



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 24, 2024 • CHRISTMAS EVE

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7:00 p.m.

PRELUDE *Variations on Von Himmel Hoch*

Walter Pelz

CHOIR PROCESSIONAL *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

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

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.

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

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

A WORD OF WELCOME

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

ANTHEM*A Tiny Child Will Come*

Don Besig

Chancel Choir

Soon a tiny child will come, as prophets have foretold,
A tiny babe whose humble birth will warm the winter cold.

Soon a tiny child will come, God's promise to fulfil,
To live among us here on earth and do his father's will.

But will we know him when he comes, this little tiny king?
Will our hearts and minds be open to the joy he brings?

Soon a tiny child will come. Prepare to let him in,
For he alone can make us whole, and free the world from sin.

And now the world awaits the news; we know the time is near.
Soon a star will light the winter sky to show he is here!

Soon a tiny child will come, a gift from God above,
To teach us all to live in peace, and fill our lives with love.
He will teach us how to love!

FIRST LESSON

TO US A CHILD IS BORN

Isaiah 9:2-7

ANTHEM*Whisper, Whisper*
Chancel Choir

Jay Althouse

Whisper! Whisper! Tiny baby in a manger lay, baby born today.
Shout it out from the highest mountain, hear what I say.
Shout it out from the hills and valleys, baby born today.
Shout it out with a thousand voices, let the music play.
Shout it out, go tell all the people, tiny baby is born today.
Mary had a baby, yes my Lord, Glory hallelu!

SECOND LESSON

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:1-7

HYMN 119Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

THIRD LESSON

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS

Luke 2:8-16

ANTHEM*Candlelight Carol*
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the
stars in the sky? How can you measure the love of a mother?
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow. Shine on his cradle 'til
breaking of dawn. Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing
"The Christ child is born."

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him. Seraphim 'round him, their vigil will keep. Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

Find him in Bethlehem laid in a manger, Christ our redeemer, asleep in the hay. Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation, a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

FOURTH LESSON THE WORD BECAME FLESH John 1:1-5, 14

*HYMN 123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

A GIFT FOR CHRIST

ANTHEM *Away in a Manger* Mack Wilberg
(See text at Hymn 115)

MEDITATION Randy Harris

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC *Appalachian Carol* arr. Heidi Hart
Heidi Hart, Harp

A LITANY OF THE INCARNATION

One: In light and in darkness, in peace and in confusion,

All: Jesus Christ wants to make his home and meet his friends.

One: He is the Light of Life.

All: He is the hope for the world.

One: In him there is neither Jew nor Gentile,
neither insider or outsider.

All: All are one in Jesus Christ.

One: In him there is neither rich nor poor,
neither black nor white;

All: All are one in Jesus Christ.

One: He is the Light of Life.

All: He is the hope for the world.

One: The Word became flesh:

All: He came among us. He was one of us. Amen!

SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT

INTRODUCTION

HYMN 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

At the beginning of the carol, the candle lighters will approach the Chancel, receive their light, and proceed to distribute the light among the congregation.

*CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

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! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure Light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

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.

*A MOMENT OF SILENCE

*CAROL

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

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.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Chorale Fantasia on In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. Bach

WORSHIP NOTES

Lighting the Advent Wreath tonight are Dawn, Kenneth, Audrey, and Reece Nelson.

We welcome Reid Gilliam, organist.

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."

A word of caution about candles in tonight's service: Please remember to keep the lighted candle upright. The unlighted candle should be turned to reach the flame of the lighted one. This method will minimize wax spilling and wax burns on skin. After you extinguish your candle, please hold it upright until the wax solidifies in the plastic candle cup.

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 tonight, 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.

During worship we offer a room for Children & Parents, Room 216, which is a friendly child-care 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.

LIFE AT HIGHLAND

🌍 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 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. 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.

☀️ Children

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m., will resume on 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.

Mystery Trip (January 17-20) signups for senior high youth are happening now!

📖 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.

