

Today in Worship

Phrases from today’s hymn of response, *We, O God, Unite Our Voices*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation, and response.

Our gratitude to Kathy Collier, Sharon Sanders, and the Highland Brass for their musical leadership today

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.

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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 Sunday, August 17.
- **Wednesday Night activities resume** — It’s that time of year! Wednesday night activities resume on Wednesday, August 13. If you’d like to make a dinner reservation for one night or for the entire year, send an email to Kathleen Gordon at kathleen@hbclouisville.org and let her know. Also consider if you might volunteer for dessert making, food prep & setup, or dish drying. Contact Kathy Belcher at klblecher53@gmail.com
- **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 10: Gather ’Round
 - August 13: Wednesday Evening Activities Resume and Cloud of Witness

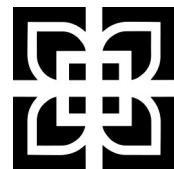


HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 3, 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

Kathy Collier

WE, O GOD, UNITE OUR VOICES RAISED IN THANKFUL HARMONY

Prelude

arr. Douglas Henderson

Trumpet Tune in D
Highland Brass

<div>Call to Worship</div> <div> <p>Help us, merciful God, not to worship today for the sake of worship. <i>Neither allow us to do church today for the sake of church.</i> Help us to worship because <i>our soul pants for your presence “as the deer pants for streams of water.”</i> Help us to worship because <i>we long for the truth to set us free.</i> Help us to worship not because we choose to <i>but because we have to.</i></p> </div>	<div>Diane Endicott (8:45) A.T. Sizemore (11:15)</div>	<div> <div>LEAD US ON WITH HOPE AND COURAGE TILL YOUR HARBOR IS OUR HOME</div> <div> <div>Hymn of Response †</div> <div> <div>We, O God, Unite Our Voices</div> <div> <p><i>We, O God, unite our voices, raised in thankful harmony. You, unchanging, safe have brought us through the ever-changing sea. Days of calm and days of conflict, nights of darkness prove Your grace. Hands beneath us, arms around us, and, above, Your shining face.</i></p> <p><i>Seeing then the task before us, bind our hearts and hands as one. May our labor be in union, our resolve and Yours be one. With one spirit let us labor toward the bright horizon far. In the midst of tempest peril be Your cross our guiding star.</i></p> <p><i>Not our choice the wind’s direction, unforeseen the calm or gale. Your great ocean swells before us, and our ship seems small and frail. Fierce and gleaming is Your mystery, drawing us to shores unknown; lead us on with hope and courage till Your harbor is our home.</i></p> </div> </div> </div> </div>
<div>Hymn of Praise (5)†</div> <div>Come, Great God of All the Ages</div>	<div>ABBOT’S LEIGH</div>	
<div>Prayer of Praise †</div>	<div>Diane Endicott (8:45) A.T. Sizemore (11:15)</div>	
<div>Glory to the Creator †</div> <div> <p><i>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.</i></p> </div>	<div>MEINEKE</div>	<div>The Celebration of Holy Communion</div> <div> <div> <div> <div>Invitation to the Table</div> <div>Exchange of Peace †</div> <div>Prayer of Thanksgiving</div> <div>The Lord’s Prayer*</div> <div>Words of Institution</div> <div>Reception of the Bread and Cup †</div> </div> <div> <div>Children of the Heavenly Father</div> <div>Kathy Collier and Sharon Sanders, piano</div> </div> </div> </div>
<div>Instrumental Praise</div> <div> <p><i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i> Highland Brass</p> <p>DAYS OF CALM AND DAYS OF CONFLICT, NIGHTS OF DARKNESS PROVE YOUR GRACE</p> </div>	<div>arr. Tim Zimmerman</div>	<div> <div>Justin Sizemore</div> <div>arr. Dan Forrest</div> </div> <div> <p><i>Everyone is invited forward to receive bread and cup. All bread served is gluten friendly. Deacons will receive tithes and offerings in the offering plates as you return to your seat.</i></p> </div>
<div>A Reading from the Prophets</div> <div>Hosea 11:1-5 (Pew Bible pages 827 – OT)</div>	<div>Jim England</div>	<div>Deacon Testimony and Offertory Prayer</div> <div> <div>Tyler Swim (8:45) Larry Marcum (11:15)</div> </div>
<div>Prayer of Confession</div>	<div>Chris Caldwell</div>	<div>News for the Community</div> <div> <div>Renee Purtlebaugh</div> </div>
<div>Assurance of Forgiveness</div> <div> <p>FIERCE AND GLEAMING IS YOUR MYSTERY, DRAWING US TO SHORES UNKNOWN</p> </div>		<div> <div>In response to your decision, <i>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.</i></div> <div>For the ministries that shape the life of our community, <i>thanks be to God.</i></div> </div>
<div>Hymn (405) †</div> <div>Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us</div>	<div>BRADBURY</div>	<div> <div>A blessing for Justin Sizemore</div> <div>Doxology †</div> </div> <div> <p><i>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.</i></p> </div>
<div>The Epistle Lesson</div> <div>Colossians 3:1-11 (Pew Bible page194 – NT)</div>	<div>Chris Caldwell</div>	<div>Benediction †</div> <div>Chris Caldwell</div>
<div>Sermon</div> <div> <p><i>Insightful Critics of the Faith, and Bill Maher: Part 3, Mark Twain and H.L. Mencken: Church for the Sake of Church</i></p> <p>† <i>For those who are able, we invite you to stand.</i></p> </div>		<div> <div>Postlude</div> <div>Toccatinetta</div> <div> <p>*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.</p> </div> </div>