



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

April 12, 2026



Bulletin Art

Incredulity of St. Thomas by Caravaggio

Caravaggio is known for the stark contrast in lighting in his work as well as the intense physicality and emotionality of his subjects. I'm struck here by the focus on Thomas's hand in Jesus's side, literally sliding under a flap of Jesus's still wounded flesh. Caravaggio never shied away from such depictions and was a master of both attention and discomfort. As you examine this painting, consider your bodily response to it as well as your intellectual and emotional response. How do you feel? Where do you feel it? Who are you in this scene? Would you have been so probing of Jesus's wounds?

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome



If we are to become Easter people, people of the resurrection, people walking in the way of Jesus, we must learn from the witness of wounds, the wounds of Jesus and the wounds of the marginalized. It is only then that we can learn to become the church, the people we are called to be. As Yolanda Pierce says in her book, *The Wounds are the Witness: Black Faith Weaving Memory into Justice and Healing*, "If we are to love Jesus, we have to love the man with the still-healing wounds and not just the conquering hero. We have to love the broken Jesus and not just the triumphant one. Likewise, we have to love wounded people and wounded places. To work for flourishing and liberation in a broken world, we cannot look away from crucified flesh or be repulsed by the wounds" (144). For Christians in the United States, this means seriously reckoning with the wounds of Indigenous Americans and enslaved African people. It means understanding that the wounds that are continually inflicted on people of color in our country must be tended in order for all our wounds to be healed. In this Easter season sermon series, we will take the time to draw close to Jesus, our wounded healer, and learn to carefully tend both our own wounds and the wounds of those who've been marginalized, recognizing that the liberation of all God's people is bound together in the healing of all our wounds.

- Rev. Lauren Hayes

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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Announcements | Church Events and Updates

Faith Formation at GFBC

Interested in joining a Faith Formation class? The "class that meets in the Parlor" (maybe you're the one to invent its formal name!) invites you to join them in reading and discussing *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. They will start with the book's Introduction on Sunday April 12 at 9:45am. You can get a copy of the book wherever books are sold for about \$10. Contact Diana McGahan (ddmcgahan@gmail.com) or Steve Denning (steve.denning@itresourceinc.com) for more information. All Faith Formation classes are open for newcomers year round, as well. Contact the church office if interested.

Upcoming Fellowship Events

The Fellowship Committee is excited for you to join us for any of the upcoming family-friendly events in the Spring and Summer:

May 2 | Pier Fishing Trip at Topsail Beach (contact Susan Beck at carygator1@gmail.com to sign up!)

May 30 (10am) | Local Nature Walk (location TBD)

June 14 (4-6pm) | Picnic in GFBC Courtyard (BBQ provided, bring your favorite side dish or dessert!)

July 15 (6-8pm) | Game Night at GFBC (bring your favorite game and your dinner; desserts provided!)

Business Meeting 4/26

There will be a churchwide business meeting on Sunday, April 26th at 9:45am during Faith Formation time. All are encouraged to attend.

Newcomers Reception

All those new to GFBC are invited to a reception after worship today April 12. 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.

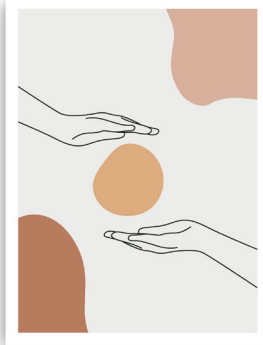
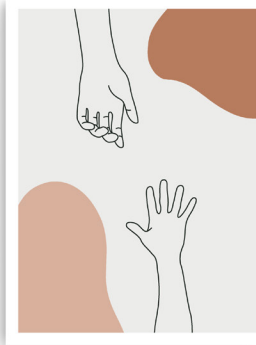
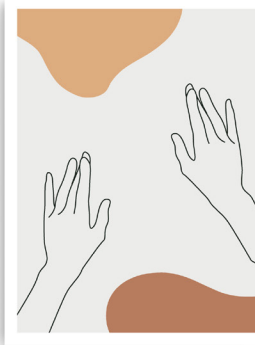
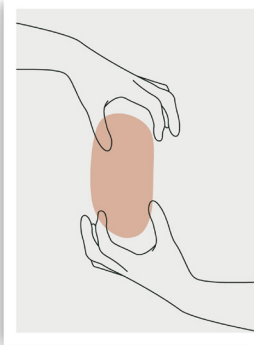
Spring Cleaning Sunday: April 19

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. Sunday, April 19th, we will finish cleaning the downstairs storage rooms. Please reach out to Alex at alex@gfbccary.org to register.

Sign Up For Our Email List

If you would like to be added to our church email list, please send an email to alex@gfbccary.org with your contact information. We'll make sure you're included so you can stay up to date on news, events, and important announcements.

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
Rick Hollings (Mary Whitehouse's father)
Andy Jarrell
Marie Seeger
Randy Palmer
Carlton Prince (Megan Jarrell's father)
Elizabeth Stacks at the death of her grandmother,
Elsie Joan Albergotti
Lee Taylor
Nancy Watson
The NCCU family at the death of Carrie Everett
Steven (friend of GFBC)
Kathleen Wicker
The family of Anne Whelan at her death
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 | Second Sunday of Easter

✝ 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 | Sicilienne | Gabriel Fauré

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship (Psalm 16) 📖

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "I have no good apart from you."

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;

Their drink offerings I will not pour out.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;

You hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;

In the night my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me;

Because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;

My body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol,

Or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy.

Invocation | Diana McGahan

✝ **Hymn** | Christ Is Alive (pg. 8, vv. 1 & 2)

Offertory Prayer | Leta Huntsinger

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.

Offertory | Lift High the Cross | 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** | We Walk By Faith (pg. 9)

Reading | John 20:19-31 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

Anthem | All the Poor and Powerless (pg. 11)

Sermon | Until I Touch the Wounds | Rev. Hayes

Communion 

Prayer of Confession: **Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be obedient disciples. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we've not loved our neighbors, and we've not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us for what we have done and for what we've left undone, and free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Mystery of Faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

† **Hymn** | These Things Did Thomas Count as Real (pg. 10) 

Benediction | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | This Joyful Eastertide | arr. Lynette Maynard

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).

Communion

During Communion, we gather around the table as Christ showed us, to remember and give thanks. We have an open table—all who wish to take Communion are invited. We practice intinction, which means you receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. A gluten-free option is available on the *alta*

Thank You!

Our hymn leader today is Rev. Evan Owoc-Edwards and our guest pianist is Kelly Grooms.

Christ is Alive

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4. Wo - men and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5. Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

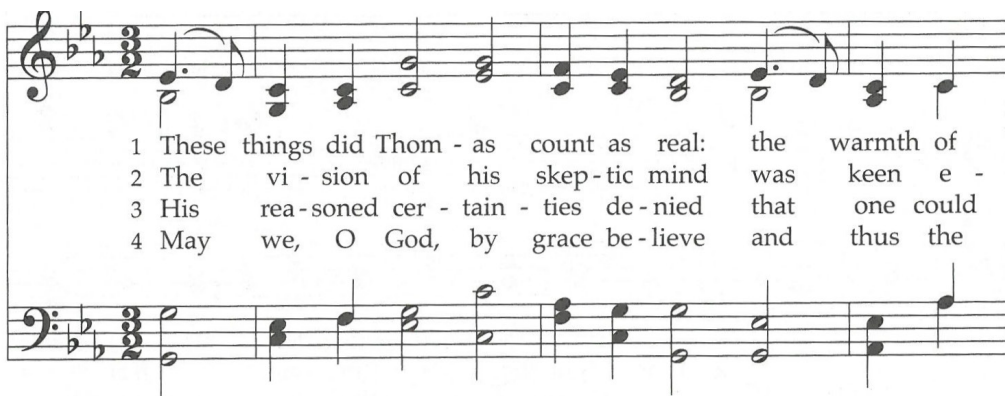
We Walk By Faith

1. We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2. We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and

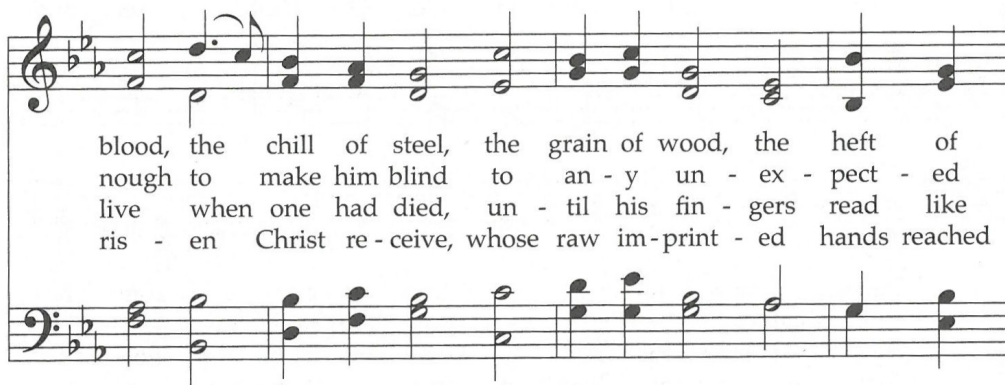
4
gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
4
may our faith a - bound to call on you when

7
none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here,"
7
we re - jice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found.

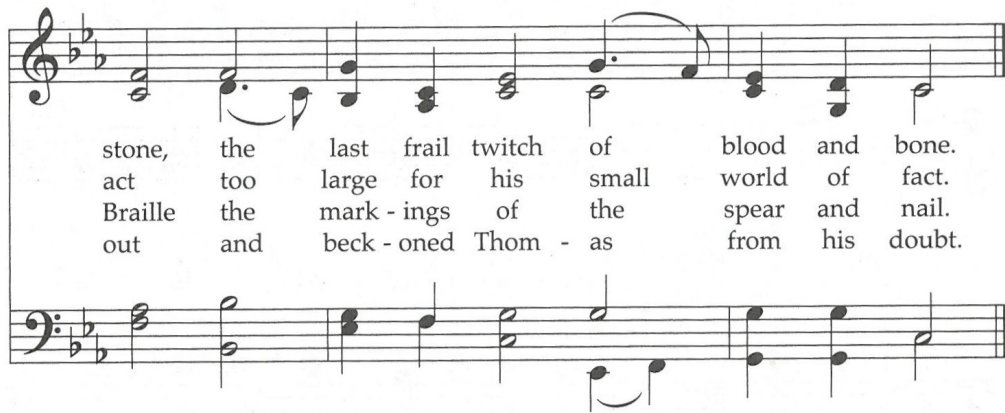
These Things Did Thomas Count



1 These things did Thom - as count as real: the warmth of
2 The vi - sion of his skept - ic mind was keen e -
3 His rea - soned cer - tain - ties de - nied that one could
4 May we, O God, by grace be - lieve and thus the



blood, the chill of steel, the grain of wood, the heft of
nough to make him blind to an - y un - ex - pect - ed
live when one had died, un - til his fin - gers read like
ris - en Christ re - ceive, whose raw im - print - ed hands reached



stone, the last frail twitch of blood and bone.
act too large for his small world of fact.
Braille the mark - ings of the spear and nail.
out and beck - oned Thom - as from his doubt.

Anthem | All the Poor and Powerless

From All Sons and Daughters, performed by Lou and Evan Owoc-Edwards

All the poor and powerless
And all the lost and lonely
And all the thieves will come confess
And know that you are holy

And all will sing out
Hallelujah
And we will cry out
Hallelujah

And all the hearts who are content
And all who feel unworthy
And all who hurt with nothing left
Will know that you are holy

Shout it
Go on and scream it from the mountains
Go on and tell it to the masses
That you are God



Connect

110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

919-467-0481

info@gbccary.org

 gbccary.org

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

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

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Hayes, Senior Pastor

lauren.hayes@gbccary.org

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gbccary.org

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Director of Liturgy & Formation

stephen.stacks@gbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist & Interim Choir Director

Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

alex.filby@gbccary.org

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