

## Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn, *Like a Mother with Her Children*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation and response.

Our thanks to Kathy Collier for her musical leadership in today's services.

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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Worship care is available for infants, toddlers and preschoolers during worship. Our greeters are available to help you navigate our building. A Worship Cart with activities to engage children in the pew is located in the Commons. Children's Worship meets most Sundays during the school year for children in grades Kindergarten-2nd during the second half of the 11:15 am worship service, as we explore what it means to worship God together.

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.

Today Joseph Parr plays works from the little known composer, Melanie Bonis. Melanie was a late 19th century French composer at a time when most well-known composers were white and male. At 18 she changed her name to the more androgynous Mel and continued garnering attention as an accomplished composer. Hearing Bonis's first piano quartet caused Saint-Saëns to exclaim, "I never imagined a woman could write such music!" Let the beauty of these pieces and the context of inequality resonate deeply and remind you we worship a God who has gifted all people!

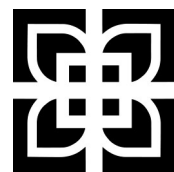
## Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Wednesday Night Programming and Meals continue:** Reservations need to be made each Monday by 12:00 PM for that week's meal by contacting Kathleen Gordon ([kathleen@hbclouisville.org](mailto:kathleen@hbclouisville.org)) or using the QR code to the right. *Note that we will not meet on October 2 during JCPS Fall break.*
- **Next Wednesday, we will continue showing and discussing 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 via Amazon. You may find out more at [1946themovie.com](http://1946themovie.com). We still start the film just after 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Our next Quarterly Church Conference will be today 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 was emailed, along with a Zoom link, on Friday.



"Christian faith maintains its assurance, despite the world's disorder, by centering its attention on something else – not fast nor noisy but quiet, unobtrusive, inconspicuous, and vital... The highest use of a shaken time is to discover the unshakable."

-Harry Emerson Fosdick, "A Faith for Tough Times"



**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**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2024**

**8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.**

Invitation to Worship

Kathy Collier

**JOINING IN YOUR NEW CREATION, WE REJOICE FOREVERMORE**

Prelude

José Jesús Estrada

*Procesión y Saets*

Call to Worship

Amber Burke (8:45)  
Jess Smith (11:15)

We draw near to God, seeking a steadiness to ground us when the earth shakes beneath our feet.

**May the God who is our stability, draw near to us as we sing the songs of faith.**

We draw near to God, seeking a quietness to hold us when the noise of the world overwhelms.

**May the God who is our peace, draw near to us as we hear again the stories of Jesus.**

We draw near to God, seeking a mindful wisdom to rest within us when our next steps are unclear.

**May the God who is our guide, draw near to us as we worship God together.**

Hymn of Praise (58) †

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO  
Paul Halley, descant

Prayer of Praise †

Amber Burke (8:45)  
Jess Smith (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.**

Dedication of Emmitt Worstell (11:15)

Renee Purtlebaugh

Words of Commitment

Presentation

Prayer of Dedication

And so we are reminded once again of the words of the apostles that,

“Before we loved God, **God loved us.**”

Song of Dedication

O WALY WALY  
Text by Diane Brewer

**For this great gift we thank you God and pledge to love as if our own.**

**To teach and guide through word and deed with joy to watch them as they grow.**

**WHEN WE PASS THROUGH TROUBLED WATERS,  
YOU HOLD OUT YOUR TENDER HAND**

Prayer of Confession

Renee Purtlebaugh

**Holy One, we confess our tendency to move through the world at a pace that is anything but gentle.**

**We rush and run rather than slowing ourselves to embrace wonder and wisdom. Rigidity takes hold of our spirit, leaving little room for flexibility, spontaneity or responding to what is right before us.**

**Forgive us when we lose sight of love, mercy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Renew us with your peace, that we might be those who make peace.**

**Through Christ we pray, Amen.**

Words of Assurance

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

Exchange of Peace †

Bob Cunningham

Hymn (619) †

*Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine*

ASSURANCE

**GIVING GUIDANCE ON OUR JOURNEY AS WE SEEK TO FIND YOUR WAY**

A Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 1 (Pew Bible page 479 – OT)

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

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

*Wisdom from our Honor Deacons*

Procter Eubank, Nancy Goodhue, Jim Hawkins, Reece Little

Choral Anthem

*Do Not Be Afraid*

Philip Stopford

Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you walk through waters I’ll be with you; you will never sink beneath the waves. When the fire is burning all around you, you will never be consumed by the flames. When the fear of loneliness is looming, then remember I am at your side. When you dwell in the exile of a stranger, remember you are precious in my eyes. You are mine, O my child, I am your parent, and I love you, I love you, I love you with a perfect love.

**WE WILL OPEN DOORS OF FREEDOM BY YOUR POWER IN US ALL**

Hymn of Response (54) †

*Like a Mother with Her Children*

UNENDING PRAISE, alt.

Faithful Giving Story and Offertory Prayer

Matthew Neal

Offertory

*Offetoire*

MEL (MELANIE) BONIS

News for the Community

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

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

Mel (Melanie) Bonis

*Moderato en Sol, Op. 162*