

Today in Worship

Phrases from today’s hymn of praise, *With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation, and response.

Special thanks to Maggie Owen, Stephanie Hall, and Sharon Sanders for their musical leadership today

The flowers on the chancel today were given by Greg Bunten and Joshua Bonnett in memory of their son, Ben, who would have turned 20 this weekend.

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.

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.

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 first QR code in the section below to be directed to our online giving page.

Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Deacon Nominees**—Continuing today, we have the opportunity during worship to hear from those who have been nominated to serve as deacons this coming year as they share their faith stories. In addition, we will learn more about them each week in the newsletter. **Those nominated to serve are: Randy Biery, Diane Brewer, Mary Cooksey, Scott Gunter, David Hartley, Becca Jagers, Larry Marcum, Vicki Runnion, Becky Smith, and Tyler Swim.** We are excited about the gifts each of these individuals bring and are grateful for their willingness to serve in this capacity. We will vote on these folks on August 17 by paper ballot.
- **Thank You! Nine deacons are completing their terms of service this year:** Kathy Belcher, Amber Burke, Phil Collier, Robert Davis, Roz Heinz, Doris Hornbuckle, Robin Ramsay Lee, Karen Park, and Chet Watson.
- **Gather ’Round on August 10**— Join us in celebrating “Gather ’Round” as we worship together and kick-off the fall semester! During worship, we will officially welcome our new Kindergarteners and recognize our 6th graders who have recently joined the youth group. After the 11:15 service, we will enjoy picnic lunches and games on the lawn. The cost is \$7 per person with a \$21 family maximum (you may pay online or at the event). You’re also welcome to bring your own food for lunch. Please use the QR code to sign up!
- **Looking Ahead:**
 - August 3: Justin Sizemore’s Last Sunday with Highland
 - August 10: Gather ’Round
 - August 13: Wednesday Evening Activities Resume and Cloud of Witness
 - August 17: Vote for Deacon Nominees

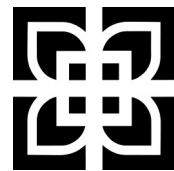


HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 27, 2025

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.



**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

Chris Caldwell
INTERIM PASTOR

Cheryl Davis
OFFICE MANAGER

Jim England
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Megan Fuller
MINISTRY ASSISTANT AND
INTERIM CARE COORDINATOR

Kathleen Gordon
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Paul Henderson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Robin Ramsay Lee
DEACON CHAIR

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Joseph Parr
ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Margaret Pennington
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Justin Sizemore
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS

Invitation to Worship

Jim England

**THEY SHALL COME WITH SONGS OF PRAISE
FOR GREAT AND GLORIOUS ARE YOUR WAYS**

Prelude

arr. Robert Powell

All Creatures of Our God and King
Stephanie Hall, flute

Call to Worship		Buddy Lee (8:45) Kelly Young (11:15)	YOUR LOVE FOREVER WILL ENDURE: YOUR MERCY, LORD, IS EVER SURE	
All of us gathered, let us sing! <i>Alleluia, Alleluia!</i> All of us gathered—know that our hopes, fears, doubts, and dreams are all welcome here. <i>Praise God and on God cast your cares.</i> All of us gathered, let us praise God together. <i>Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.</i>			Prayer of Confession	Justin Sizemore
Hymn of Praise †		SUSSEX	<i>Lord, you have made all things bright and beautiful. Forgive us when we try to destroy, hide, and neglect your creation. God you made everything around us: the sky, the trees, the soil, every human, and so much more. Forgive us when we forget. For our wars, our destruction, and our lack of care towards all creation, forgive us. May we care for all creation by showing your love and your light everywhere. Amen.</i>	
With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring			Assurance of Forgiveness	
With grateful heart my thanks I bring; before the “gods” your praise I sing. I worship in your holy place and praise you for your truth and grace; for truth and grace together shine in your most holy Word divine.			Exchange of Peace †	Justin Sizemore
I cried to you, and you did save; your word of grace new courage gave. The kings of earth shall thank you, Lord, for they have heard your wondrous word; yes, they shall come with songs of praise for great and glorious are your ways.			FOR TRUTH AND GRACE TOGETHER SHINE IN YOUR MOST HOLY WORD DIVINE	
O Lord, enthroned in glory bright, you reign alone in heavenly height; the proud in vain your favor seek, but you have mercy for the meek. Through trouble though my pathway be, you will revive and strengthen me.			Hymn (249) †	AZMON
You will stretch forth your mighty arm to save me when my foes alarm. The work you have for me begun by your grace be fully done. Your love forever will endure: your mercy, Lord, ever sure.			The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound	
Prayer of Praise †		Buddy Lee (8:45) Kelly Young (11:15)	The Epistle Lesson	Chris Caldwell
Glory to the Creator †		MEINEKE	Colossians 2:15-19 (Pew Bible pages 193-194 – NT)	
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.			Sermon	
A Reading from the Psalms		Renee Purtlebaugh	Insightful Critics of the Faith, and Bill Maher: Part 2, Barbara Brown Taylor and the Confining Church	
Choral Anthem		John Rutter	THROUGH TROUBLE THOUGH MY PATHWAY BE, YOU WILL REVIVE AND STRENGTHEN ME	
All things bright and beautiful. all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, he made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings. The purple-headed mountain, the river running by, the sunset in the morning, that brightens up the sky; the cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one. All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small. all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all. He gave us eyes to see them and lips that we might tell how great is God almighty, who has made all things well.			Hymn of Response (41) †	WELLESLEY
Psalm 138 (Pew Bible pages 565-566 – OT)			There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy	
Deacon Testimony and Offertory Prayer			Mary Cooksey (8:45) Becky Smith (11:15)	
Offertory			Charles Callahan	
Meditation				
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 †			Chris Caldwell	
Postlude			John Rutter	
Toccata in Seven				
† For those who are able, we invite you to stand.				