



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

July 5, 2026



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)



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

Announcements | Church Events and Updates

Game Night

The Fellowship Committee is excited for you to join us Wednesday, **July 15th from 6-8pm** for Game Night at GFBC (bring your favorite game and your dinner; desserts provided!)

Join Us For Summer Choir

During the summer, instead of rehearsing on Wednesday evenings, the Sanctuary Choir gathers for a potluck lunch once a month following Sunday worship and rehearses the anthems for upcoming Sundays. We enjoy each other's company and sing lots of fun music. It's a great time to join if you would like to try singing in the choir! Childcare will be available. Our potluck/rehearsal dates for the summer are **July 19** and **August 16**. We'd love to see you there!

GFBC 101- Today

If you're new (or even new-ish!) to Greenwood Forest and want to learn more and get involved, GFBC 101 is for you! Following worship **today** or **August 2**, we'll have a lunch and afternoon retreat that orients participants to the values, history, and community of the church. Participants only need to attend one of the sessions (both are the same content). Sign up at gfbccary.org/101 and email Rev. Spears-Newsome if you have questions.

Women's Lunch Gathering

Join us on the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM for a women's lunch gathering. Each month, the group comes together to connect, catch up, and enjoy a new restaurant. For more information, contact Janice Medford at (919) 387-8249.

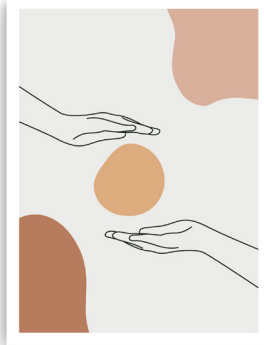
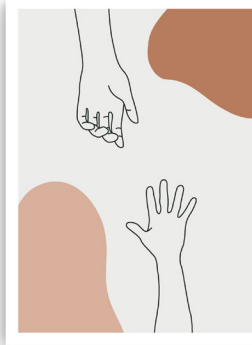
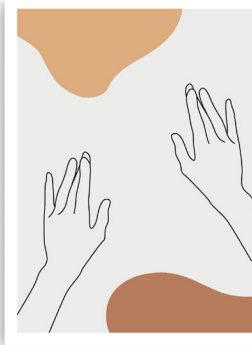
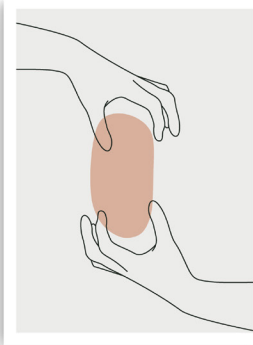
Thank You!

Leanne Ritter would like to thank everyone who participated in the recent 'Diaper Drive'. Thanks to your support, Leanne collected 2,539 diapers (enough for 51 babies) and 5,769 baby wipes (enough for 80 babies). Incredible work!

Faith Formation Teachers Wanted

We are always in need of gifted and called lay people to serve in the Discipleship ministry. If you are interested in teaching or facilitating a Faith Formation class at GFBC, please reach out to Rev. Dr. Stacks

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
Richard Adair (Janice Medford's brother)
Jo Brooks
The Camp Family (at the death of Carolyn Camp)
The Foster Family (at the death of Mary Foster)
Rick Hollings (Mary Whitehouse's father)
Marissa Kruzewski
Kathy and Lee Taylor
Nancy Watson
Patti Webb
Steven (friend of GFBC)
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 | Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

✝ 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 | Deal Thou with Me in Mercy, Lord | arr. J.G. Walther

Welcome to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Passing of the Peace 📖

Call to Worship 📖

We gather on the day after the empire's birthday.

We gather to remember a different birth.

We gather where fireworks have burned

and the smoke is still in the air.

We gather because there is a fire that fireworks were invented to imitate,

and we want the real one.

Let us pray.

Invocation | Nathan Bullock

✝ **Hymn** | For the Healing of the Nations (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Andy Jarrell

Offertory | I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light | arr. Wayne L. Wold

✝ **Doxology** | Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Transcendent God, we bless your name

Incarnate Christ, the Risen One

The Spirit with us, Immanent

The Source, the Word, the Breath of life.

Amen.

Today's color is **green**,
representing spiritual
growth..

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

The Prayers of the People | Rev. 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 | In an Age of Twisted Values (pg. 9)

Reading | Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 | Rev. Hayes

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | All Are Welcome at the Table | arr. Mary McDonald (pg. 11)

Sermon | Rev. Dr. Stacks

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 | I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (pg. 10)

† Benediction | Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks

Postlude

collective offering to God and the wellbeing of this community. A short doxology follows as we offer our gifts.

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.

For the Healing of a Nation

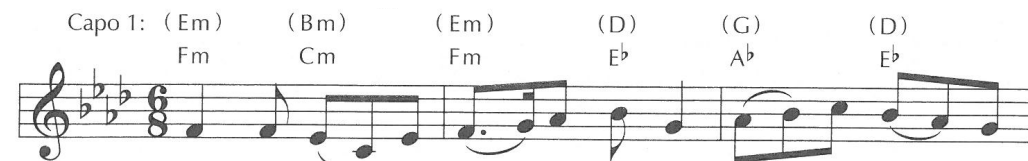
1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness,

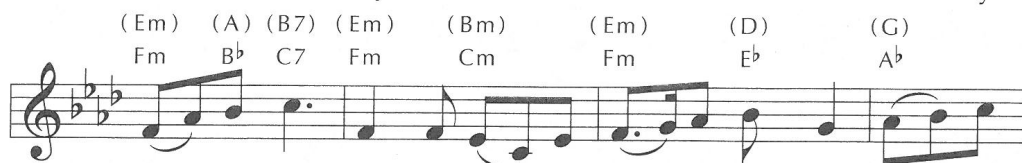
of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

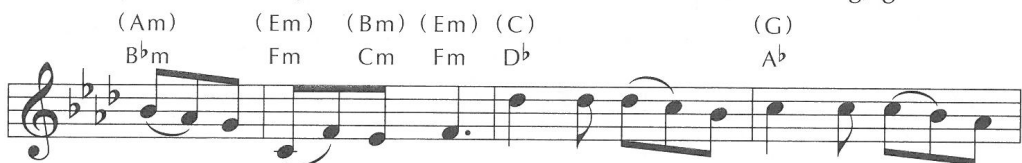
In an Age of Twisted Values



1 In an age of twist - ed val - ues we have lost the
2 We have built dis - crim - i - na - tion on our prej - u -
3 When our fam - i - lies are bro - ken, when our homes are
4 We who hear your word so of - ten choose so rare - ly



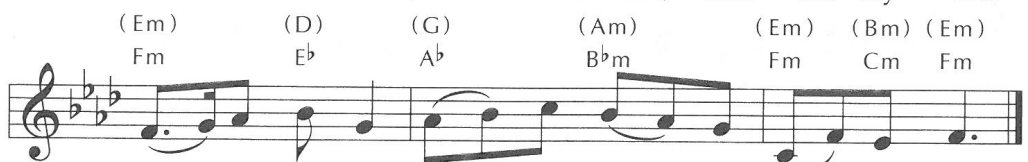
truth we need. In so - phis - ti - cat - ed lan - guage we have
dice and fear. Ha - tred swift - ly turns to cruel - ty if we
full of strife, when our chil - dren are be - wil - dered, when they
to o - bey. Turn us from our will - ful wan - dering; give us



jus - ti - fied our greed. By our strug - gle for pos - ses - sions
hold re - sent - ments dear. For com - mu - ni - ties di - vid - ed
lose their way in life, when we fail to give the a - ged
truth to light our way. In the pow - er of your Spir - it



we have robbed the poor and weak. Hear our cry and
by the walls of class and race, hear our cry and
all the care we know they need, hear our cry and
come to cleanse us, make us new; hear our cry and

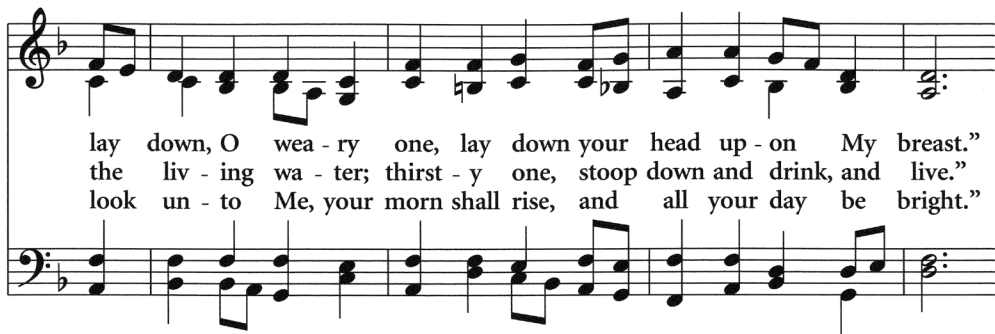


heal our na - tion; your for - give - ness, Lord, we seek.
heal our na - tion; show us, Lord, your love and grace.
heal our na - tion; help us show more love, we plead.
heal our na - tion till our na - tion hon - ors you.

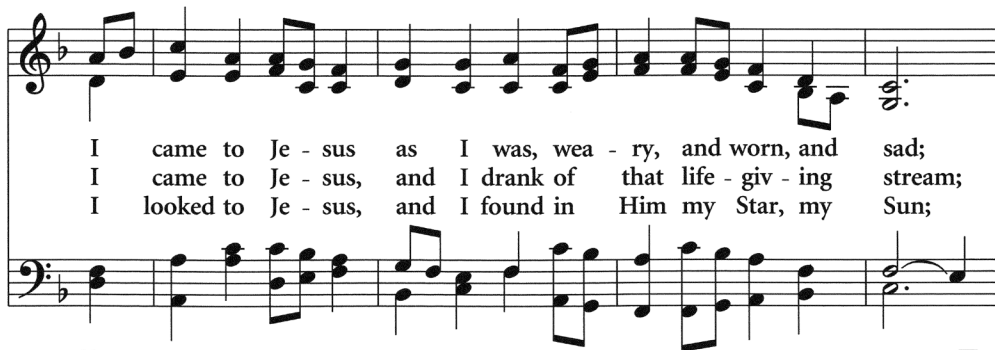
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



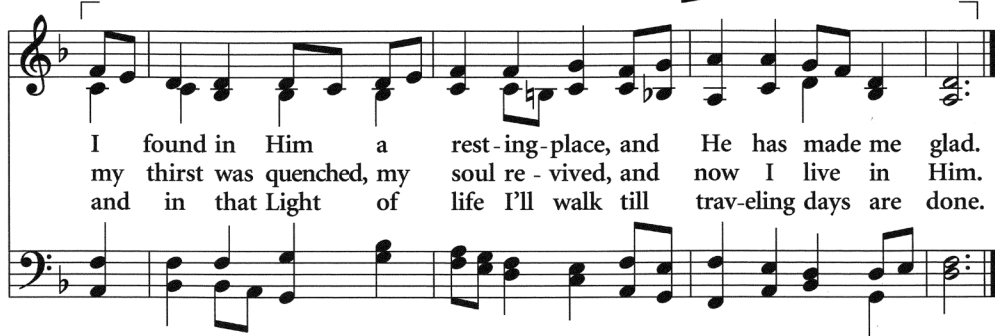
1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to Me and rest;
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's Light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on My breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, stoop down and drink, and live."
look un - to Me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, wea - ry, and worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in Him my Star, my Sun;



I found in Him a rest - ing - place, and He has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in Him.
and in that Light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Anthem | All Are Welcome at the Table

arr. Mary McDonald

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table.
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days. Alleluia!
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table;
Gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

All are welcome at the table.
All are welcome at the table of the Lord. Alleluia!
All are welcome at the table;
Gonna sit with my brothers and sisters one of these days.

At the table, come and dine;
Feast on the bread and drink the wine.
Come and meet us at the table of the Lord!
All of God's children, come and sit down,
And glory in the one who wears the crown!
All are welcome at the table of the Lord.



Connect

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Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

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