



LENT

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
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MARCH 23, 2025 • THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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MARCH 23, 2025

11:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Jesus, with Us Abide

James Southbridge

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

All: Praise the Lord!

One: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

All: Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN 49

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

SPECIAL MUSIC

A Plea For Mercy
Handbell Choir

Jason W. Krug

THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess our comfort
with setting our minds not on divine things,
but on human things.

Doubting your loving care,
we grab for more than we need.

Doubting your loving purposes,
we shrink from living as your followers.

Doubting your loving plan,
we become stumbling blocks in your creation.

Forgive us that we may gain new life in you,
for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray.

The prayer continues in a time of silent confession.

As we light candles
on the Retable,
place the Bible at
the Lectern, pour
water in the
Baptismal Font,
and set the
Communion Table,
we are reminded of
the presence of
Christ in Word
and Sacrament.

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

KYRIE

Kyrie Eleison



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.

During the season of Lent, we omit the singing of the Gloria Patri. The English translation of Kyrie Eleison is *Lord have mercy.*

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 16:21-28

Page 18

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 3:1-15

Page 50

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

SERMON

Through the Waters:
The God Who Calls

Randy Harris

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*HYMN 432

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

REPTON

A Declaration of Faith is a summary of the faith of the church. While it is not included in *The Book of Confessions*, it is commended to the church for use in worship and study.

The grace of God calls for a response! Our giving is offered in a spirit of gratitude for God's blessings.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** adapted from *A Declaration of Faith, PCUSA*

**When Abraham's descendants were slaves in Egypt,
God heard their cries and prayers.
God remembered the promises made to their ancestors
and sent Moses to free them from bondage.**

**We declare God's steadfast love and sovereign power.
The Lord can be trusted to keep promises.
The Lord still acts in the affairs of individuals and nations
to set oppressed and persecuted people free.**

**We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help.
We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power.
We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God.
To worship God is highest joy.
To serve God is perfect freedom. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jud Milam

**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

O Thou in Whose Presence My Soul Takes Delight

Chancel Choir

arr. David Peninger

O Thou in whose presence my soul takes delight, on whom in affliction I call.
My comfort by day, and my song in the night, my hope, my salvation, my all!

Where dost thou, dear Shepherd, resort with thy sheep, to feed them
in pastures of love? O why in the valley of death should I weep,
or alone in this wilderness rove?

O why should I wander, an alien from thee, or cry in the desert for bread?
Thy foes will rejoice when my sorrows they see, and smile at the tears I have shed.

Restore, my dear Savior, the light of thy face; Thy soul-cheering comfort impart;
and let those sweet tokens of thy pardoning grace bring joy to my desolate heart.

***DOXOLOGY**

GTG 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

GTG = *Glory to God*
hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*** HYMN 744**

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE (Hymn 70) *What Does the Lord Require of You?

MOON

The response will be sung in canon.

*All low voices will sing part I,
middle voices part II, and high voices part III.*

***POSTLUDE**

Ein feste Burg

Helmut Walcha

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 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.

We are now an Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)! We pledge in our *worship* and discipleship to celebrate God's grace and glory in creation. Our *education* strives to encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation. We seek to manage, maintain, and upgrade our *facilities* to respect and cherish all creation, and our *outreach* will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.



WORSHIP NOTES

Today we welcome our guest organist, Beth Martin.

Bless You!—Our prayers for one another. FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 23, please pray for Stephen, Kara, Stephen III, William and Charles Doughton; Grady, Kristine and Sophie Elliott; Marc, Laura, Heidi, Clare and Morgan Gillis; Mary Jane Jackson; Janice McBride; Margaret Pike, David Werle, Katie and Gracen Pike-Werle; Forrest and Virginia Truitt; Wendy, Maddie, Charlie and Caroline Wagoner. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

CALENDAR

Sunday March 23

- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 12:15 p.m. Fellowship Meal, Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Earth Care Team, Salem Room
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship, Crossnore Ropes Course
- 4:00 p.m. Dolorosa Grief Gathering, Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth, AB 4

Monday March 24

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee, Ardmore Room
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Study Group
- 7:00 p.m. Poverty Book Group, Salem Room

Tuesday March 25

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Panera Bread
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Salem Room
- 1:00 p.m. Moore Food Pantry, Curbside

Wednesday March 26

- 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 March 27

- 4:00 p.m. Membership Committee, Ardmore Room
- 7:30 p.m. Young Adults, Little Richard's

Friday March 28

- 5:30 p.m. Family Fun Night, Fellowship Hall

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

Wednesday, April 2, Fling Meal

We hope many of you will join us for a homemade mid-week fellowship meal. Invite a friend, and reserve your spot today!

Easter Lilies, if you would like to place a lily in the Sanctuary in honor/memory of a loved one for Easter Sunday, please fill out and submit a form before April 6. Forms may be found in Highlights or in the Gallery Hallway.

To **sign up** for 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 March, we are asking for donations of canned beans.

March Madness Pasta Sauce Drive

Our annual friendly pasta sauce rivalry is underway! We will receive your March Madness donations of pasta sauce now through April 6. You can vote for your favorite team by putting the sauce in their box located in the Gallery Hall. Crisis Control will be the winner!



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 will gather at Crossnore Ropes Course at 3:00 p.m. for an afternoon of fun challenges.

Senior Highs gather at 6:30 p.m. in AB4 to continue planning for Youth Sunday.

Sign Up for summer trips now! Senior High Montreat Youth Conference will be June 8-14, and Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference is July 15-18.



Adults

Church School Offerings

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m.

Hard & Holy Work, Ardmore Room

Lectionary Café, Salem Room

The Present Word, Room 124

Parents' Coffee & Conversation, Room 126

Monday Evenings, 7:00 p.m.

Hard & Holy Work, Zoom

Books are available in the Gallery Hall for \$15.

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

Panera Bread, 2209 Cloverdale Avenue.

Join us for drop-in conversation with friends and Highland staff. All are welcome! *(Please note we will be returning to our non-winter location of Camel City Coffee in April!)*

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

