than just pleasing to you.  
May the things I profess and the dreams that I dream be the home that I bring new worlds to.

God is alive  
We are alive  
Love is alive





## Connect

110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

919-467-0481

info@gbccary.org

 gbccary.org

 @gbccary

 @greenwoodforestcary

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Hayes, Senior Pastor

[lauren.hayes@gbccary.org](mailto:lauren.hayes@gbccary.org)

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

[stephen.stacks@gbccary.org](mailto:stephen.stacks@gbccary.org)

Helen Bishop, Organist & Interim Choir Director

Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

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

Reprinted hymns come from Celebrating Grace, Glory to God, or the The African American Heritage Hymnal unless otherwise noted. Copyrighted music use covered by CCLI License #1243530, OneLicense #A-721397.