



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 24, 2024 • Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve

December 22, 2024

4:00 p.m.

The Gathering of the People of God

Christmas Greeting

Prelude

Meditation on Carols

Sarah Certi

Call to Worship

One: The people are gathered,
and the candles will soon be lit.

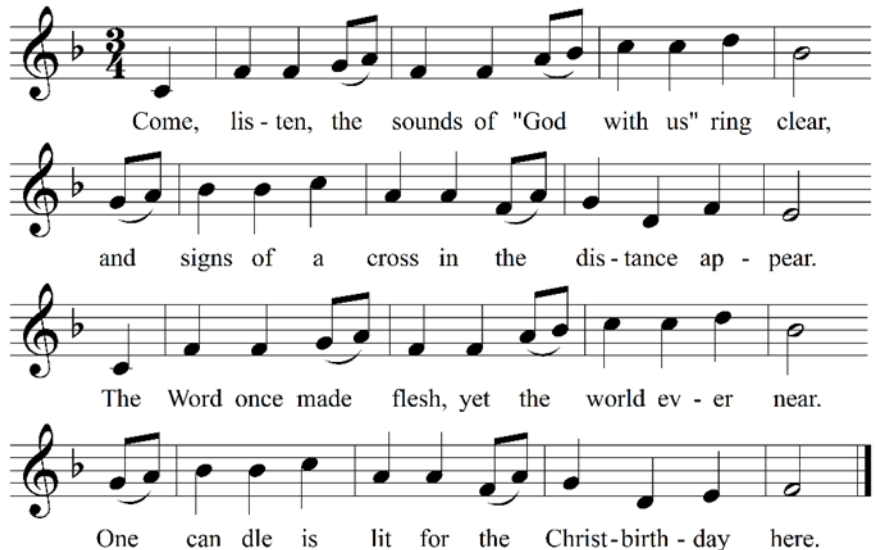
All: Joy fills the air and love fills our hearts,
all because of the Child who is born for us!

One: Come and worship, come and worship!

All: Worship Christ the newborn king!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Sung Response





Come, lis - ten, the sounds of "God with us" ring clear,
and signs of a cross in the dis - tance ap - pear.
The Word once made flesh, yet the world ev - er near.
One can dle is lit for the Christ - birth - day here.

Prayer of Praise

*Carol 133 (w. 1, 4)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

 Ring your bells 

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.

Christmas Prayer

A Gift for Christ

Offertory

The Joy of Christmas

Laura Dolfred

Prayer of Dedication

An Unexpected Christmas

Carol

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous Star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Have You Ever Wondered?

Carol

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

A Risky Plan

Special Music

What Child Is This

Haley Chapman and Cora Eberle

A Prince Born in a Stable

Carol

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

A Clue in the Stars

Carol

The First Nowell

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

The financial offering will be given to Crisis Control Ministry. Make checks payable to "Highland Presbyterian Church" marked for "Crisis Control Ministry." The gifts under the tree will be delivered to our neighbors at El Buen Pastor.

An Unexpected Christmas is a drama led by our children telling the story of God's decision to come into the world as the Christ child.

A Song for the Shepherds

*All other children (and any accompanying adults) will be invited to come forward and take their part at the Chancel steps.

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Far Away Magi Learn the News

Carol

We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

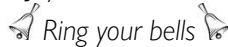
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

The Rest of the Story

The Sending Forth of the Children of God

***Carol**

Joy to the World!



Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Celebration of Carols

Ian Hute

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. Please share your completed card during the offering. If you are a college or graduate 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.

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 Wendy, Maddie Grace, Caroline, and Charlie Wagoner.

Participants in *An Unexpected Christmas* are Robert Davis (Narrator); Claire Eberle (God); Ansley Ward and Lydia Bass (Little Angels); Caroline Wagoner (Archangel); Sam Bryant-Prosterman & Parker Bragg (Speaking Army Angels); Oliver Chandler, Stephen Doughton, Jonah Wisner (Supporting Army Angels); Cora Eberle (Small Angel); Maddie Grace Wagoner (Wise Angel); Charlie Murray, Amelia Murray, Riley Wisner (Supporting Angels); Russell Plaisted (Big Star); Kara, Stephen, and Charles Doughton (Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus); Robert Davis, Cate Marler Barksdale, Mary Anna Davis (Directors).

Today's bulletin cover is from *Nativity*, by John August Swanson.

You are invited to place unwrapped gifts for our neighbors at El Buen Pastor under the Christmas Tree.

The offering tonight will be given to Crisis Control Ministry, a Winston-Salem agency that provides financial assistance for rent, utilities, fuel, and food for families and individuals in crisis. The ministry is funded by churches, foundations, and other organizations. Checks may be made out to Highland Presbyterian Church and marked for “Crisis Control Ministry.”

LIFE AT HIGHLAND



Churchwide

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



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 gifts will be 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 on our website.



Children

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m., will resume January 5

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 will resume January 5. For information about the upcoming Mystery Trip (January 17–20), please contact Courtney Stevens.



Adults

Church School Offerings will resume on January 5, Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m.

The Life and Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
Ardmore Room

The Present Word, Room 124

Parents’ Conversation, Room 126

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.

