



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

FEBRUARY 16, 2025 • SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

11:00 a.m.

As we light candles
on the Retable,
place the Bible at
the Lectern, pour
water in the Baptis-
mal Font, and set
the Communion
Table, we are re-
minded of the light
of Christ, present
in Word and
Sacrament.

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

GTG = *Glory to God*
hymnal

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

PRELUDE *This Day Is Full of Joy* Johann Sebastian Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Sing to the glory of God's name. Give God glorious praise!

One: Say to the Lord, "How awesome are your deeds!"

All: Let us sing praise for what God has done!

PRAYER OF PRAISE

***HYMN 611** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you are a God who keeps promises.

In our prayers and songs we say that we want to be Christians,
but then we forget our promises.

Too often, our actions do not match up with our words.

We say mean things to other people, we hurt their feelings,
we think of ourselves first, and, worst of all, we ignore you.

Lord, forgive us, and hear our prayer, for Jesus' sake.

The prayer continues in a time of silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

***GLORIA PATRI**

GTG 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

*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.

God's grace and forgiveness call for a response! We respond to this good news with song, and with words and gestures of welcome and peace.

THE WORD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jeremiah 17:5-10

Page 719

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 6:17-26

Page 64

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

SERMON

Blessings, Woes, and the Way of Jesus Christ

Randy Harris

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*HYMN 828

More Love to Thee, O Christ

MORE LOVE TO THEE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Declaration of Faith*, PCUSA

Christ calls us to live for our neighbors.
Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor
to include those ordinarily despised and excluded.
His life in behalf of others led to persecution and death.
He commanded his disciples to live the same way.
We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
lives that recognize all people in all cultures
as our neighbors on this planet.

Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements
in serving and helping our neighbor,
to treat our neighbor's needs as our own,
to care passionately for the other's good,
to share what we have.

A Declaration of Faith is a summary of Christian faith that was written in the 1970s. While it does not have confessional status, it has been commended by the church for use in worship and study.

“Jesus is Lord!” is
the most ancient af-
firmation of faith
in the Church.

It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity,
avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival.
We are obligated to speak the truth in love,
to listen with patience and openness,
to love our enemies, to accept the risk and pain
which love involves.

Jesus is Lord!
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 *Bright Canaan* arr. Robert Shaw
Chancel Choir

I'm bound fair Canaan's land to see, I am bound for the land of Canaan.

Oh, Canaan; bright Canaan! I'm bound for the land of Canaan,
Oh, Canaan, it is my happy home, I am bound for the land of Canaan.

I'll join with them who've gone before, I am bound for the land of Canaan.
Where sin and sorrow are no more, I am bound for the land of Canaan.
Our songs of praise shall fill the skies, and higher still our joys they rise.

The word “doxology” means “words of glory.” And so, the Doxology is an expression of praise and thanksgiving for the glory of God.

*DOXOLOGY GTG 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

* HYMN 700

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: Life is short, and we do not have too much time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.

All: So let us be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

One: Let us go out into the world in peace, have courage,
hold onto what is good, and return no one evil for evil.

**All: May we strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak,
help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord,
and rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

One: May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God,
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

All: Amen.

*POSTLUDE

Tocatta in F Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

Christian worship and service does not end at the conclusion of the Service for the Lord's Day. The mission of the church remains the same in this and every season: we go forth to love and serve the Lord, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

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's 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.

WORSHIP NOTES

Bless You!—Our prayers for one another. FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16, please pray for Bruce Ayres and Patsy Livingston; John Calhoun; Andy and Margaret Cundiff; Steve and Ellen McCullough; Steve and Marty Moore; Aaron, Eileen, Madeline and Matthew Ronshheim; Rebecca and Bob Schwartz; Steve Zorn. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

CALENDAR

Sunday February 16

- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Parents, Faith & Sexuality Retreat, AB 5
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 12:15 p.m. Middle School Youth, Faith & Sexuality Retreat, Ardmore Room
- 2:45 p.m. Earth Care Team, Salem Room
- 4:00 p.m. Dolorosa Gathering, Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. New Members Class, Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth, Faith & Sexuality Retreat, Ardmore Room

Monday February 17

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
- 5:45 p.m. Long Range Planning, Ardmore Room
- 7:00 p.m. Matthew 25 Book Group, Salem Room

Tuesday February 18

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Panera Bread
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Christian Education Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Listening to Black Voices Group

Wednesday February 19

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

Thursday February 20

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Ardmore Room
- 5:45 p.m. Community Service Committee, Ardmore Room
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee

Friday February 21

- 7:00 p.m. Young Adults, Hockey Game

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

Acoustic Café, Sunday, February 23, join us as we enjoy music, snacks, coffee, tea, and fellowship together in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m.

Women & Men's Montreat Retreats are available for sign-up now! The Women's Retreat will take place March 14-16, and the Men's Retreat will take place April 25-27, both at Montreat Conference Center. During both retreats, a portion of our time together will be spent volunteering locally for Hurricane Helene recovery efforts.

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



Service

Moore School Food Pantry, Highland and Temple Emmanuel support Moore Elementary School by providing a food pantry for students and their families. For the month of February, we are asking for donations of pasta.

Meal Preparation for Flourish Program, Flourish, a program of The Shalom Project, focuses on women in poverty. We are looking for meal providers for about 30 women and children for two dates in March. Contact Debbie, dlayman@highlandpres.org, if interested.



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 and families are participating in a Faith & Sexuality Retreat today. Please note the calendar for specific times.



Adults

Church School Offerings

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m.

A Hidden Wholeness, Ardmore Room

The Present Word, Room 124

Parents' Conversation, Room 126

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

Panera Bread, 2209 Cloverdale Avenue.

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

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

