



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

May 3, 2026



Bulletin Art

The Martyrdom of Saint Stephen I

by José Clemente Orozco

Yolanda Pierce writes, "it is exceedingly difficult work to love the place that wounds you. America, while a beloved home, has deeply wounded so many of those who have loved and defended her best" (100). Langston Hughes articulates this pain in his famous poem "Let America Be America Again," which opens:

Let America be America again.
Let it be the dream it used to be.
Let it be the pioneer on the plain
Seeking a home where he himself is free.
(America never was America to me.)

There's a unique and deep pain that comes from betrayal, particularly betrayal by those you trust or who are supposed to include, welcome, and support you. "The intimacy of personal betrayal is a heavy burden to bear, and there are few remedies to heal the lifetime of pain it causes," Pierce points out (109).

Stephen dies at the hands of people he likely knew for quite some time. These may have even been the people who taught him, helped raise him, and cared for him. He endures wounds unto death at the hands of friends and colleagues. That's not the way things are supposed to be – then or now.

When have you been wounded by those you trust? Have you caused such a wound? How can we support each other in the confession of suffering (or inflicted suffering)?

- 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.

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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

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 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!)

Newcomers Reception

All those new to GFBC are invited to a reception after worship on May 17th! 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.

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](https://www.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 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

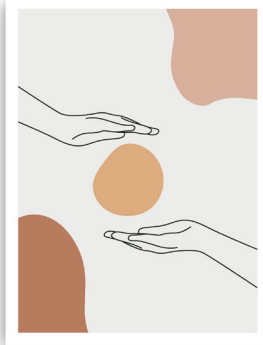
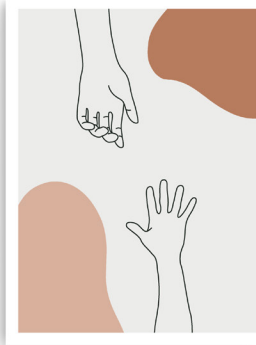
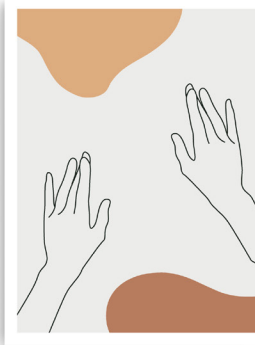
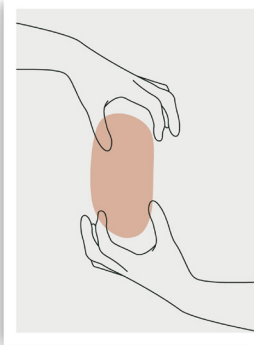
Nominating Surveys

Please go to gfbccary.org/survey to fill out our yearly nominating survey! This survey is helpful, as it allows us to identify how to best support and serve the GFBC community. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Senior Class of 2026

Are you graduating from highschool this summer? If so, we would love to shout you out during worship! If you are interested in being recognized, please email Wes at wes@gfbccary.org
Congratulations to our Senior Class of 2026!

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)
Marlen Ruegg (at the death of her husband, Eugen)
George Stallings (Betty Stallings' son)
Lee Taylor
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
- 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 | Fifth 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 | My Shepherd Will Supply My Need | 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 (Psalm 23) 📖

You are my shepherd,

I shall not want.

You make me lie down in green pastures;

You lead me beside still waters;

You restore my soul.

You lead me in right paths for your name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

Your rod and your staff—

They comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy

Shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

My whole life long.

Invocation | Nathan Bullock

✝ **Hymn** | Christ Is Alive (pg. 8, vv. 1 & 5)

Offertory Prayer | Jazzmoné Sutton

Offertory | Where He Leads Me | arr. Cindy Berry

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.

† **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** | O God, When Trust is Shattered (pg. 9)

Reading | Acts 7:55-60 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

Anthem | All Are Welcome | Marty Haugen (pg. 11)

Sermon | Wounded in the House of a Friend | 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** | Come and Feast, For All Are Welcomed (pg.10) 

† **Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | Be Thou My Vision | arr. Abe Cáceres

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 altar.

Thank You!

Our hymn leader today is Leanne Glasgow and our guest pianist is Sally Shaver.

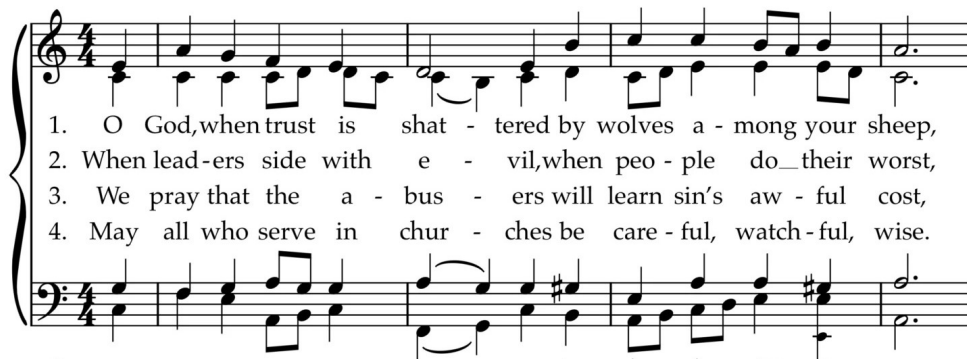
Christ is Alive

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

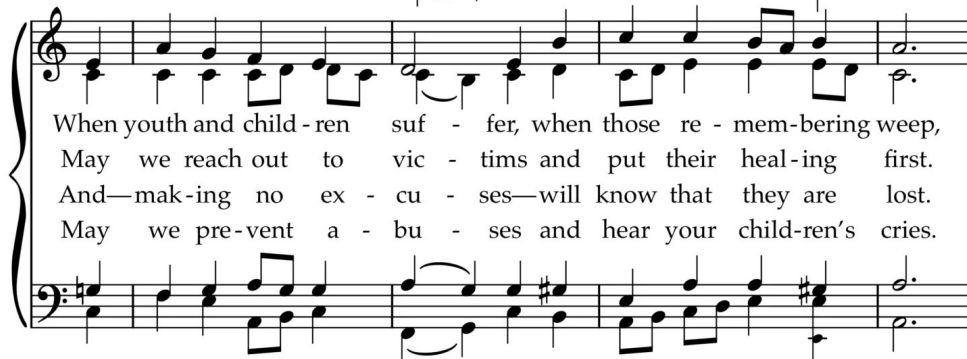
emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

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.

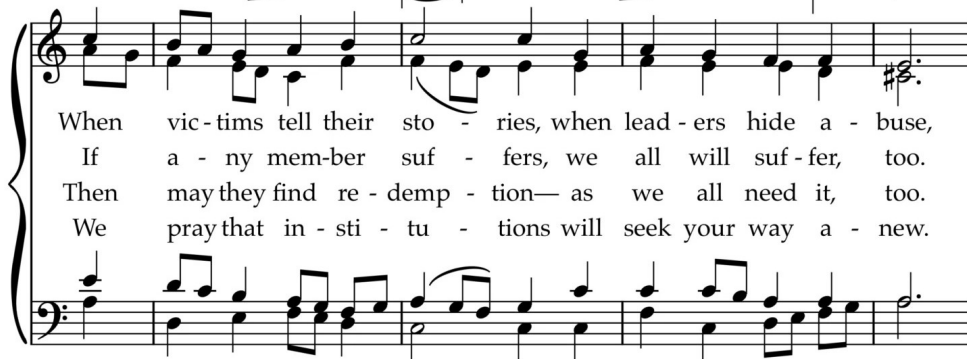
O God, When Trust is Shattered



1. O God, when trust is shat - tered by wolves a - mong your sheep,
2. When lead - ers side with e - vil, when peo - ple do their worst,
3. We pray that the a - bus - ers will learn sin's aw - ful cost,
4. May all who serve in chur - ches be care - ful, watch - ful, wise.



When youth and child - ren suf - fer, when those re - mem - bering weep,
May we reach out to vic - tims and put their heal - ing first.
And — mak - ing no ex - cu - ses — will know that they are lost.
May we pre - vent a - bu - ses and hear your child - ren's cries.

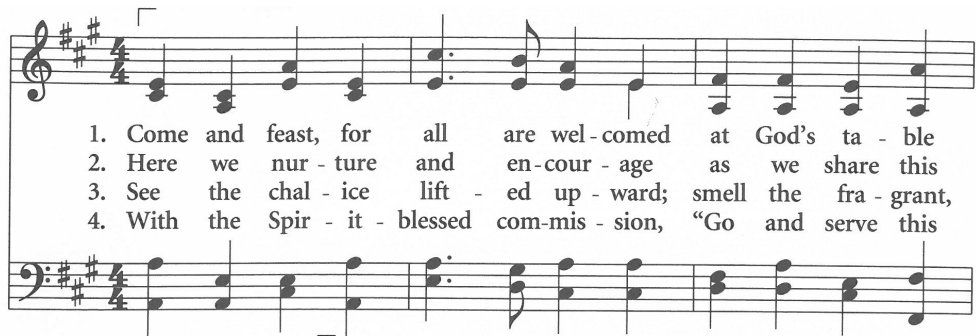


When vic - tims tell their sto - ries, when lead - ers hide a - buse,
If a - ny mem - ber suf - fers, we all will suf - fer, too.
Then may they find re - demp - tion — as we all need it, too.
We pray that in - sti - tu - tions will seek your way a - new.



Bring heal - ing, love and mer - cy! Bring jus - tice, God of truth!
Bring heal - ing, love and mer - cy! Bring jus - tice, God of truth!
Bring heal - ing, love and mer - cy! Bring jus - tice, God of truth!
Bring heal - ing, love and mer - cy! Bring jus - tice, God of truth!

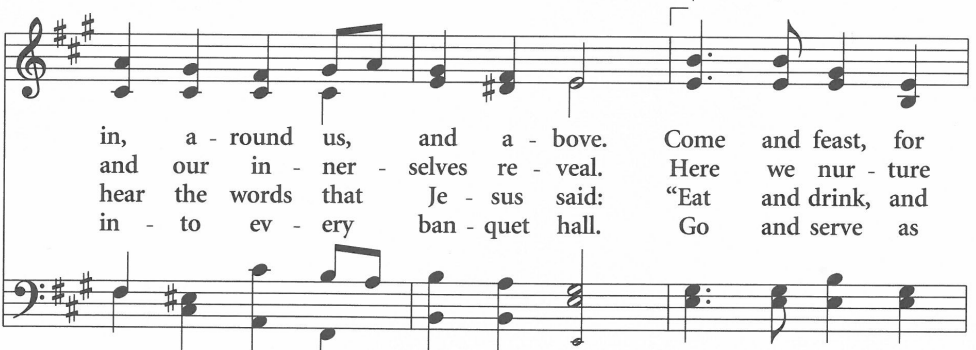
Come and Feast, For All Are Welcomed



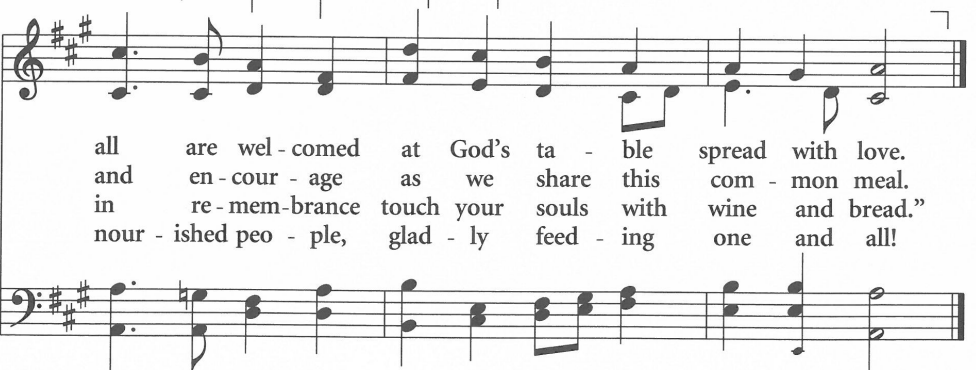
1. Come and feast, for all are wel - comed at God's ta - ble
2. Here we nur - ture and en - cour - age as we share this
3. See the chal - ice lift - ed up - ward; smell the fra - grant,
4. With the Spir - it - blessed com - mis - sion, "Go and serve this



spread with love. Come pro - claim God's grace and good - ness
com - mon meal, while we fos - ter deep com - mun - ion
bro - ken bread; taste the gifts from field and vine - yard;
meal to all," take its love and peace - ful vi - sion



in, a - round us, and a - bove. Come and feast, for
and our in - ner - selves re - veal. Here we nur - ture
hear the words that Je - sus said: "Eat and drink, and
in - to ev - ery ban - quet hall. Go and serve as



all are wel - comed at God's ta - ble spread with love.
and en - cour - age as we share this com - mon meal.
in re - mem - brance touch your souls with wine and bread."
nour - ished peo - ple, glad - ly feed - ing one and all!

Anthem | All Are Welcome

Marty Haugen

Let us build a house
where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ
shall end divisions:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house
where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus;

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ
the feast that frees us;

Let us build a house
where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone,
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face,
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

Let us build a house
where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim
from floor to rafter.



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Helen Bishop, Organist & Interim Choir Director

Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

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