

“In the ritual of baptism,
our ancestors acted out
the bizarre truth
of the Christian identity:
We are people who stand
totally exposed before evil
and death and declare them
powerless against love.
There’s nothing normal
about that.”

— *Rachel Held Evans*



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

JANUARY 11, 2026

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

**TO YOUR NAME BE GLORY, HONOR!
WITH OUR LIVES WE WORSHIP, PRAISE!**

Prelude

Joseph Parr

Improvisation on SALZBURG

Call to Worship

Vicki Runnion (8:45)
Roy Fuller (11:15)

Come, you who are weary, you who have been bruised by life,
you whose flame has flickered in the winds of the world.

We come, longing to be renewed.

The Holy One who stretches out the heavens is stretching us now—
stretching our hearts toward courage, our hands toward compassion, our lives toward justice.

We open ourselves to be stretched into new life.

A voice from heaven says to us, as it said to Jesus: You are my beloved. This Spirit rests upon us, too.

We are God's Beloved, called to bring justice.

Come, let us remember who we are.

Let us worship God with joy.

Hymn of Praise (158) †

DUKE STREET

Jesus Shall Reign

Prayer of Praise †

Vicki Runnion (8:45)
Roy Fuller (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.

**GOD RENEW US; GUIDE OUR FOOTSTEPS,
FREE FROM SIN AND ALL ITS SNARES**

The Gospel Lesson †

Matthew 3:13-17 (Pew Bible page 3 – NT)

John Kupar

Anthem

David Mennicke

Down in the River to Pray

c c

As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who should wear the robe and crown;
Good Lord, show me the way! O sisters (brothers, fathers, mothers, sinners, children) let's go down, let's go down,
come on down. O sisters (brothers, fathers, mothers, sinners, children) let's go down. Down in the river to pray.

Prayer of Confession

Paul Henderson

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet it's so easy to think about our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Instead, O Lord, help us to desire your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us cleansing us. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. May we receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

Exchange of Peace †

Paul Henderson

Hymn (450) †

MERLE'S TUNE

With Water Freely Flowing

O HOW DEEP YOUR HOLY WISDOM! UNIMAGINED, ALL YOUR WAYS!

The Hebrew Lesson

Isaiah 42:1-9 (Pew Bible page 657 – OT)

Chris Caldwell

Sermon

Love's Subversive Victory

**BY YOUR GRACE, OUR LIVES WE OFFER.
RECREATE US; GOD, TRANSFORM!**

Hymn of Response †

BEACH SPRING

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

*Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb.
Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.*

*Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.*

*O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer, Recreate us; God, transform!*

Offertory Prayer †

Gene Streible (8:45)
Kelly Young (11:15)

Offering

Joseph Parr

Improvisation on DUKE STREET

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

Joseph Parr

Improvisation on DEUS TUORUM MILLITUM

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn of response, *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*, 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.

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 create a world where justice and Love are abundant! Know how grateful we are for the many ways you invest yourself in the life of our beloved community, not only during the recent holiday season, but all year long.



- **Next month Highland's Got Talent returns after a six year hiatus, better than ever!** Formerly known as HBC Got Skillz, this fundraising event truly emphasizes FUN and aims to encourage connection between various groups at Highland including but not limited to new members, not so new members, folks from different services, the young and the young at heart. The winner of Highland's Got Talent will be awarded a trophy and bragging rights for at least a year! And by talent, we mean anything from shadow puppets to bird calls to Sunday School class dance offs. If you or your group would like to take the stage, please complete the sign up form using the QR code by Wednesday, February 11. We ask that you fit all the goodness of your act into 3-5 minutes. Group acts are encouraged! In the coming weeks, stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to volunteer and contribute to the awesome Chili Dinner. Tickets to attend are \$5 each and the event will take place at Highland Community Ministries, 1228 E. Breckinridge. All proceeds go toward our Capital Campaign. Come to laugh! Come to perform! Stay for the culinary delights!

Questions? Feel free to ask a member of the planning team including Sally Evans, Troy Burden, Emily Edwards, or Kim Fritschi.

- **Looking Ahead:**

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| Sunday evening: | Senior Adult/Young Adult Game Night 5:00 PM—7:00 PM |
| Wednesday, January 14: | Cloud of Witness—Angela Dennison, Jan Forren, and Gene Streible |
| Wednesday, February 18: | Ash Wednesday |
| Sunday, February 22: | Highland's Got Talent, 6:00 PM, HCM campus, 1228 E. Breckinridge |



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 Kuper
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