

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn, *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation and response.

Listening Assist Devices are available. Please see our sound technician or an usher for assistance. Large print hymn sheets are also available upon request for visually impaired persons. An usher can provide a copy for you.

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Nearly 65% of people at Highland use online giving to make financial gifts to the church. We invite you to be one of them! Scan the QR code in the section below to be directed to our online giving page.

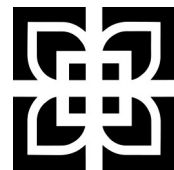
Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Wednesday Night Programming and Meals continue:** Meal costs are \$10 per person, \$5 for children, with a maximum of \$25 per family. We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship! We are still in need of one more person each week to help dry dishes. **Contact Kathy Belcher (klbelcher53@gmail.com) if you can help. Reservations need to be made each Monday by 12:00 PM for that week's meal by contacting Kathleen Gordon (kathleen@hbclouisville.org) or using the QR code to the right.**
- **We are thrilled to host author Cole Arthur Riley at Highland tonight at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary.** This event is made possible through generous funding from the Lily Endowment for Renee Purtlebaugh's sabbatical and our entire church family. **Registration is required and you can use the QR code above.**
- **For the following two Wednesdays,** we will show and discuss the recent documentary *1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture*, a film that follows the story of researchers who trace the origins of the anti-LGBTQ movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible. The film has been shown at festivals and at churches across the country and is now available to stream online at 1946themovie.com. We still start the film just after 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Next Sunday, September 22,** we will have the privilege of hearing in worship from our *Honor Deacons*: Procter Eubank, Nancy Goodhue, Jim Hawkins, and Reece Little. What a gift that we can receive from their deep wells of wisdom and spiritual insight. You won't want to miss hearing from them!
- Our next Quarterly Church Conference will be **Sunday, September 22 at 4:00 PM on Zoom.** You will hear updates on our budget and stewardship season, the Sacred Space Campaign and Renovation, our strategic planning work with the Center for Congregational Health, and a proposal that Highland join the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. A full agenda will be emailed, along with a Zoom link, next week.



I know you have an idea of how this ends: you don't, not really.
I know you have a preference for how this journey unfolds: you will be surprised.
I know you have a long list of things that you can't imagine questioning or changing or releasing: eventually, you will.
I know you feel like the old version of you is dying: you're being born again.

-Sarah Bessey, *Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith*



**HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith*

Our Mission... God's Love compels us to cultivate a safe, welcoming community of faith where all are challenged to discover, grow, and serve, as together we boldly live out the worship that is our very lives.

Jerre and Frank Bassett
CUSTODIANS

Bob Cunningham
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Kathleen Gordon
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Joseph Parr
ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Mary Alice Birdwhistell
PASTOR

Cheryl Davis
OFFICE MANAGER

Paul Henderson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Lauren Blackwell
INTERIM MINISTRY COORDINATOR
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Megan Fuller
CHILDREN AND FAMILY
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Robin Ramsay Lee
DEACON CHAIR

Justin Sizemore
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

8:45 AND 10:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Renee Purtlebaugh

I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD, THAT MADE THE MOUNTAINS RISE

Prelude

Florence Price

A Pleasant Thought

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 19)

Joey Eubank (8:45)
Larry Gray (11:15)

The heavens are telling the glory of God!
May our worship reflect God's glory.
The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
May we see each other as the handiwork of God.
Let our prayer and praise, our singing and proclamation project the love of God.
We commune with Christians around the world, with Christians throughout time.
With Christians across geography and across time.
Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise (19) †

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

FOREST GREEN

Prayer of Praise †

Joey Eubank (8:45)
Larry Gray (11:15)

Glory to the Creator †

MEINEKE

Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Spirit, One.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 19: 1-10 (Pew Bible page 488 – OT)

Justin Sizemore

ALL THAT BORROWS LIFE FROM THEE IS EVER IN THY CARE

Choral Anthem

Nearer, My God, to Thee

arr. Dan Forrest

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee. E'vn though it be a cross that raiseth me. Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God to Thee, nearer to Thee. Oh, let the way appear, leading to heaven. All that Thou sendest me, in mercy given. Thy Spirit beckons me, nearer, my God to Thee, nearer to Thee. There, in my Savior's home, safe and at rest. There in my Savior's love, perfectly blest. Age after age to be nearer, my God to Thee! Nearer, my God to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

Prayer of Confession

Paul Henderson

Words of Assurance

Exchange of Peace †

Justin Sizemore

Hymn (631) †

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

DONNA

† *For those who are able, we invite you to stand.*

**GOD FORMED THE CREATURES WITH THE WORD
AND THEN PRONOUNCED THEM GOOD**

The Gospel Reading †

Mark 8: 34-38 (Pew Bible page 43– NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Children grades K-2 may be dismissed for Children's Worship (11:15)

Sermon

For the Living of These Days: Letting Go

AND EVERYWHERE THAT WE CAN BE, THOU, GOD, ART PRESENT THERE

Hymn of Response †

Faith Begins by Letting Go

DIX

**Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure,
pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.**

**Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.**

**Faith matures by recaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.**

Offertory Prayer †

Procter Eubank (8:45)
Mary Ida Gray (11:15)

Offertory

Florence Price

Allegretto

News for the Community

Renee Purtlebaugh

In response to your decision, **we welcome you! We covenant to be the family of God for you in this place. We hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, as we journey in faith together.**

For the ministries that shape the life of our community, **thanks be to God.**

Doxology †

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One, Amen.**

Benediction †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Postlude

Florence Price

Festal March

*In worship at Highland, we aim to speak and sing a theology that reflects an expansive and inclusive God. As we begin the Lord's Prayer today, we will use the words "Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father..." to offer a fuller image of who God is. Within the prayer, some of us use the word "kingdom" and others prefer the word "kin-dom" to refer to the beloved community of God. We invite you to join us in using your own creative and intentional language as you pray, knowing that no single word will ever capture the essence of who God is.