



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

September 6, 2026



Our Lady of the Journey: Mothers

by Kelly Lattimore

The third icon in a series of images with the same name, "Our Lady of the Journey" was inspired by a trip to the St. Ines mission while visiting our dear friend Jeff and the Novices of the Franciscan Novitiate community in California. Tucked behind a corner is a tiny statue called "La Peregrina" or "The Pilgrim." The date it was created and artist are unknown, however the community called it 'Our Lady of the Journey.' It got me thinking about all of the women in the world on a journey. The millions of Refugees fleeing Ukraine because of a senseless war, young women walking miles upon miles for drinking water, Mother's trying to find shelter and a better life for their families. Just as Mary did 2,000 years ago. The gospel imagery of the Mother Hen isn't used enough. These women are signs of protection, strength, hope and love, and the beauty of Motherhood.

- Kelly Lattimore (kellylattimoreicons.com)

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)



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Announcements | Church Events and Updates

Churchwide Potluck Today

Join us **today** after worship for a churchwide potluck! Bring a lunch dish to share and enjoy good food, great conversation, and fellowship as we kick off Community Hour together. Everyone is welcome!

Choir Rehearsals

Regular choir rehearsals will begin this Wednesday **September 9th** at **7:00pm**.

Join Us for Affordable Housing on September 19

ONE Wake's affordable housing campaign takes a step forward on **September 19** as we gather ourselves and future homeowners and residents seeking their place among us as neighbors. Join us as we hear stories of longing, innovation, and dedication to addressing the housing crisis. We'll present solutions to elected officials from throughout Wake County.

We cannot continue to operate in the same systems, hoping that developers will care enough to save a small portion of their property for those who want to live and work here. Housing at all levels of affordability is an investment in a thriving civic society. People are not thriving when they're spending more than a third of their wages on housing. More than a quarter of Wake County residents are experiencing that burden. If that describes your struggle too, we definitely want to see you on September 19.

Join Greenwood Forest and fellow sibling institutions and congregations in ONE Wake on **September 19 at 1:00pm** at the Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi (11401 Leesville Road Raleigh, 27613). RSVP at onewake.org/events.

Pledge Cards for 26-27

In an effort to formalize our commitment to the September 2026-August 2027 budget, we are asking everyone to complete a pledge card (available in the narthex) and return it to the church office by the end of September. We will be formally incorporating the submission of pledge cards into our worship service **today, September 6**. As you prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Greenwood Forest Baptist Church for the next 12 months, we ask that you increase your current giving by 10% or begin giving at the 10% level each month. This means that if you currently give \$300 a month, we ask that you give \$330. Or, if your current monthly income is \$3,000 a month, we ask that you give \$300. We appreciate the challenge this may be to your personal budget, and we are grateful for your faithful support of GFBC ministries.

Save the Date | Churchwide Workday

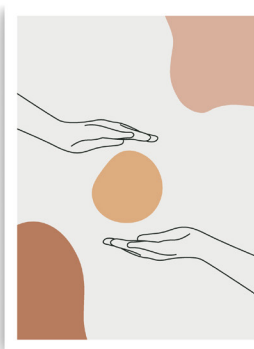
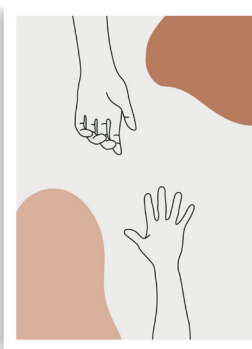
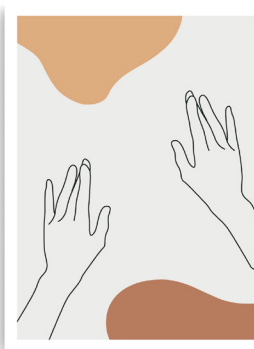
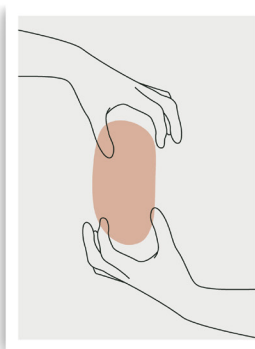
Our next church workday is **Sept. 20**, 1-3pm. Help is needed moving the backpack Buddy pantry, tables, chairs, and other items to their new home in the Fellowship Hall suite. These simple tasks are critical for our preparations for the Carr Center. Please join us.

September Bookclub | Kin



Join us on **Monday, September 28th** from **5:30-7:30pm** for a book club discussion facilitated by Rev. Lauren Hayes. *Kin* by Tayari Jones is a compelling novel exploring mothers and daughters, friendship and sisterhood, and the complexities of being a woman in the South. Through its characters and their stories, the novel considers how race, class, and geography intersect with our individual experiences. *The date listed in the Fall 2026 event Booklet is incorrect. The correct date is Monday, September 28th.*

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

Mercedes Auger

Richard Adair (Janice Medford's brother)

Jo Brooks

Diana Morde (at the death of her brother-in-law,
Tom Hartnett)

Rick Hollings (Mary Whitehouse's father)

Kathy Seeger Rhoades (Marie Seeger's daughter)

Alex Stacks (Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks's brother)

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 | Fifteenth 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.

Gathering and Passing of the Peace 📖

Chiming

Welcome and Call to Worship | Rev. Lauren Hayes 📖

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

✝ **Hymn** | Establish the Work of Our Hands (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Natalie Patten

Offertory | Near to the Heart of God | arr. Shelly Hamilton

Deacon Commissioning | Rev. Hayes

Volunteer Blessing | Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome

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** | Beautiful Things (pg. 9)

Reading | Psalm 46 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon | Rev. Hayes

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 invites us and God into our worship. 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.

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

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.

Communion

Please bring your pledge cards to the altar during 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. Hayes

Postlude | Let Us Break Bread Together | arr. Carlton Young

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.

We invite you to pledge your financial commitment to this upcoming church year by returning your pledge card in the basket at the front when you come to receive communion.

Thank You!

Our hymn leader today is Rev. Evan-Owoc Edwards and our guest pianist is Addie Smith.

Note:

This week is a special service of recognizing the lay leadership of the congregation and includes special prayers, commissions, and blessings. It's also the first Sunday of the month, when we regularly celebrate communion. Please note that the Prayers of the People and the Anthem (during communion this week) will return next week to our order of worship. They have not been removed from regular worship.

Please give a special thanks to all those who are serving the church this upcoming year!

Establish the Work of Our Hands

The Porter's Gate

If you don't build it, we labor in vain
Without your spirit, we stand with no strength
I know my life is passing away
But the works of your hands are what will remain
Let the favor of the Lord rest upon us

O Lord, establish the work of our hands
O Lord, establish the work of our hands

Teach us to number the length of our days
Pour out your power, we'll pour out your praise
Teach us to run, to finish the race
For only what's done in love will remain
Let the favor of the Lord rest upon us

O Lord, establish the work of our hands
O Lord, establish the work of our hands
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Beautiful Things

Gungor

All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change at all

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

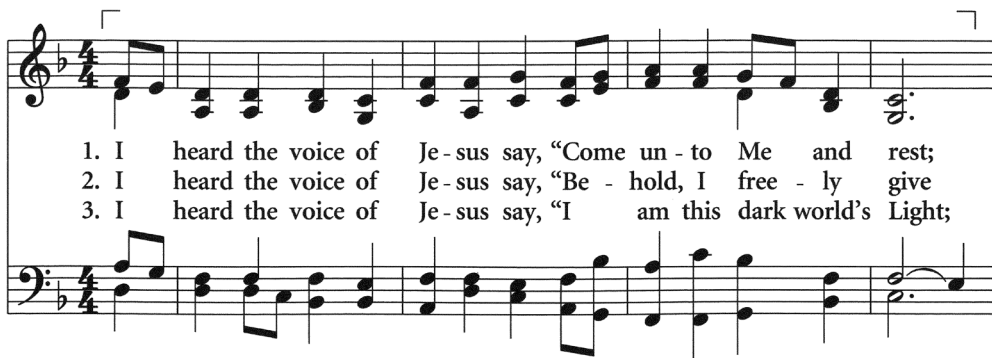
All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this ground at all

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

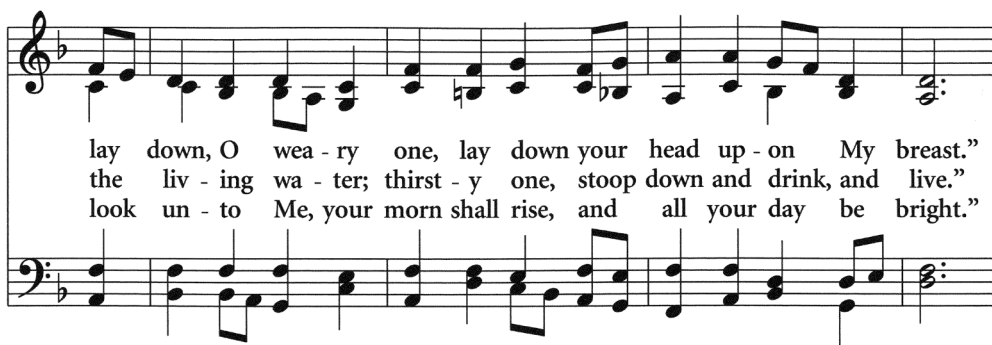
All around hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos, life is being found in you

You make me new
You are making me new

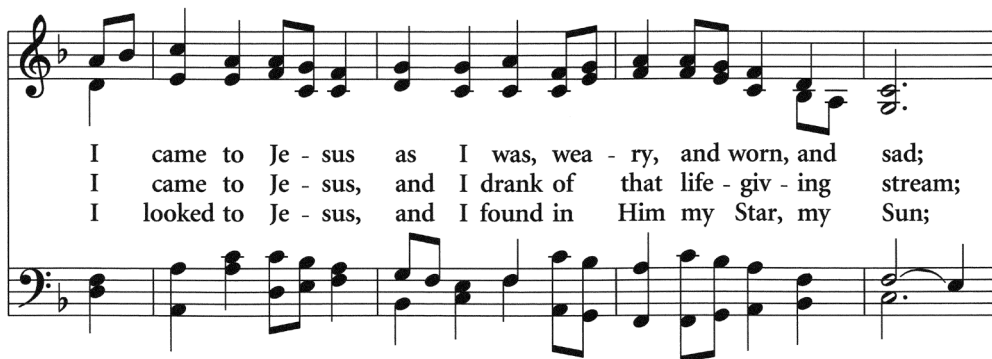
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



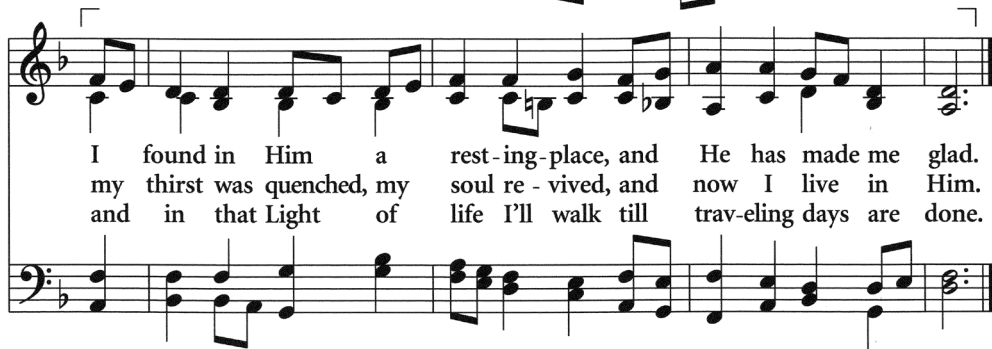
1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to Me and rest;
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's Light;



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 - lived, and now I live in Him.
and in that Light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Communion Anthem | Slow Me Down

The Porter's Gate

O good shepherd, would you teach me how to rest
I'm rushing on, will you make me to lie down
Will you build a fold by the waters that refresh
Will you call my name and lead me safely out

From my anxious drive to labor on and on
From the restless grind that has put my mind to sleep
Will you call me back and gently slow me down
Will you show me now what to lose and what to keep

O good shepherd, O good friend slow me down

When my table's bent with only greed and gold
And my grasping hands are afraid you won't provide
Will you pour the wine that loosens up my hold
Set your table here with what truly satisfies

On the busy streets trying to make myself a name
If the work is yours, there is nothing I can claim
Will you lead me home to the pastures of your peace
The house is yours, I'm sitting at your feet



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