



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

HANGING OF THE GREEN

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

6:00 P.M.

HANGING OF THE GREEN

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Introit

Abbie Betinis

Carol of the Stranger
Choral Ensemble

Advent — A Time of Waiting

Chris Caldwell

Anthem

Becki Slagle Mayo

Prepare the Way of the Lord
Chorister Choir

Prepare the way of the Lord! Light the candle, watch, and pray, the Child of Hope will come to save.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

David Bannister and Steven Carr

Call to Worship

Ainsley Braun

For God loved the world so much,
that God gave God's one and only son.
So that we might have a full and lasting life!
Let us prepare for God's eternal Word,
touched and seen in Jesus by bringing things
that we can touch and see as signs of God's goodness and love.

Processional Hymn (95) †

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the Royal Highway

Advent Prayer †

Bob Cunningham

THE GREENERY

Angela Dennison

*The Glory of Lebanon shall come unto you, the fir tree, the pine tree
and the box together, to beautify the place of your sanctuary. ~ Isaiah 60:13*

Carol

TRADITIONAL

The Holly and the Ivy

***The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown;
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.***

*Chorus O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.*

***The holly bears a blossom as white as any flower;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior.***

***The holly bears a berry as red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good.***

***The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn.***

We ask worshipers to read the lines in **bold** in tonight's litanies and printed scriptures.

THE POINSETTIAS

Cathy Ryan

A star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel. ~ Numbers 24:17a

Anthem

Ola Gjeilo

Spotless Rose

A Spotless Rose is growing, sprung from a tender root, of ancient seers' foreshowing, of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light amid the cold, cold winter and in the dark midnight. The Rose which I am singing,
whereof Isaiah said, is from its sweet root springing in Mary, the purest maid; Through God's great love and might
the blessed Babe she bare us in a cold, cold winter's night.

THE CHRISMON TREE

Sally Evans

*"I am Alpha and Omega," the beginning and the ending, which is,
and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. ~ Revelation 1:8*

Anthem

text, Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

music, John Rutter

What Sweeter Music

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honor to this day
that sees December turn'd to May, that sees December turn'd to May.
Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth
gives life and luster, public mirth, to heaven and the under-earth.
We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his show'rs, turns the patient ground to flow'rs,
turns all the patient ground to flow'rs. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him.
The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart, which we will give him; and bequeath this holly,
and this ivy wreath, to do him honor; who's our King, and Lord of all this revelling.

The Affirmation of Faith

John Kubar

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

We wait in darkness, expectantly longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully.

We befriend the darkness.

We believe in God, our Maker and Creator.

God made darkness and light from an endless void to hold and cherish humanity.

The darkness, a womb of protection, nurtures us.

The Christ-child was formed in this dark embrace of love.

Out of the darkness comes a great light.

Behold, God's child — the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end!

We believe in Jesus: Emmanuel, God with us!

The holy child grew into a carpenter, a rabbi, a savior, the one who liberates through grace.

Light of lights, shining like the stars.

We sing glory in the highest places and with peace on earth to all people.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who strengthens, empowers, renews, and refreshes.

Comforter, guide, source of justice, embodied Love.

We believe in the Church, the communion of all the saints in a great cloud of witness.

Therefore, we serve and minister as the family of God in this place.

THE LIGHTING OF THE TREE

Renee Purtlebaugh

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. ~ Isaiah 49:6b

Carol (96) †

HOUSTON

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

THE GIFTS

Paul Henderson

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. ~ Isaiah 60:6b

Carol (148)

GREENSLEEVES

What Child Is This?

Highland's ushers will dismiss by pews. You are invited to bring gifts and offerings using the center aisle.

Carol (134)

STILLE NACHT

Silent Night! Holy Night!

Recessional Carol (103) †

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful

The Blessing

Chris Caldwell

We have prepared our place of worship.

May we also prepare our hearts for Christ's advent.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given ...

and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

May our Advent journey lead us to the One

who is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

Organ Postlude

J. S. Bach

Fugue in F BWV 540

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

*The Choral Ensemble is from Highland's Sanctuary Choir:
Stephanie Hall, Kim Henderson, Jillian Dunning, Jenna Proffit, Cincere Flynt,
Drew Harston, Richard Ryan, Andrew Schaflein, and Evan Tiapula.*

*We gratefully acknowledge the work of Highland's Worship Ministry Group in preparing
for and implementing services in the Advent season:
Molly Braun, Angela Dennison, Marc Dowell, Larry Gary, Mary Ida Gray,
Scott Gunter, Corey Moran, Bill Ockerman, Karen Park,
Sharon Sanders, and Gene Streible.*

THE GREEN

When all the earth is brown, when the leaves have left the trees, evergreens stand in lonely vigil until the earth is green again. Perhaps the most universal icon of Christmas is the use of evergreens in both homes and churches. They are ever-green, ever-alive, even in the midst of winter. Used by Christians for hundreds of years, they symbolize the unchanging nature of our God and they remind us of the everlasting life that is ours in Christ Jesus. Evergreens shout to us the hope for the coming green again, and serve as a reminder of love offered.



THE POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias are star-like and alive in splendid color, calling us to celebrate the miracle of the Christ-child. They grow to glorify and to commemorate the night that other stars shouted forth the glory of God. Because they are bright and lively in the cold, short days of winter, we use them to echo the Christmas miracle. Their shape suggests the star that shone over Bethlehem; their yellow flowers remind us of the One born the infant King; their blood-red leaves foreshadow the cruelty of the cross; their green leaves reflect the abundant life that is ours through the Gift of God.

THE CHRISMON TREE

As we adorn the trees in our homes with ornaments that tell the story of our family, so too we adorn the tree in our sanctuary with symbols that tell the story of Christ. While Chrismons are the newest of the traditions we use tonight, the symbols themselves are ancient. The word Chrismon is a compound of Christ and Monogram, but they are much more than mere symbols as they tell the story of Jesus. Each one, colored in white and gold, proclaims the truths of God as made known by Jesus and point beyond themselves to God.



THE LIGHTING OF THE TREE

We add our light with the light of the coming Christ-child, as the lights remind us that we have become God's light in a dark world. The glow of each tiny light on the tree reminds us that each of us is to let our lives shine before all, as we reflect the glory of God. We know that those who have found salvation in Christ no longer walk in darkness. We are compelled by the very Christ whose birth we honor to light the way for others.

THE GIFTS

The Shepherds gave of themselves, the Magi gave out of their treasures, the Angels gave songs of God's glory, as God gave us Christ to save the World. In this time of preparation and celebration of the coming baby Jesus, we are presented with many examples to follow in giving. The gifts that we bring tonight are reminiscent of the gifts given to the infant Christ and of the gift God gave us in this babe. Because they symbolize the giving of our lives to God anew, the presents we bring are but a beginning of what God calls us to give.



The Sanctuary Poinsettias (see back of bulletin for Honorary Gifts)

The church gratefully acknowledges the following whose generous gifts have made possible the adorning of the sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent season. Poinsettias may be picked up following the Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols.

Memorial Gifts

Given By

Tamara Adams
Greg Bunten
Greg Bunten
Greg Bunten
Troy Burden
Troy Burden
Robert Burke
Vi Chapmon and Bruce Carroll
Vi Chapmon and Bruce Carroll
Becky and John Dickson
Deborah Elias-Smith
Mary Helen and Jim England
Mary Helen and Jim England
Mary Helen and Jim England
Mark and Kathey Golightly Sanders
Mark and Kathey Golightly Sanders
Nancy Goodhue
Kimbrough Gossett
David Hartley
Tracy and Debbie Holladay
Tracy and Debbie Holladay
Mary and Rick Holtmeier
Mary and Rick Holtmeier
Dawn Howard
Deborah Keeling
Deborah Keeling
Robin Lee
Robin Lee
Mariana Myer
Linda Tomes
Brandon Tschirhart
Jean Janes Global Women
Lou Ann Iler
Margaret and Gary Pennington
Gloria McBee
Bill Ockerman
Penny Mosier
Ronald Warns
Ronald Warns
Ronald Warns
Ronald Warns
Chet and Phyllis Watson
Chet and Phyllis Watson

In Memory of

Thomas Hunter Scantland, my father
Ben Bonnett-Bunten
Phoebe Delamarter
Billie Johnson
Mae Burden
W. D. Burden
Rev. Kenneth E. Burke, Jr.
Henry and Blanche Chapmon
Thomas and Marian Carroll
Our beloved sister, Pamela Funderberg
Betty Unruh
Dorothy and Greg England
Diana Schildmeyer
Webb & Doris Stanley & Webb Jr. & Sharon Stanley
Don Golightly
John Sanders
Phoebe Delamarter
Ernie Gossett
Jerry Burske
W.D. Burden
Keith Eiken
Harriet and Ronald Holtmeier
Robert and Caroline Lundgren
Joe Kelly
Leslie and Edna Keeling
Anne Davis
Michael Ramsey
Samuel Ramsey
Lisette Pfaffenberger
Larry Tomes
Irene Tschirhart
Jean and Grundy Janes
Cleve Iler
their parents
Jim McBee
Jeremy Ockerman
Bill Mosier
Evelyn Warns
Max Warns
John Borgatti
"Doc" Wasson
Joseph Powell
Pat Ramsey

Out of the Blue

Advent 2025

Out of the Blue engages the theme of surprise.
We are surprised by mercy, new beginnings,
wild growth, love in the face of violence,
and a baby in the manger.

Monday, December 1

Sorting Soiree for Families with Children and Youth and Young Adults at 6:00 PM at La Casita. All ages are invited to join. Contact Renee Purtlebaugh to RSVP.

Sunday, December 7—Peace Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service with Crosses on the Lawn at 11:15 AM

Peace Sunday is our time to remember those who have been killed in our city by acts of violence. We will read each name and place crosses on the front lawn as an act of remembrance and a call to action in our community.

Children's Advent Service at 6:00 PM

Children's voices and the ringing of bells are a highlight of the season! Join us for an evening of music from Highland's Carol Choir, Chorister Choir, and Children and Youth Handbell Choir—ages 3 through youth. Cookies and milk reception to follow. *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and 2s.*

Wednesday, December 10

Families with Children hot Chocolate Night

Join us for pizza, hot chocolate bar, and games from 5:30-7:00 PM at Highland!

Sunday, December 14—Joy Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service at 11:15 AM

Join us for a morning of music and celebration with the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra presenting glorious music of the season.

Wednesday, December 17

Orchestra Christmas Concert at 6:00 PM

This delightful concert featuring fun and festive music includes a choral ensemble. *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.*

Sunday, December 21

Longest Night Service at 6:00 PM

Christmas is often characterized as the most wonderful time of the year, but it is often anything but this, especially for those who are grieving at the holidays. Whether you are reflecting on the loss of a loved one, a job, a relationship, a life transition - all are welcome to this quiet and reflective worship service one the longest nights of the year. *Childcare available **by reservation only** for infants, toddlers and preschoolers by contacting Megan Fuller to RSVP.*

Fridays, December 19 and 26

Join us as we sing the carols of Christmas at Friday Church at 7:00 PM! We will end the service on the 19th with candlelight.

Sunday, December 21—Love Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service at 11:15 AM

Wednesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 6:00 PM

We will gather to sing the carols of Christmas in a more casual and family-friendly service at 4:00 PM. Lessons and Carols tells the Christmas story through scripture, carols, and music by the Sanctuary Choir at 6:00 PM. Both services end with candlelight to mark the joy of Christ's birth! *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.*

Sunday, December 28

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM

Join us for this casual worship service and enjoy singing beloved Christmas carols. Please note Bible study classes will not meet.

Weekend worship services through the Advent and Christmas season: Fridays, 7:00 PM; Sundays, 11:15 AM

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The church gratefully acknowledges the following whose generous gifts have made possible the adorning of the sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent season. Poinsettias may be picked up following the Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols.

Honorary Gifts

Given By

Walter McWhorter

Joseph Doss

Mary Helen and Jim England

Deborah Keeling

Deborah Keeling

John Sensbach

Mission Minded Women

Generations Bible Study Class

Generations Bible Study Class

HBC Personnel Ministry Group

HBC Personnel Ministry Group

HBC Personnel Ministry Group

HBC Personnel Ministry Group

HBC Personnel Ministry Group

HBC Personnel Ministry Group

HBC Personnel Ministry Group

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HBC Personnel Ministry Group

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HBC Personnel Ministry Group

In Honor and Appreciation of

Highland's Support Staff: Cheryl Davis, Kathleen Gordon

Megan Fuller, Jerre and Frank Bassett

Becky Wolf

Church Staff

Dorothy Griffith

Hugh Griffith

Pamela Peter-Sensbach

Gloria McBee

Chip and Nancy Miller

David and Pat Wells

Kathleen Gordon

Cheryl Davis

Chris Caldwell

Walter McWhorter

John Kubar

Megan Fuller

Renee Purtlebaugh

Paul Henderson

Joseph Parr

Jerre Bassett

Frank Bassett



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