



# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

April 26, 2026



Scan for Digital

# Bulletin Art

Conversion of Paul the Apostle

by Caravaggio

The second painting by Caravaggio in this series, this one is his less famous depiction of Saul's conversion. We see again Caravaggio's commitment to dramatic lighting and chaotic, but intentional, composition. Saul has fallen from his horse and is reacting to the sudden blindness inflicted upon him by Jesus. He discerns the heavenly messenger but no one else does. How would it have felt to be Saul at this moment? How does Caravaggio think he felt? The story goes that this was Caravaggio's first attempt to depict this scene but it was rejected by his patron. What might have been the reason for the rejection? What discomfort might have arisen from his consideration of the story? You may wish to look up "The Conversion on the Way to Damascus," the more famous depiction of this story by Caravaggio. Compare the two paintings. What differences do you see? What rises in you in reaction to both?

- Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome



## Current Sermon Series: The Wounds are the Witness

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.

### Contents

- 4 | Announcements
- 5 | Community Notes
- 6 | Order of Worship
- 8 | 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)

# 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](mailto:ddmcgahan@gmail.com)) or Steve Denning ([steve.denning@itresourceinc.com](mailto: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 | Fishing Trip to Topsail Beach (contact Susan Beck at [carygator1@gmail.com](mailto: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!)

## Blood Drive: May 13th

We are collaborating with the Red Cross to host another Blood Drive on Wednesday, May 13th from 1-6PM. Everyone who donates will receive a \$20 Amazon e-gift card. Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Greenwood to schedule an appointment.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Ministry Highlight

Greeters and Ushers serve our weekly worship service in two essential ways. Greeters stand (or sit) in the Narthex to welcome all who enter our church on Sundays. They provide a warm smile and especially work to 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. If you are interested in joining this team, please see and speak with Nathan Bullock or reach him by email at [nathan.f.bullock@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.f.bullock@gmail.com)

## Faith Giving Sundays

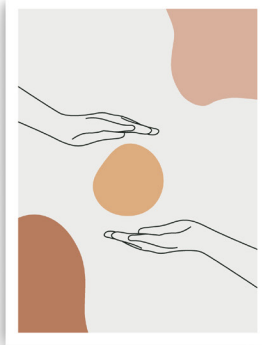
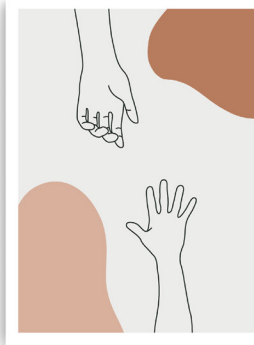
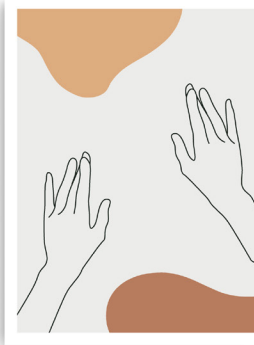
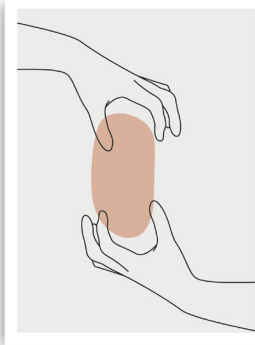
We ask you to consider making a special investment of \$20 on the last Sunday of every month. This collective effort is essential in ensuring our budget remains on track, allowing us to continue making a difference in our community and beyond. Contact Susan Beck if you have any questions or want to give a Gratitude Testimony about what GFBC means to you and why you give.

## New Address Alert: Gail and Virgil Jones

The Jones' have requested that we print their new address which is as follows:

215 S.W. 10th St  
Apt. 1418-A  
Madison, South Dakota 57042

# 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  
Carlton Prince (Megan Jarrell's father)  
Gene Ruegg  
George Stallings (Betty Stallings' son)  
Nancy Watson  
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 | Fourth 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** | O, How I Love Jesus | arr. Mark Hayes

**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 116)** 📖

I love the Lord,

**God has heard my voice and my supplications.**

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

**I suffered distress and anguish.**

Then I called on the name of the Lord:

**"O Lord, I pray, save my life!"**

What shall I return for all the Lord's bounty to me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,**

O Lord, I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.

**You have loosed my bonds.**

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice

**And call on the name of the Lord.**

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all the people,

**I will praise the Lord in your midst, O Jerusalem!**

**Invocation** | Betsy Sisley

✝ **Hymn** | Christ Is Alive (pg. 8, vv. 1 & 4)

**Stewardship Testimony** | Susan Beck

**Offertory Prayer** | Diana McGahan

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** | Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus | arr. Susan Naylor Callaway

† **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** | Just As I Am (pg. 9)

**Reading** | Acts 9:1-20 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

The word of God for us, the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | Amazing Grace | arr. Stephen Hatfield (pg. 11)

**Sermon** | Healers with Wounds | Rev. Hayes

† **Hymn** | Will You Come And Follow Me? (pg. 10) 

† **Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

**Postlude** | God Be in Thy Head | arr. John Rutter

## 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 hymn leader today is Evan Owoc-Edwards.

# 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.

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, but  
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not to  
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with  
 4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight,  
 5. Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, wilt  
 6. Just as I am, Thy love un - known hath

that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou bidd'st me  
 rid my soul of one dark blot, to Thee, whose blood can  
 man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears, with -  
 rich - es, heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need in  
 wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve, be - cause Thy prom - ise  
 bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be Thine, yea,

come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!  
 cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!  
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!  
 Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!  
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!  
 Thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

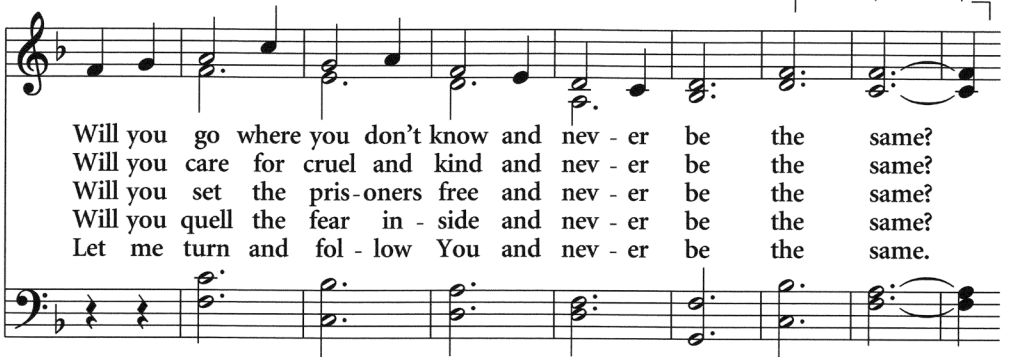
# Just As I Am

# Will You Come and Follow Me?

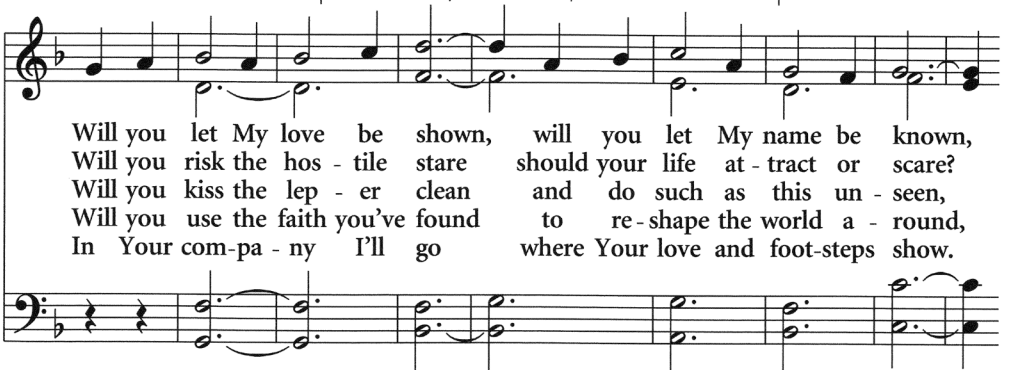
Unison



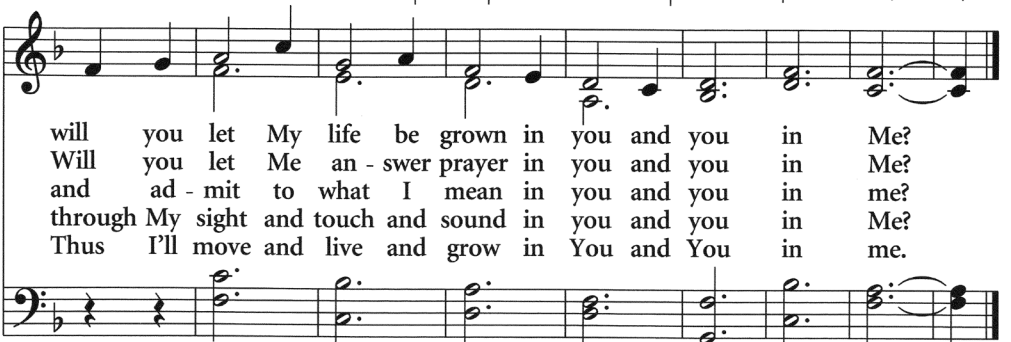
1. Will you come and fol - low Me if I but call your name?  
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?  
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?  
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when You but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?  
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
Let me turn and fol - low You and nev - er be the same.



Will you let My love be shown, will you let My name be known,  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
Will you kiss the lep - er clean and do such as this un - seen,  
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,  
In Your com - pa - ny I'll go where Your love and foot-steps show.



will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?  
Will you let Me an - swer prayer in you and you in Me?  
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?  
through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

# Anthem | Amazing Grace

arr. Stephen Hatfield

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Brightshining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun.

# Postlude | God Be In Thy Head

arr. John Rutter

God be in thy head and in thy understanding.  
God be in thine eyes and in thy looking.  
God be in thy mouth and in thy speaking.  
God be in thine heart and in thy thinking.  
God be at thy end and in thy departing.



## 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.