



Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

October 4, 2026

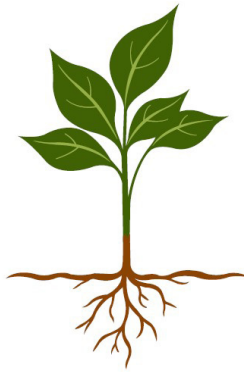


Consider the Lilies

Woodcut by Rev. Cara Hochhalter

Yes, let us consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air! In this beautiful text, Jesus reminds us to place ourselves within the context of our natural world. Are we not also part of this miraculous eco-system where all are cared for when there is balance? Jesus asks why we would worry about what we wear and what we will eat when we are part of this environment of abundance and beauty... In my image, the flower is one that grows in the Holy Land and covers the fields in a blue color. The shape of the image reminds me of a thumb print—perhaps God's thumbprint on our Earth! I like the call that asks us to examine our human footprint on our environment.

- Rev. Cara Hochhalter



Spiritual Practices FOR TROUBLING TIMES

Sermon Series: September 6-October 18

Turmoil in our world has been relentless. There is so much injustice to fight, and sometimes we feel like we are going to crumble under the weight of it all. On top of that, in our own personal lives, we and the people we love experience pain and tumult. Engaging in spiritual practices can help us sustain ourselves—and even enliven us!—in the midst of a world that is deeply troubled. In this series, we will explore practices of sabbath, silence, play, being in nature, beauty, and care.

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 Business Meeting and Potluck Today!

Join us **this morning at 11:00 a.m.** during Community Hour for a churchwide business meeting and potluck. Bring a dish to share, enjoy a meal together, and learn more about what's happening at GFBC.

Backpack Buddies

BackPack Buddies will pack on **October 6th at 10 am.**

Our packing location has changed -- we are now packing in the suite behind the Fellowship Hall. Enter through the Fellowship Hall door and walk to the back of the Fellowship Hall into the hallway.

Churchwide Work Day- October 17th

On **October 17th at 9am**, we will be having our last workday for preparation of TACC activities. We will be moving large and heavy items out of Bldg A and to their new home behind the Fellowship Hall using moving trucks. If you can lift 30-50 lbs with a partner, we need your help. Lunch will be provided. Contact Susan Beck at carygator1@gmail.com for more details.

Senate Candidates Assembly

ONE Wake is joining other like-minded, broad-based organizations from across North Carolina on **October 18** to demand commitments from US Senate candidates to working families. Join us at **4:30pm** at Wake Chapel Church on 3805 Tarheel Club Road Raleigh, 27604. Priorities include affordable housing, healthcare, public education, immigration, and workers' rights. Find out more at onewake.org/statewide.

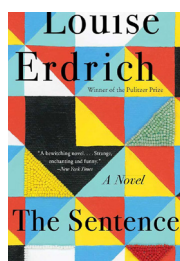
Pledge Cards for 26-27

Thank you all for your consideration to commit to giving to our church budget of \$542,000 this fiscal year. We received pledges from 32 giving units totaling \$267,668, which almost 50% of the budget. If you wish to make a pledge—or update your pledge—there are cards available on the welcome table in the narthex and in the church office.

Pastor Appreciation

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Be sure to thank all our pastors for their hard work! Also, in October we celebrate two special anniversaries in the life of GFBC for our pastor, Lauren Hayes. Lauren was originally hired as an Associate Minister 15 years ago on October 2, 2011. She was installed as our Senior Pastor ten years ago on October 23, 2016. We are grateful for Lauren's faithful service, tireless dedication, and strong leadership of our congregation these many years!

October Book Club: The Sentence

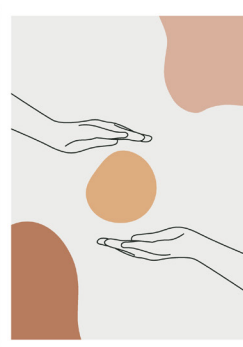
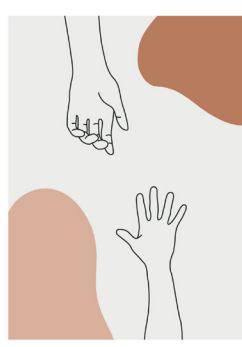
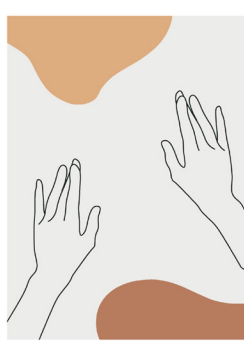
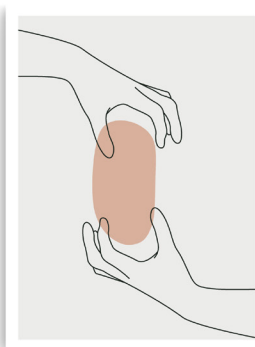


The Sentence by Louise Erdrich is a speculative fiction novel that tells the story of a small independent bookstore in Minneapolis. From November 2019 to November 2020, the store is haunted by an annoying customer. The journey between All Souls' Days that encapsulates the beginning of covid, the murder of George Floyd, and

the 2020 election asks what we owe to the living and the dead, but also to the reader and the book. Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks will be facilitating. Book club will be held the last week of October. The exact time and date is TBD.

RSVP at gfbccary.org/sentence

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

Mac Graham

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 | Nineteenth 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** | Morning Has Broken (pg. 8)

Offertory Prayer | Jazzmoné Sutton

Offertory | For the Beauty of the Earth | arr. Wayne L. Wold

Prayers of the People | 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** | This Is My Father's World (pg. 9)

Reading | Matthew 6:25-34 | Rev. Spears-Newsome

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

Thanks be to God.

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.

Sermon | Practice of Being in Nature | 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 | His Eye Is on the Sparrow (pg. 10) 

† Benediction | Rev. Hayes

Postlude | This Is My Father's World | arr. Lloyd Larson

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.

Communion

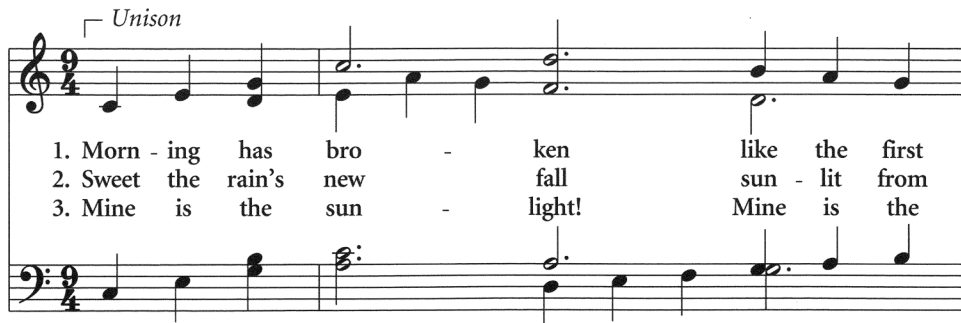
During Communion, we gather around the table as Christ showed us, to remember and give thanks. We have an open table—all who wish to take Communion are invited. We practice intinction, which means you receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. A gluten-free option is available on the altar.

Thank You!

Our hymn leader today is Blair Biser.

Morning Has Broken

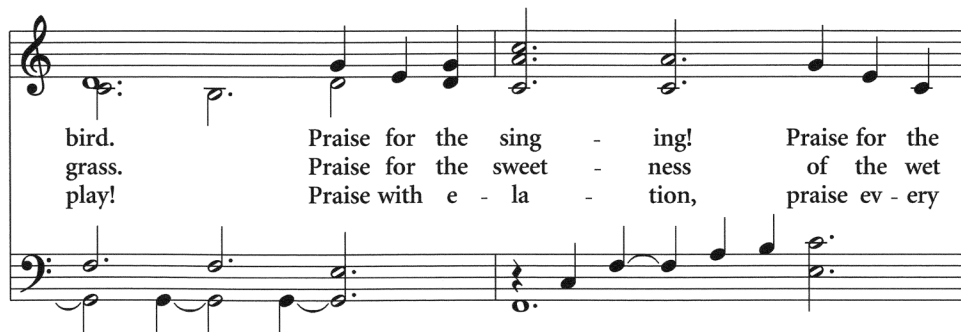
Unison



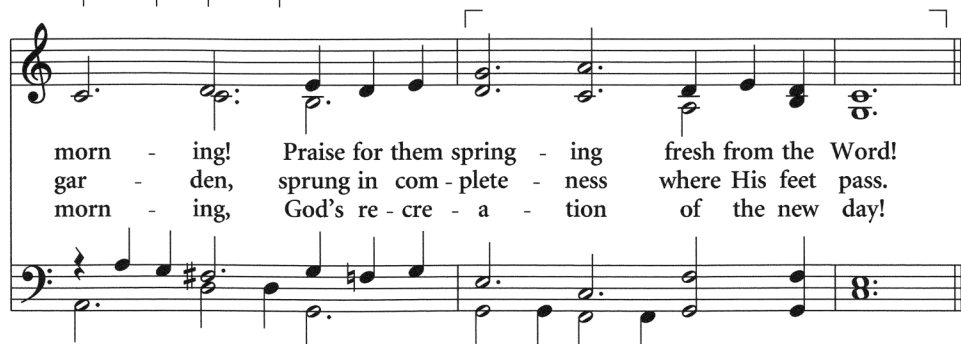
1. Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the



morn - ing, black-bird has spo - ken like the first
 heav - en, like the first dew - fall on the first
 morn - ing born of the one light E - den saw



bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery

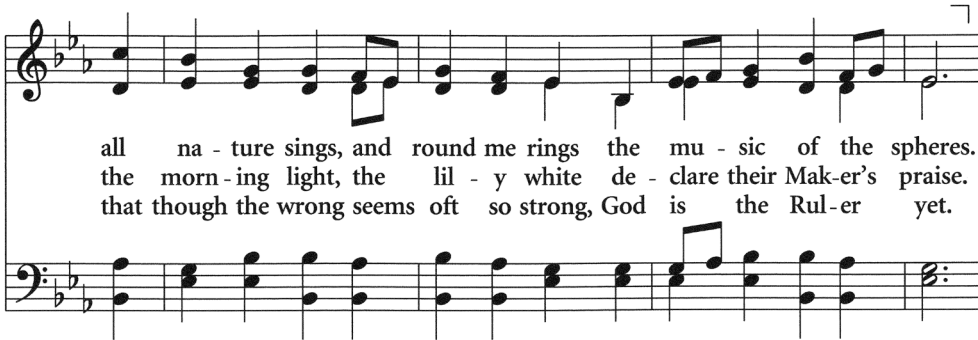


morn - ing! Praise for them spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where His feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

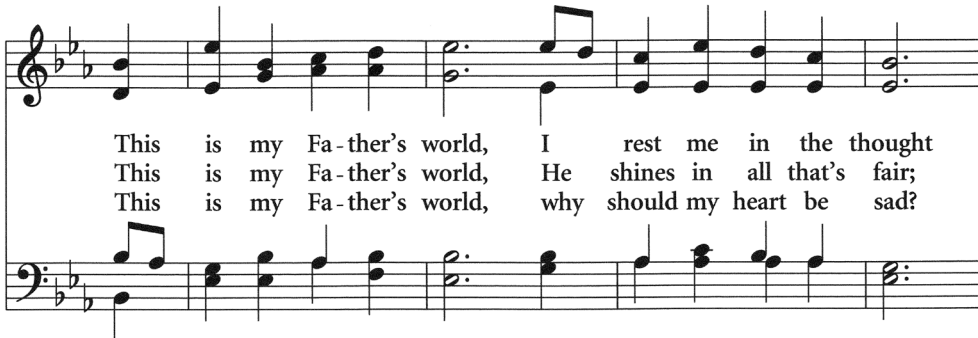
This Is My Father's World



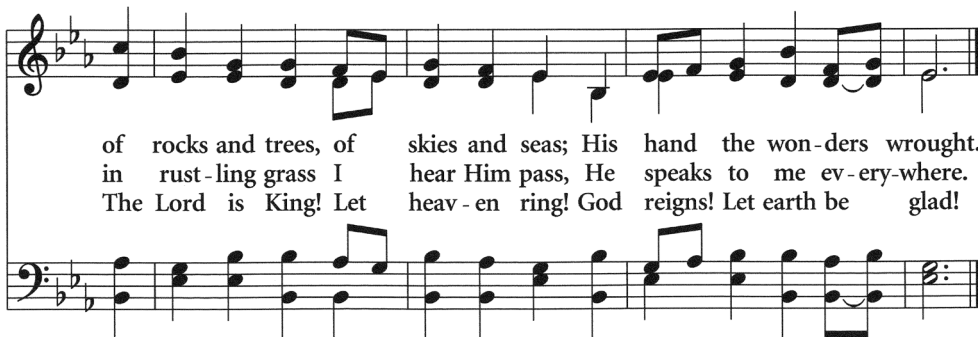
1. This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-tening ears,
 2. This is my Fa-ther's world, the birds their car - ols raise;
 3. This is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get



all na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 the morn - ing light, the lil - y white de - clare their Mak-er's praise.
 that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world, I rest me in the thought
 This is my Fa-ther's world, He shines in all that's fair;
 This is my Fa-ther's world, why should my heart be sad?



of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the won-ders wrought.
 in rust - ling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev-ery-where.
 The Lord is King! Let heav - en ring! God reigns! Let earth be glad!

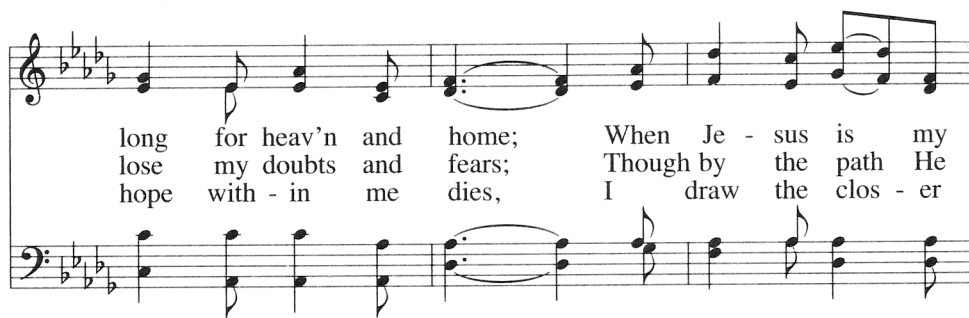
His Eye Is on the Sparrow



1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, Why should the shad-ows
 2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," His ten-der word I
 3. When ev-er I am tempt-ed, When ev-er clouds a-



come, Why should my heart be lone-ly, And
 hear, And rest-ing on His good-ness, I
 rise, When songs give place to sigh-ing When



long for heav'n and home; When Je-sus is my
 lose my doubts and fears; Though by the path He
 hope with-in me dies, I draw the clos-er



por-tion? My con-stant Friend is He:
 lead-eth, But one step I may see; His
 to Him, From care He sets me free;

eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es

me; His eye is on the spar-row, and I

know He watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm

hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free; For His

eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es me.

Text: Civilla D. Martin, 1866-1948

Tune: SPARROW, 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 7 7 with refrain; Charles H. Gabriel, 1856-1932; arr. by Horace Clarence Boyer, b.1935, © 1992



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Leadership

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Helen Bishop, Organist & Interim Choir Director

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