



# HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor: Randy Harris  
Associate Pastor: Debbie Layman  
Associate Pastor: Courtney Stevens  
Pastor Emeritus: Steve McCutchan  
Director of Christian Education: Heather Ferguson  
Director of Music: Chris Gilliam  
Organist: Susan Bates

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DECEMBER 1, 2024 • FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024

11:00 a.m.

As we light candles on the Retable, place the Bible at the Lectern, pour water in the Baptismal Font, and set the Communion Table, we are reminded of the light of Christ, present in Word and Sacrament.

## THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

### A WORD OF WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*Es ist ein Ros*

arr. John Hebden Schaffner

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In darkness and light,

**All: we will walk with God.**

One: In peace and in danger,

**All: we will walk with God.**

One: We will live in God's light,

**All: and we will walk in God's ways.**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

#### SUNG RESPONSE

Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night.  
Our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the light.  
Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vis - ion en - gage.  
One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.

(\*) When this symbol precedes an element of the service, you are invited to rise in body or spirit.

### PRAYER OF PRAISE

#### \*HYMN 88

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

Sing verses 1, 5-7

# THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved,  
but also our reluctance to love.

We confess our readiness to accept your forgiveness,  
but also our difficulty in forgiving.

We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redemption,  
but also our resistance to sharing in your redeeming work.

Forgive our failure to respond as we should.

Come to us anew, and by your grace,  
help us to receive you with joy, gratitude, and love.

*The prayer continues in a time of silent confession.*

### KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e -  
le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

During Advent, we sing Kyrie Eleison (“Lord, have mercy”) as a reminder of the penitential nature of this season of preparation for Christ’s birth.

### ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

#### \*A TIME OF SHARING GOD’S PEACE

#### \*RESPONSE 301

*All Are Welcome*

TWO OAKS

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.

# THE WORD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 2:1-5

Page 631

One: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 25:4-14

Jeff Ostrowski

A cantor will sing verses of the psalm; the choir and congregation are invited to sing the response.



NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 1:1-17

Page 1

One: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*From Generation to Generation:  
Jesus' Family, and Ours*

Randy Harris

## THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

GTG = *Glory to God*  
hymnal

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Nicene Creed*

GTG, p. 34

OUR GIFTS TO GOD (*INCLUDING 5 CENTS A MEAL*)

ANTHEM

*Keep Your Lamps*  
Chancel Choir

arr. André Thomas

The impetus for today's anthem was Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). Slaves who heard the parable interpreted it as Jesus coming to guide them to freedom—hence the exhortation in this spiritual to be ready when the time came.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.  
Children don't get weary till your work is done.  
Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

\*DOXOLOGY

GREENSLEEVES

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

# THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

\*HYMN 347

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The prayer continues ...*

Holy, Holy, Holy (*sung by all*)

Hymn 552

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. **Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

*The prayer continues ...*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

GTG p. 35

### SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

\*HYMN 106

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Tune on "Wachet Auf"*

Martha Sobaje

The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion. Gluten- and nut-free bread is available at the station to the right of the Lectern.

## WELCOME TO HIGHLAND

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**We extend a warm welcome** to all who come to this sanctuary today. May you find in this place and among the people gathered here grace and peace from the living Christ who has promised to be present with us.

To learn more about Highland, scan the QR code with your phone.



**If you are visiting with us today**, please include your contact information on the Visitor Card that you can find in the pew rack. You may place the card in the offering plate when it is passed. If you are a college or graduate school student, add your school name to the card as well.

**Large-print Bibles**, bulletins, and hearing aids are available. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

**A Loop Assisted Hearing System** is in place in Highland's Sanctuary. You can access this service by switching your hearing aid's T-coil to "On" and adjusting the volume control if needed; you may also request a headset from an usher.

**Childcare is available** during the worship service. Children up to age five are welcome in Room 112 located on the first floor near the Chapel. All volunteers are vaccinated and will be masked. **During worship** we also offer a room for Children & Parents, Room 216, which is a friendly space near the Sanctuary where parents can tend to the needs of their child and still share in the livestreamed service.

**We offer online ways to give** in addition to our traditional giving in the offering plate. To give via smart phone, you may text the word *highland* to 73256 or scan the QR code. We are thankful for your generous sharing!



**We are a Matthew 25 Congregation** of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to engage actively in the world around us, helping our faith come alive. As a Matthew 25 congregation we pledge to work on *building congregational vitality*, *dismantling structural racism*, and *eradicating systemic poverty*. Learn more at [pcusa.org/matthew25](http://pcusa.org/matthew25).

# WORSHIP NOTES

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**Lighting the Advent Wreath** today are Bob and Myra Hannah.

We welcome our guest organist, Beth Martin.

**Today's bulletin cover** is *Genealogy of Christ*, by the Rev. Laura Wright Pittman. © A Sanctified Art, 2022. It represents the women named in Jesus' genealogy, with Jesus represented as the rose in the center.

***Bless You!*—Our prayers for one another.** FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, please pray Bobby and Jane Boles; Zack, Cindy and Alta Brown; Rob Greene; BJ Swing; Jim and Kathy Wilson. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

## CALENDAR

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### Sunday December 1

- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 12:15 p.m. Worship Committee, Parlor
- 4:00 p.m. Earth Care Team, Salem Room
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship, Marshalls Department Store

### Monday December 2

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. Circle Meeting, Ardmore Room
- 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Committee, Home of Mark and Barbara Whitley
- 7:00 p.m. *Parenting the Teen Years* Book Group
- 7:00 p.m. Faith & Film, The Sherwood
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Class, Zoom

### Tuesday December 3

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Camel City Coffee
- 10:00 a.m. Circle Meeting, Ardmore Room
- 5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee
- 6:00 p.m. Property Committee, Room 127
- 6:30p.m. Children's Ministry Committee

### Wednesday December 4

- 11:00 a.m. Lamentations & Laughter, AB 5
- 5:15 p.m. Highland Ukuleles, Room 126
- 6:00 p.m. Fling Fellowship Meal, Fellowship Hall
- 6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Room 100

### Thursday December 5

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Ardmore Room
- 5:00 p.m. Global Service Committee, Salem Room
- 6:30 p.m. Congregational Care Committee, Home of Becky and Jeff Reynolds
- 7:30 p.m. Young Adults, West Salem Public

### Friday December 6

- 5:30 p.m. Membership Committee, Home of Katie and John Paterson

For more information about the events in this calendar, please pick up a copy of *Highlights*, the church newsletter, in the Narthex or Gallery Hall.

Check [www.highlandpres.org](http://www.highlandpres.org), for changes or cancellations.

# LIFE AT HIGHLAND

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## Churchwide

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**Fling Fellowship Meal, December 4, 6:00 p.m.** Join us for our monthly mid-week fellowship meal. Sign up now to reserve your spot!

To sign up for meals, service work, and more, scan this QR code.



## Service

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### Alternative Giving, through Advent

The focus for our Alternative Giving this year is caring for God's earth and for those impacted by the devastating effects of climate change. Our Global Service Committee and Earth Care Team are providing gifts of mangrove trees in Madagascar, as well as support for Black Mountain Counseling, and Be-Loved Asheville in Western North Carolina.

### Desserts for Samaritan Ministries

Scan the above QR code to sign up to contribute desserts for Samaritan Ministries' Christmas Eve meal. Drop off will be December 23 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.; we need 275!



## Children

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### Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m.

Children ages 2 through 4th grade are invited to *God's Good Neighborhood*, the third floor of our Education Building, for exciting new faith formation experiences and choir.



## Youth

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**Youth Fellowship, December 1, 4:00 p.m.** All Youth will share in an Angel Tree shopping night, meeting at Marshalls Department Store.

**Parenting the Teen Years Monthly Zoom** group meets at 7:00 p.m. Monday, December 2. Reach out to Courtney for the link.



## Adults

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### Church School Offerings

#### Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m.

*Calling All Angels*, Ardmore Room

*The Present Word*, Room 124

*The Lectionary Café*, Salem Room

*Parents' Conversation*, Room 126

Additional Advent Offering of *Calling All Angels*, via Zoom, 7:00 p.m., December 2, 9 and 16. Please note the content of the Zoom class is the same as the Sunday morning class.

### Coffee & Conversation

#### Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.

**Camel City Coffee, 110 Oakwood Dr.**

Join us for drop-in conversation with friends and Highland staff. All are welcome!

Scan this QR code for more information in our current *Highlights* newsletter.

