



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

(336) 724-6303

www.highlandpres.org

2380 Cloverdale Avenue

Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012

DECEMBER 22, 2024 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

11:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Meditation on "Morning Star"

Margaret Sandresky

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the season of holy waiting.

All: **We wait for a baby to be born;
a child filled with the Holy Spirit.**

One: We wait for a baby to be born,
Emmanuel, God-is-with-us.

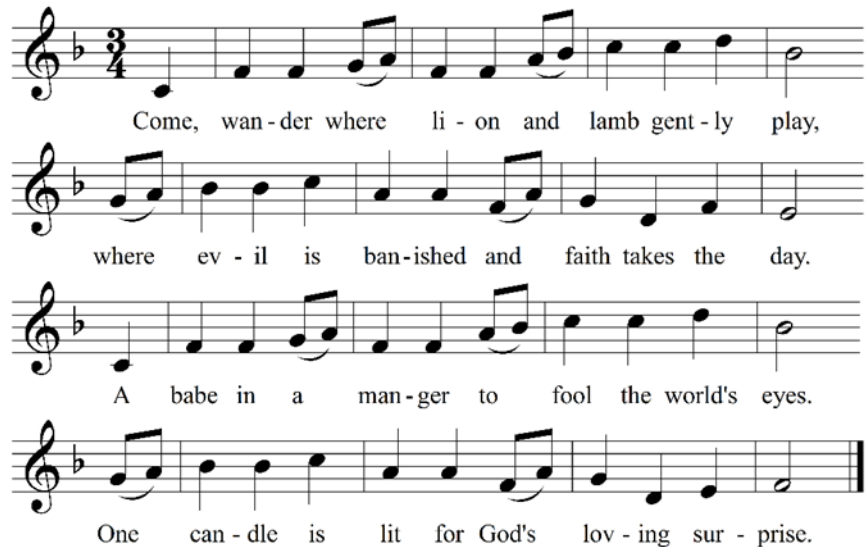
All: **We watch while the light of day begins to fill the sky.**

One: Come let us walk in the light of God's love!

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

SUNG RESPONSE



Come, wan-der where li-on and lamb gent-ly play,
where ev-il is ban-ished and faith takes the day.
A babe in a man-ger to fool the world's eyes.
One can-dle is lit for God's lov-ing sur-prise.

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

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. Sterling Procter

THE CONFSSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFSSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFSSION

Living God, you beckon us to wake from our sleep:
to open our eyes to the goodness of your reign,
the injustice of our world, and the space in between.

You call us to follow in the path of your love.

Forgive us, O God, when we choose
the easy way, the selfish way,
the fast way, the comfortable way.

Convict us, awaken us, empower us, and enliven us
that we may be messengers of your abundant 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 Micah 5:2-5a

Page 865

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 80:2-3, 15-6, 19

Jeff Ostrowski

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

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your
face and we shall be saved.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 1:39-55

Page 57

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

SERMON

From Generation to Generation:

Randy Harris

The Judgement and Redemption of the World

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Charles Peery

GTG = *Glory to God*
hymnal

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

GTG, p. 35

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Roberts Bass

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

E'en So Lord Jesus Come

Paul Manz

Chancel Choir

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

*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 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

arr. Robert Hobby

The choir will sing each verse,

with the congregation joining in with the refrain

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

J. S. Bach

Toccata on "Morning Star"

Margaret Sandresky

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 for 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. During worship we also offer a room for Children & Parents, Room 216, which is a friendly childcare space near the Sanctuary where parents can tend to the needs of their child.

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.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

*The Christmas wreaths on the outside doors have been given to the glory of God
in memory or in honor of Highland friends, family, and loved ones.*

- * In memory of her friends, LeeAnn Baker and Andrew Cook, by Erin Doyle
- * In memory of his friends, John Kelleher, Frank Murphy, and Dick Opdyke, by John Doyle
- * In memory of her twin brother and his wife, David and Janet Alexander, her parents, Genetha and Paul Alexander, his parents, Lily and Pierce Johnson Sr., by Nancy and Pierce Johnson
- * In memory of her husband, John Penick, by Jan Penick
- * In honor of a Joyous Christmas and a Blessed New Year, by John and Katie Paterson

WORSHIP NOTES

Lighting the Advent Wreath today are Brett, Wendy, Riley, and Berkley Hoge.

We welcome guest musicians to our worship leadership this day: Jared Gilbert, Bass Trombone; James Armstrong, Trumpet I; Cameron MacManus, Trombone; Suddeth Alexander, Trumpet II; Ben Weber, French Horn.

Today's bulletin cover is *Dance of the Soul*, by Hannah Garrity. © A Sanctified Art, 2022. It is inspired by the rejoicing of Mary's soul, as noted in Luke 1:47.

***Bless You!*—Our prayers for one another.** FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22, please pray for Richard, Susie, Ty and Whit Andrus; Mike and Lola Culler; Bob and Myra Hannah; Alice Michalove; Nargish Murchison; James, Gillian, Caitlin and Mallory Thomas; Darlene Williamson. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

CALENDAR

Sunday December 22

9:30 a.m. Advent Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Dolorosa Gathering, Chapel

Monday December 23

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
4:00 p.m. Samaritan Ministries Dessert Drop-Off, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday December 24

4:00 p.m. Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sanctuary

Wednesday–Thursday December 26–27

Office Closed, Merry Christmas!

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

Christmas Eve Services

Our family-friendly service will take place at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our children and middle school youth will lead us in a presentation of *An Unexpected Christmas*.

Our 7:00 p.m. service will feature candlelight, carols, anthems and other festive music, as we hear once again the joyous good news of the Christmas story.



Service

Christmas Alternative Giving

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 BeLoved Asheville in Western North Carolina. You can learn more and make a gift at a table in the Narthex or Gallery Hall following worship or on our website.

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. Items requested for their children's art classes include: paper towels, Kleenex, metallic markers, small canvases, letter foam stickers, markers, and acrylic paint.



Christian Education for All Ages

Church School will resume on Epiphany Sunday, January 5, at 9:30 a.m.

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

