



“Go and search diligently for the child;
and when you have found him,
bring me word so that I may also go
and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king,
they set out, and there, ahead of them,
went the star that they had seen at its rising,
until it stopped over the place where the child was.
When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.

~ Matthew 2: 8-10

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

JANUARY 4, 2026

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Paul Henderson

I HEAR THE SWEET, THOUGH FAR OFF HYMN THAT HAILS THE NEW CREATION

Prelude

Yendor Knarhcs

Variations on GREENSLEEVES
Sharon Sanders, organ; Stephanie Hall, flute

Call to Worship

Rick Finklea (8:45)
Scott Gunter (11:15)

In the beginning was the Word, before calendars, before clocks, before years were named.

The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word speaks light into darkness, life into chaos, hope where we had grown tired.

We come to worship the God who is always creating.

Let us worship the One who makes all things new.

Hymn of Praise (154) †

CHRISTE SANCTORUM

Christ Is the World's Light

Prayer of Praise †

Rick Finklea (8:45)
Scott Gunter (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.

THROUGH ALL THE TUMULT AND THE STRIFE I HEAR THE MUSIC RINGING

A Reading from the Psalms

Paul Henderson

Psalm 147:12-14, 20 (Pew Bible page 571 – OT)

Prayer of Confession

John Kubar

God of light and life, we confess that we resist being made new. We cling to old ways of thinking, old resentments, old fears that shape how we see one another and the world. We have trusted our own wisdom more than yours. We have settled for survival instead of transformation. We have chosen comfort when you call us toward courage. Forgive us. Speak your Word into us again. Create in us hearts open to your renewing work, and lives that reflect your light. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Anthem (11:15)

Kyle Matthews

The Depth of God's Love
Diane Brewer, Libby Greer Cunningham, Martha Greer Johnson

The depth of God's love reaches down; to where you are until you're found. A quiet word or none at all; pursues the heart behind the wall; and to those who wait with darkness all around; the depth of God's love reaches down. And though it feels as if; the darkness will stay; we want to believe the light will come; but how do we even pray? In the silence of the night; In the stillness of this place; darkness flies, all is light; with the dawn of redeeming grace. For the depth of God's love reaches down; to where we are until we're found; God's quiet Word has come to all; to join with us, break down our walls; So to those who wait with darkness all around; the depth of God's love reaches down.

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

Hymn (592) †

ENDLESS SONG

How Can I Keep from Singing

**NO STORM CAN SHAKE MY INMOST CALM,
WHILE TO THAT ROCK I'M CLINGING**

The Gospel Lesson †

John 1:1-5 (Pew Bible page 90 – NT)

Chris Caldwell

Sermon

New Creation, New Creations

**SINCE CHRIST IS LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH,
HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING**

Hymn of Response (96) †

HOUSTON

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Renee Purtlebaugh

Invitation to the Table

Exchange of Peace †

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer*

Words of Institution

Reception of the Bread and Cup †

*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.*

Offertory Prayer

Vance Smith (8:45)

Larry Davis (11:15)

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 †

TALLIS' CANON

***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

H. Berlioz

Rustic Serenade to the Madonna

*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.

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn, *How Can I Keep from Singing*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation, and response.

Our thanks to Sharon Sanders and Stephanie Hall for their musical leadership today in worship.

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

Thank you for your generous giving which supports the ongoing ministry of Highland Baptist Church as we seek to live out the good news of Christmas, creating a world where justice and Love are abundant! Currently, our Finance Ministry Group is projecting we will come in a bit behind on income toward our 2025 ministry expenses. If you are able to complete your pledge and/or consider giving an end-of-year financial gift to Highland, please do so. You may use the QR code above or place your gift in the offering plate. Know how grateful we are for the many ways you invest yourself in the life of our beloved community, not only during the holiday season, but all year long.



- **Looking Ahead:**

Monday, January 5:	Scarlette Jasper speaking at 4 PM
Wednesday, January 7:	Wednesday Night Dinner and activities resume
Sunday, January 11:	Senior Adult/Young Adult Game Night 5 PM—7 PM
Wednesday, January 14:	Cloud of Witness



**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

Megan Fuller
MINISTRY ASSISTANT AND
INTERIM CARE COORDINATOR

Kathleen Gordon
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Paige Harlow
DEACON CHAIR

Paul Henderson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

John Kubar
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR
TO YOUTH

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Joseph Parr
ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Margaret Pennington
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES