

Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.
Say that your main crop is the forest
that you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest...

Practice resurrection.

~ Wendell Berry,
Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 29, 2023
8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

THERE'S A SONG IN EVERY SILENCE, SEEKING WORD AND MELODY

Prelude

J. Walther

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Opening Words—based on Psalm 46

Amber Burke (8:45)
Cheryl Davis (11:15)

God is our source of strength, a helper through the journey of life.

We gather to remember God's steadfast love and abiding promises.

When all seems to be changing or out of rhythm, God's sure presence grounds and comforts us.

We will still ourselves to meet God again in this sacred space. Come, let us worship God!

Hymn †

EIN FESTE BURG

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing,
our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and power great,
and armed with cruel hate, on earth without an equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
but there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free! With mighty power to save,
victorious o'er the grave, Christ will prevail triumphant.*

*And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear for God has willed the truth to triumph through us.
The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them; their rage we can endure,
for lo, their doom is sure; one little word shall fell them.*

*That word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us siding.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill;
God's truth shall triumph still; God's reign endures for ever.*

Prayer of Praise †

Amber Burke (8:45)
Cheryl Davis (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.***

IN OUR DOUBT THERE IS BELIEVING; IN OUR LIFE, ETERNITY

The Gospel Lesson †

Paul Henderson

Matthew 22:34-36 (Pew Bible page 24—NT)

Hymn of Confession (365)

MORE LOVE TO THEE

More Love to Thee, O Christ

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

Choral Assurance

arr. Mark Miller

God's Got the Whole World

God's got the whole world in God's hands. God's got you and me in those hands. God's got the whole world in God's hands.

Exchange of Peace †

Lauren Jones Mayfield

THERE'S A DAWN IN EVERY DARKNESS BRINGING HOPE TO YOU AND ME

The Hebrew Lesson

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 (Pew Bible page 191—OT)
Children grades K-2 may be dismissed for Children's Worship. (11:15)

Sermon

Plant Sequoias

UNREVEALED UNTIL IT'S SEASON, SOMETHING GOD ALONE CAN SEE

Hymn of Response (545) †

PROMISE

In the Bulb

Sacred Space Testimony

Roz Heinz

Offertory Prayer

Gabe Heeke (8:45)
Robert Davis (11:15)

Offertory

Albioni/arr. McChesney

Adagio
Highland Handbells

News for the Community

Justin Sizemore

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 100TH

***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 †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Postlude

J. S. Bach

Little Prelude and Fugue in G Minor

In worship at Highland, we aim to sing music with a theology that reflects an expansive and inclusive God. Occasionally, our printed music may use language that limits God. When we are unable to re-print a more inclusive text, we encourage you to use language that better fits your image of God. Our ministers and choir will often replace “He/Him” with “God” or “Love” (1 syllable) and “Father” with “Parent,” “Holy,” or “Divine” (2 syllables). We would love to hear what creative language for God you might use in worship, too.

Today in Worship

Highland's deacons (wearing identification name tags) are available at various locations for prayer, questions or information. Deacons are lay ministers of the church who have been called to a ministry of service.

Phrases from today's hymn of response, *In the Bulb*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service—praise, confession, proclamation and response.

The flowers on the chancel today are given by Barbara Lee in memory of her husband, Tom, who passed away last Sunday.

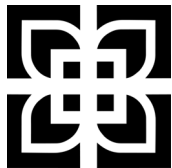
The choral anthem today was arranged by Mark Miller, a person of color who comes from a long line of Methodist ministers. Mark is a church musician who believes "music has the power to change the world," inspiring people to create the "beloved community." Today we hear Mark's new musical voice through a familiar old spiritual. Mark serves as Assistant Professor at Drew Theological School and is a Lecturer at Yale. He also serves as a Minister of Music.

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.

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Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Commitment Season through the month of October** — Together, we have the opportunity to use our financial resources to support the 2024 Ministry Fund, as well as our Sacred Space for Everyone campaign. Join us as we work to create a world where Love and justice are abundant through generous giving of our financial resources! Pledge cards may be turned in via the offering plate, mailed to the church office, and/or e-mailed to Kathleen Gordon at kathleen@hbclouisville.org.
- **Parking**—During the main parking lot closure, please leave the parking spaces closest to the church (street-side and in the other two parking lots) for our senior citizens, families with young children, and those with mobility issues.
- **Won't You Be My Neighbor?** Join us as Rev. Dr. Tyler Mayfield continues his reflections on the biblical and theological category of "neighbor" with special attention to the ministry of Fred Rogers on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 PM through November 15.
- **Looking Ahead**
 - Today: Quarterly Church Conference at 4:00 PM on Zoom
 - November 10-12: Youth Fall Retreat, Aldersgate
 - November 10: Trivia Night and Dessert Auction Fundraiser for Sacred Space at HCM, 1228 Breckinridge Lane, 7:00 PM
 - November 12: Party with Your Pastors at Paul and Kim Henderson's home, 4:00-5:30 PM
 - November 19: Sunday Morning Thanksgiving services (8:45 and 11:00); finger food breakfast and family-friendly time of gratitude/reflection at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall



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.

David Bannister
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Jerre and Frank Bassett
CUSTODIANS

Mary Alice Birdwhistell
PASTOR

Fred Bogert
MUSIC DIRECTOR
TO FRIDAY CHURCH

Don Burke
PASTOR EMERITUS

Cheryl Davis
OFFICE MANAGER

Megan Fuller
CHILDREN AND FAMILY
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Kathleen Gordon
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Paul Henderson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Lauren Jones Mayfield
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CARE
AND JUSTICE

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Sharon Sanders
INTERIM ORGANIST
AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Justin Sizemore
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS

Tyler Swim
DEACON CHAIR