



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

March 22, 2026



Bulletin Art

Fuere ICE

by Nicolette Faison

Inspired by Deuteronomy 24:17-22

16"x20" Acrylic, marker, paper on canvas

They keep taking my neighbors. Chicago and other cities associated with the Democratic party are going through a humanitarian crisis under a fascist regime. Cars are being left vacant on random blocks and parking lots. People are being disappeared while their children are being zip-tied at 3 a.m. We clergy and religious leaders have been shot with pepper spray and rubber bullets while demanding the freedom of our neighbors. No one deserves to live like this. This piece does not truly capture the pain I hold everyday, between keeping track of what is happening in Gaza, resisting fascism, and dealing with yet another economic collapse under capitalism. But let me tell you something good. . . I still believe in humanity. When I watched people in Gaza prepare basic meals to break their fast during Ramadan during a genocide, I saw something good. When local neighbors saw our public vigil for disappeared people and chose to join us for a time of lament, I saw something good. When Colin Kaepernick paid for the independent autopsy of one of the Black men recently lynched, I saw something good. The good is people still choosing to be empathetic and compassionate in times of crisis. That is what Christ calls us to be. The stranger who enters foreign land is often forced to flee their own home. It is rare for people to risk their entire livelihood and their family for anything other than necessity. For that reason, each portrait has a halo deeming them holy, sacred, and divine. I used sparkling gold paper to break up each distinct image. Look deeply at these portraits. The top left is inspired by the Maasai people, a nomadic group that dwells across borders. The top right image is an indigenous woman and her child, a nod to Mary and Jesus. She has a red palm across her mouth which is a tribute to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and "Two-Spirit" people. The bottom left is a slightly aging man from Mesoamerica. The bottom right is a woman in hijab, which is commonly targeted in Islamophobic spaces. Look at the people some consider to be a threat. Look at our neighbors. Migrants are sacred. Fuera ICE.

—Rev. Nicolette Faison

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



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



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Announcements | Church Events and Updates

HVAC Update

Thanks to your generosity, our HVAC project is almost fully funded! Only \$700 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.

Tell Me Something Good!

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? 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.

March 29 (11am) - Palm Sunday

April 3 (7pm) - Good Friday

April 5 (11am) - Easter Sunday

Welcome NCCU Choir

Today we are joined by the NCCU University Choir, who will be performing a musical tribute to gospel luminary Richard Smallwood, who died in December 2025. Thank you to the wonderful members of the North Carolina Central University choir for sharing their talents with us this morning!

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. For those who still have eggs to drop off, please do so this afternoon.

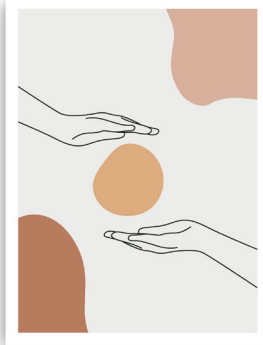
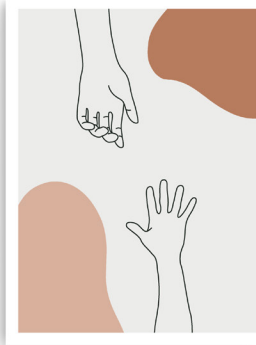
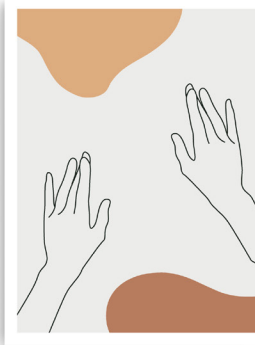
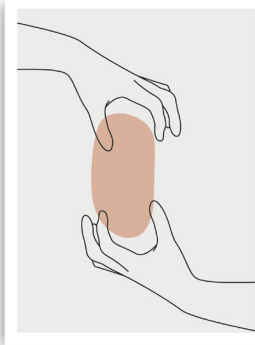
Good Friday Service of Tenebrae

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.

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!

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 Fifth 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 | Psalm 8 | Richard Smallwood (pg. 15)

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship 📖

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God's house.

You can make yourself at home here.

Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

Invocation | Greg Upchurch

✝ **Hymn** | The Glory of the Lord (pg. 8-9)

Offertory Prayer | Susan Beck

Offertory | I Love the Lord | Richard Smallwood (pg.15)

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** | Lead Me, Guide Me (pg. 10-11)

Reflection | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Anthem | Center of My Joy (pg. 15)

† **Hymn** | Total Praise (pg. 12-13) 

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!

Thank you to the North Carolina Central University choir, and to our soloists: Karen Alston, Randy Palmer, and Justin Williams

The Glory of the Lord

When the glo - ry of the Lord fills this

The first system of music features a vocal line in 4/4 time and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, and then a melodic phrase: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a steady bass line.

ho - ly tem - ple, He will lift us high. And on

The second system continues the vocal line with: G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter). The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support.

an - gels' wings we'll rise to the pure and ho - ly,

The third system continues the vocal line with: G3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support.

when His Spir - it fills this place.

The fourth system concludes the vocal line with: G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter). The piano accompaniment concludes with harmonic support.

*When His glo - ry, when His glo - ry, when His

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The music consists of chords and moving lines in both parts.

glo - ry fills this place. When His glo - ry, when His

This system contains the next two staves of music. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. The key signature changes to two flats (B-flat and E-flat) in the second measure of this system.

glo - ry, when His glo - ry fills this place.

This system contains the final two staves of music on the page. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord. The key signature remains two flats.

Lead Me, Guide Me

Retrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

For if You lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.

Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Verses

1. I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous-ness, Be my
3. I am lost if You take your hand from me, I am

The first system of music features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a dotted quarter note, followed by a half note, and then a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the dark-ness
aid when Sa-tan and sin op-press. I am put - ting all
blind with - out Thy Light to see, Lord, just al - ways let me

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line includes a dotted quarter note, a half note, and a quarter note. The piano accompaniment features a more active right hand with chords and a steady bass line.

D.C.
Thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
my trust in Thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
Thy ser - vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

The third system concludes with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature changes to one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line is marked with a 'D.C.' (Da Capo) instruction. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand.

Total Praise

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills

know - ing my help is com - ing from You.

Your peace You give me in time of the storm.

You are the source of my strength.

You are the strength of my life.

1.

I lift my hands in to - tal praise to You.

2.

A - men. A -

You. A - men, a - men. A - men.

A - men, a - men. A -

men, a - men. A - men, a -

men, a - men. A - men.

men, a - men. A - men, a -

men. A - men.

men. A - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men.

men. A - men, a - men.

Anthem | Center of My Joy

Richard Smallwood

*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 light when nights are long and cold
In sadness, you are the laughter that shatters all my fears
When I'm all alone, your hand is there to hold

You are why I find pleasure in the simple things in life
You are the music in the meadows and the stream
The voices of the children, my family, and my home
You're the source and finish of my highest dreams

Psalm 8

Richard Smallwood

O Lord, our Lord,
How excellent is thy name!

I Love the Lord

Richard Smallwood

I love the the Lord, he heard my cry
And pitied every groan, long as I live
And troubles rise, I'll hasten to his throne



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