



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

March 15, 2026



Bulletin Art

Let the Little Children Come

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Matthew 19:13-15

11"x14" Acrylic, gold leaf, pen on paper

For my little niece, Angelina, whose art rests at the heart of this composition, and in whose joy we glimpse the Kingdom of God—alongside her sisters, Angelika and Ariana. At the center of this work is a drawing made by my five-year-old niece, Angelina. I watched her joyfully scribble it in under three minutes, churning out drawing after drawing and handing each one to me with an eager smile. In this piece, she first drew a self-portrait (her wearing a crown), then graciously decided to include me (taking some creative liberties in giving me a third arm!). I imagine the scene in Matthew 19: toddlers wailing, little ones slipping from their parents' arms, parents offering apologetic glances toward the frowning disciples as the scene around Jesus grows increasingly disorderly and loud. Those of us who've participated in group infant baptisms and baby dedications (when one cries, the chain reaction begins!), have led children's sermon moments with restless kids squirming about, or had the joy of watching our little ones participate in a kids' choir performance that goes delightfully rogue, can easily relate. The disciples, feeling the weight of being seen as serious leaders alongside their rabbi, Jesus, may have tried to preserve a sense of reverence by shooing away the parents bringing their children to him. Yet here, Jesus reorients his disciples (and us) away from the illusion of control and reminds us that it is the joyful, unruly, sincere presence of a child to whom the kingdom truly belongs. Just a chapter earlier, in Matthew 18, Jesus tells his followers that unless they become like little children, they will not even enter the kingdom. Surely the disciples thought Jesus couldn't mean that literally—right? While I've been busy making art, Angelina has been busy being an artist. I surely could learn a thing or two from her about inheriting the kingdom.

—Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

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



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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 \$1,645 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.

Spring Cleaning Sunday: Today

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. Today, we will be cleaning the downstairs storage closets. Please reach out to Alex at alex@fbccary.org to register.

Chatham Estates Action

We need you to help our neighbors in Chatham Estates. One of the last affordable housing developments in Cary is being sold and torn down. Residents need assistance to relocate. They are holding a press conference to raise awareness of the issue on Saturday March 21 at 4:30pm in the Chatham Estates Neighborhood. Our neighbors are asking ONE Wake member institutions to show up and support them on Maple Avenue behind the Cary NCDMV office. You can also donate to help at neighborup.org/chathamestates.

ONE Wake Accountability Action 4/11

Last summer, more than 1,000 members of ONE Wake institutions (including Greenwood Forest) pressed for Raleigh City Council members to issue a \$200 million bond to support affordable housing. Right now, the council is only committing to half that amount. Council members will come before us on April 11 at 11am at Baptist Grove Church to hear our demands for the full bond amount.

Be sure to join us as we push the council to invest in affordable housing. Register to attend at onewake.org/events. Your voice makes a difference!

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!

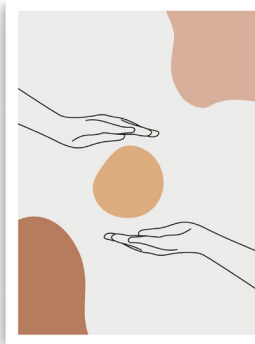
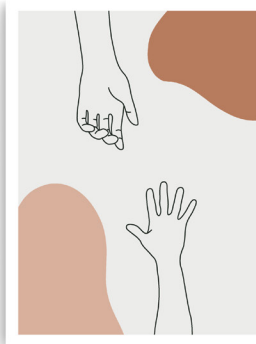
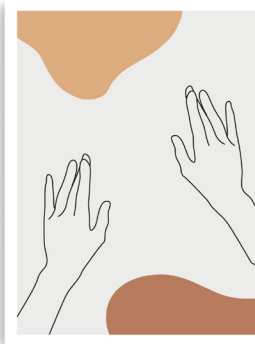
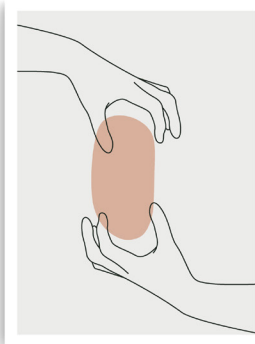
Palm Sunday Egg Hunt

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 today 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.

Good Friday Service of Tenebrae

Each year, we gather as a community to journey with Jesus to the cross. This special service features communion, followed by a series of readings that recount the story of Jesus's arrest and execution. Make plans to join us on April 3 at 7pm to experience the darkness of the cross and prepare for the joy of Easter morning.

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
Betty Stallings
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
- 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 Fourth 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 | The Gift of Love | arr. John Carter

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship 📖

God loves the field mouse.

God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

God loves the child who rocks and claps.

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

So let us worship this good-news God!

Amen.

Invocation | Rev. Lee Webb

Baby Dedication

✝ **Hymn** | Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult (pg. 9, vv.1 & 2)

Offertory Prayer | Jazzmoné Sutton

Offertory | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling | Joel Raney

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 | 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** | O, For a World (pg. 10)

Reading | Matthew 19:13-15 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

Anthem | Ubi Caritas | Ola Gjeilo

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*

Sermon | The Gift and Calling of Children | Rev. Hayes

† **Hymn** | See the Precious Children (pg. 11) 

Benediction | Rev. Hayes

Postlude

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 Susan Meador.

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a bass line on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1. Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild rest - less sea;
2. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the vain world's gold - en store,
3. In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
4. Je - sus calls us: by Your mer - cies, Sav - ior, may we hear Your call,

day by day His sweet voice sound - eth, say - ing "Chris - tian, fol - low me!"
from each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing "Chris - tian, love me more."
still He calls in cares and plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love Me more than these."
give our hearts to full o - be - dience, serve and love You best of all.

O For a World

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

See the Precious Children



See the pre-cious chil-dren seat - ed on the lap of Christ our Lord
See the pre-cious wi-dowed wo - men glean-ing har-vests from the field
See the pre-cious for - eign stran - gers as they car - ry all they own
See the pre-cious dis - poss - essed ones ask - ing for some food to eat
See the pre-cious world im - pov - erished by our ma - lice and our greed



Called the great - est in the king-dom, held so gent - ly and a - dored They
Then re - turn - ing to their kit - chen to pre - pare their dai - ly meal They
To a land that's full of dan - gers for the pow - er - less and prone They
Sleep - ing un - der star - ry heav - ens, dai - ly liv - ing on the streets They
Hu - mans, a - ni - mals, and pla - net cry - ing out for some re - lief We're



are pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ti - ny toe In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who holds their bro - ken hearts In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who made their home - land, too In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their
all pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ho - ly thing In our



weak - ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow
sor - row they're held by love that re - deems each fra - gile part
jour - ney they're held by love as they start each day a - new
hun - ger they're held by love as they guard their hu - man pride
liv - ing we're held by love as we care for ev - ery being



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