



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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2380 Cloverdale Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012

DECEMBER 8, 2024 • SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024

11:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

PRELUDE *Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion* George Frideric Handel
Sheena Ramirez, soprano

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The day of the Lord is coming; lift up your voices.

All: We await God's coming day with anticipation.

We seek the peace and comfort that God provides.

One: God will feed us like a shepherd,
gathering us in gentle arms.

All: Let us prepare the way for the one who is coming,
rejoicing in God's steadfast love.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

SUNG RESPONSE

Come quick-ly, Lord Je - sus, teach us how to pre - pare
For a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care.
Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.
One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

***HYMN 87** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

GENEVAN 42

The primary symbolism of the Advent candles has to do with light growing in darkness—leading up to the coming of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

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

THE CONFSSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFSSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFSSION

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us,
yet we often make plans without listening to you.

Too often, and sometimes too late,
we discover that our human agendas
can drown out our ability to hear your will for us.

Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to you,
that our lives may magnify your holy name forever.

The prayer continues in a time of silent confession.

KYRIE



Musical notation for the Kyrie Eleison. It consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. The third staff features a triplet of eighth notes on the word 'le'.

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

ANTHEM

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Becki Slagle Mayo

Youth Choir

Prepare the way of the Lord. Light the candle, watch and pray,
the Child of Hope will come to save. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord. Light the candle, watch and pray,
the Child of Peace will come to save. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord. Light the candle, watch and pray,
the Child of Joy will come to save. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord. Light the candle, watch and pray,
the Child of Love will come to save. Prepare the way of the Lord.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10

Page 640

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 85:9-14

Jeff Ostrowski



Lord, let us see your kind - ness, and grant us your sal - va - tion.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 1:26-38

Page 56

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

SERMON

From Generation to Generation:

Randy Harris

The Love That Casts Out Fear

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

GTG = *Glory to God*
hymnal

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

GTG, p. 35

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Kyle Hansen

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; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

ANTHEM *And the Glory of the Lord* George Frideric Handel
Chancel Choir

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it
together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Today's anthem,
from Handel's
Messiah, is based on
the text of
Isaiah 40:5

*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 SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

* HYMN 105 *People, Look East* BESANÇON

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: Let us go forth with love and courage,
All: **for nothing is impossible with God,
and God will strengthen us in our journey!**

One: The blessing of the triune God of grace,
who creates, redeems, and restores,
be with us now and always.

All: **Amen!**

*POSTLUDE *Magnificat* Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME TO HIGHLAND

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.

WORSHIP NOTES

Lighting the Advent Wreath today are Caitlin Carr, Jan Morgan, and Anne and Phil Wilson.

Today's bulletin cover is *Mary's Golden Annunciation*, by Carmelle Beaugelin. © A Sanctified Art, 2022. It explores the moment of encounter between Mary and the angel Gabriel.

***Bless You!*—Our prayers for one another.** FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8, please pray for Drew Bowers; Sam Bowman; Anne Dowell; Jean and RD Fortner; Alexia Hunt; Stewart Swing; Jim and Sue Womble. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

CALENDAR

Sunday December 8

9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages

11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary

2:00 p.m. New Members Class, Ardmore Room

4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Fellowship, AB3

5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Fellowship, AB 4

5:00 p.m. Vespers Service, Chapel

Monday December 9

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor

5:45 p.m. Stewardship Committee

7:00 p.m. Advent Class, Zoom

Tuesday December 10

10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Camel City Coffee

1:30 p.m. Moore Food Pantry, Curbside

5:45 p.m. Diaconate Meeting, Ardmore Room

6:30 p.m. Joint Officer Meeting, Fellowship Hall

7:30 p.m. Session Meeting, Ardmore Room

Wednesday December 11

11:00 a.m. Lamentations & Laughter, AB 5

5:30 p.m. Highland Ukuleles, Room 126

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Room 100

Thursday December 12

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Ardmore Room

11:30 a.m. Caring Friends

7:30 p.m. Young Adults, Christmas Fellowship, Home of Courtney Stevens

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, for changes or cancellations.

LIFE AT HIGHLAND



Churchwide

Advent Vespers Service, Today at 5:00 p.m., Chapel

All are invited to this time of prayer, reflection, and song.

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



Service

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 man-grove trees in Madagascar, as well as support for Black Mountain Counseling, and Be-Loved Asheville in Western North Carolina.

Gifts Under the Tree: The Community Service Committee is collecting gifts to share with the children and community of El Buen Pastor. Please bring unwrapped gifts to place under the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary. They may be brought between now and Christmas Eve. Items requested for their children's art classes include: paper towels, Kleenex, metallic markers, small canvases, letter foam stickers, markers, and acrylic paint.

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

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

Youth Fellowship, December 8, Middlers 4:00 p.m., Senior Highs 5:00 p.m.

Join us for a festive night of fun, food, and friends as we celebrate the season together.



Adults

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 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.

