

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! We are grateful for the many ways you invest yourself in the life of our beloved community, not only during the holiday season, but all year long.

We are grateful to those who purchased poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during the Advent season. If you purchased a poinsettia to honor a loved one, you may take it with you following tonight's Lessons and Carols Service.

On Sunday, December 31, we will not have any in-person services or activities as a way to offer Sabbath rest to our staff, lay leaders, musicians, and volunteers who work so hard throughout the year, and particularly throughout the holiday season. We will offer a virtual service on Highland's Facebook and YouTube accounts for you to worship from home at 10:00 a.m. on New Year's Eve.

We hope you will join us for in-person and online worship again on Sunday, January 7 at 8:45 or 11:15 a.m. Bible study classes for all ages also meet at 10 a.m.



David Bannister
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Jerre and Frank Bassett
CUSTODIANS

Mary Alice Birdwhistell
PASTOR

Fred Bogert
MUSIC DIRECTOR TO FRIDAY CHURCH

Don Burke
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OFFICE MANAGER

Megan Fuller
CHILDREN AND FAMILY
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Paul Henderson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Robert Lee
ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Lauren Jones Mayfield
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CARE
AND JUSTICE

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Justin Sizemore
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS

Tyler Swim
DEACON CHAIR



“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth
peace among those whom God favors!”

~ Luke 2:14

**Christmas Eve Service
of Lessons and Carols**
December 24, 2023 – Six O’Clock p.m.
Highland Baptist Church – Louisville, Kentucky

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth..*

*Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

The Blessing †

Recessional Carol (103) †

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Postlude

Improvisation on ANTIOCH

arr. Robert Lee

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

*Our God, heav'n cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign;
In the blead midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.*

*What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.*

THE NINTH LESSON

Mary Alice Birdwhistell
St. John unfolds the great mystery of incarnation.
~ John 1:1-14

Carol (102) †

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH

The Lighting of the Christ Candle and Passing of the Light

Carol †

Silent Night! Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

***Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and Child! Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glory streams from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."***

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Invitation to Worship

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Candelighter Processional

IL EST NÉ

Light the Light, the Fire of Life

***Light the light, the fire of life, let the candle reveal God's glory.
Jesus Christ has come to earth and for us shall come again.***

***Light the candle of God's birth, Advent's promise now fulfilling,
light the candle of God's birth, light the light of Christmas Eve.***

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Baker Family

Chiming the Hour

Processional Carol (104) †

IRBY

Once in Royal David's City

The Bidding Prayer †

Lauren Jones Mayfield

THE FIRST LESSON

Ainsley Braun

God announces in the Garden of Eden
that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.
~ Genesis 3:8-15

Anthem

Elizabeth Poston

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

*The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see,
In Jesus Christ the Apple Tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the Apple Tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the Apple Tree.*

THE SECOND LESSON

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.
~ Genesis 22:15-18

Becca Potter

Carol (127) †

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

THE THIRD LESSON

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.
~ Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

Troy Burden

Carol (84) †

The People Who in Darkness Walked

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

THE FOURTH LESSON

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.
~ Micah 5:2-4

Paul Henderson

Carol (107) †

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

THE FIFTH LESSON

The Angel Gabriel salutes the blessed virgin Mary.
~ Luke 1:26-35, 38

Alison Schureck

Anthem

On Christmas Night

arr. Willcocks

*On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring—
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.*

*Then why should we on earth be so sad?
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
Then why should we on earth be so sad?
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?*

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*When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place,
When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place,
Angels and all with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.*

*All out of darkness we have light.
Which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night,
"Glory to God and peace to all
Now and for evermore, amen!"*

THE SIXTH LESSON

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.
~ Luke 2:1-7

Justin Sizemore

Carol (110) †

Away in the Manger

MUELLER

THE SEVENTH LESSON

The shepherds go unto the manger.
~ Luke 2:8-16

Renee Purtlebaugh

Carol (124) †

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

THE EIGHTH LESSON

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.
~ Matthew 2:1-11

Walter McWhorter

Offertory Carol

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Harold Darke

*In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.*

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