



Greenwood Forest

Baptist Church

July 26, 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.

Contents

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

Visitor Form



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

GFBC Organizing Meeting on 7/29

Greenwood Forest's ONE Wake Core Team invites all those interested in doing community organizing to enact change (especially regarding local housing, but not limited to housing) to a gathering on July 29 at 7pm at GFBC. We'll be discussing upcoming opportunities and long term plans as well as enjoying snacks and fellowship together! If you've ever been interested in local government, direct action on local issues, or otherwise getting involved in making change in Wake County, this is the place for you! Contact Nathan Bullock (nathan.f.bullock@gmail.com) or Leanne Ritter (lritter15@yahoo.com) for more information.

GFBC 101- August 2

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 on **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.

Budget Presentation and Business Meeting

There will be a churchwide Budget presentation during Faith Formation time on **Sunday, August 9 at 9:45 AM**. On **Sunday, August 23rd at 2pm**, we will be conducting a churchwide business meeting. All are encouraged to attend as we prepare for the new church fiscal year!

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 last summer rehearsal date is **August 16**. We'd love to see you there!

Thank You

Thank you from the Finance Committee: Thanks for your support of GFBC and our ministries through your presence, talents, and financial gifts. Each act of faith and giving is magnified as we work together to minister to each other and our neighbors. You are making a difference!

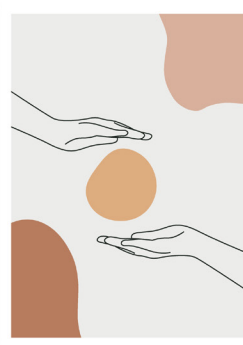
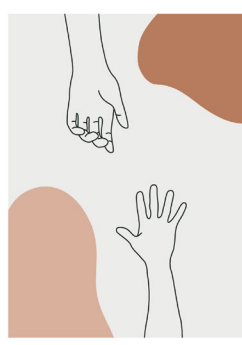
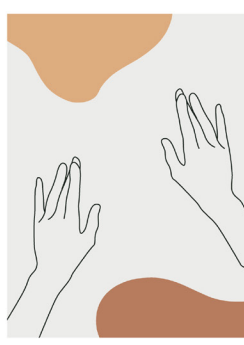
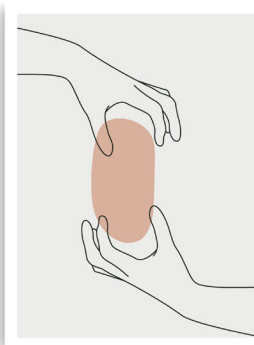
Faith Formation Teachers Wanted

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.

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.

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 Webb Family (at the death of Patti Webb)

Rick Hollings (Mary Whitehouse's father)

Marissa Kruzewski

Kathy and Lee Taylor

Nancy Watson

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 | Ninth 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 | Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet | 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 139:1-12) 📖

Your decrees, O God, are wonderful;

therefore my soul keeps them.

The unfolding of your words gives light;

it imparts understanding to the simple.

With open mouth I pant,

because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,

as is your custom toward those who love your name.

Keep my steps steady according to your promise,

and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

Redeem me from human oppression,

that I may keep your precepts.

Make your face shine upon your servant,

and teach me your statutes.

Invocation | Steve Denning

✝ Hymn | As Grain on Scattered Hillsides (pg. 8)

Stewardship Testimony | Marlen Ruegg

Offertory Prayer | Leta Huntsinger

Offertory | Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven | arr. Robert B. Farlee

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

† **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.

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** | What Is the World Like (pg. 9)

Reading | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 | Rev. Hayes

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

Anthem | Let Everything | André Thomas (pg. 11)

Sermon | Rev. Amanda Warren

† **Hymn** | God the Sculptor of the Mountains (pg. 10)

† **Benediction** | Rev. Hayes

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

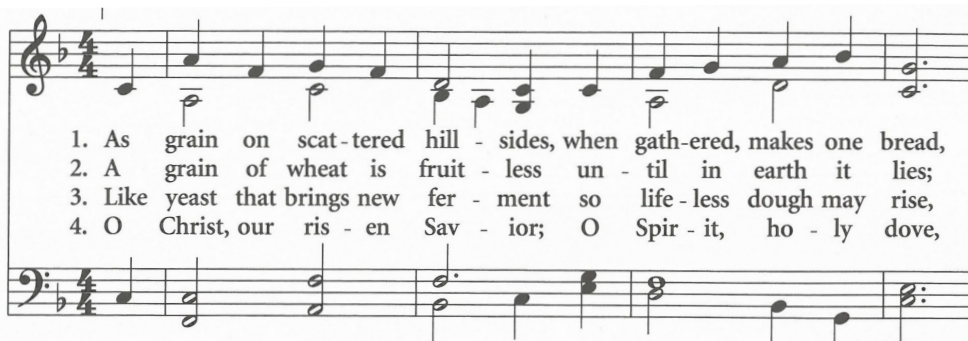
This prayer typically has five
parts: a confession, prayers for
the earth, prayers for the world,
prayers for the church, and
prayers for those with needs in
our own community.

* = In the Lord's Prayer, you
may say any name for God (e.g.,
Mother/Father/Parent).

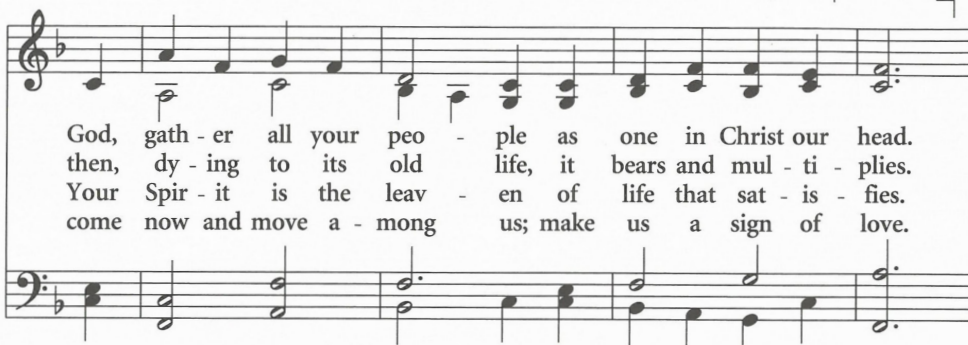
Final Hymn: An Invitation

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.

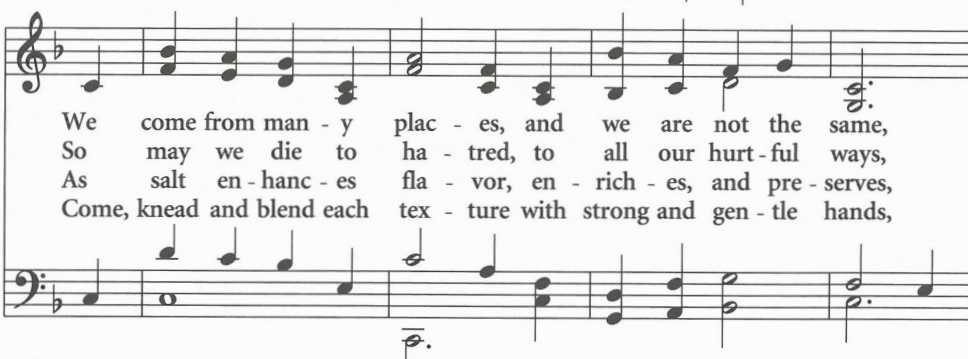
As Grain on Scattered Hillsides



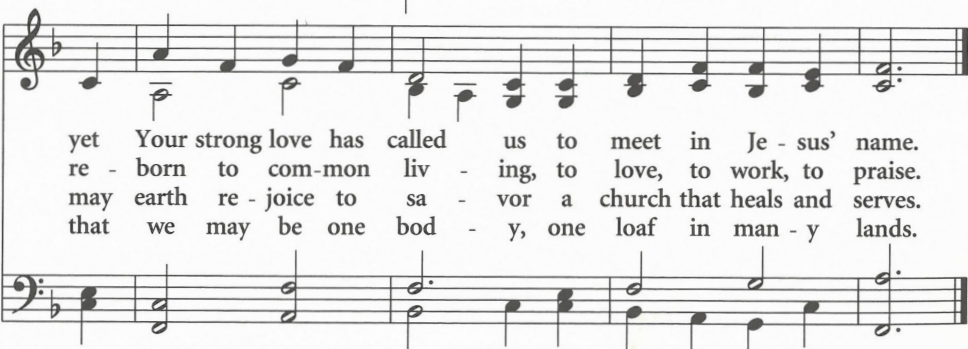
1. As grain on scat-tered hill - sides, when gath-ered, makes one bread,
 2. A grain of wheat is fruit - less un - til in earth it lies;
 3. Like yeast that brings new fer - ment so life - less dough may rise,
 4. O Christ, our ris - en Sav - ior; O Spir - it, ho - ly dove,



God, gath - er all your peo - ple as one in Christ our head.
 then, dy - ing to its old life, it bears and mul - ti - plies.
 Your Spir - it is the leav - en of life that sat - is - fies.
 come now and move a - mong us; make us a sign of love.



We come from man - y plac - es, and we are not the same,
 So may we die to ha - tred, to all our hurt - ful ways,
 As salt en - hanc - es fla - vor, en - rich - es, and pre - serves,
 Come, knead and blend each tex - ture with strong and gen - tle hands,

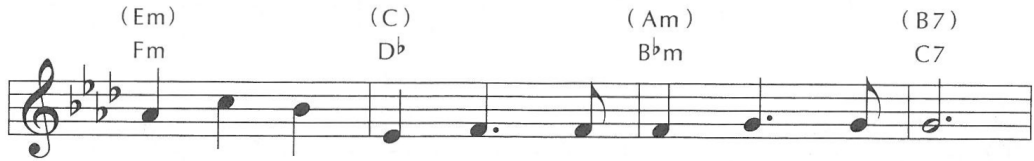


yet Your strong love has called us to meet in Je - sus' name.
 re - born to com-mon liv - ing, to love, to work, to praise.
 may earth re - joice to sa - vor a church that heals and serves.
 that we may be one bod - y, one loaf in man - y lands.

What is the World Like



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive;
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

1. God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains, God the mill - er
 2. God the nui - sance of the Pha - raoh, God the cleav - er
 3. God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the plant - er
 4. God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant, God the calm, de -

of the sand, God the jewel - er of the heav - ens,
 of the sea, God the pil - lar in the dark - ness,
 of the wheat, God the reap - er of the har - vest,
 ter - mined youth, God the ta - ble - turn - ing proph - et,

God the pot - ter of the land: you are womb of all cre -
 God the bea - con of the free: you are fount of all de -
 God the source of all we eat; you are host at ev - ery
 res - ur - rect - ed truth: you are pres - ent ev - ery

a - tion; we are form - less; shape us now.
 liv - erance; we are aim - less; lead us now.
 ta - ble; we are hun - gry; feed us now.
 mo - ment; we are search - ing; meet us now.

Anthem | Let Everything

André Thomas

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Praise ye the Lord, Praise God in his sanctuary.

Praise him in the firmament of his power.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Praise him for his mighty acts;

Praise him for his excellent greatness.

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet;

Praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise him, praise the Lord.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.



Connect

110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

919-467-0481

info@gfbccary.org

gfbccary.org

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

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

Leadership

Rev. Lauren Hayes, Senior Pastor

lauren.hayes@gfbccary.org

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org

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

stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org

Helen Bishop, Organist & Interim Choir Director

Alex Filby, Director of Administration and Facilities

alex.filby@gfbccary.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.