



It takes no special talent to look around our world and point out things that are numbing, depressing, or death-dealing. But becoming **keenly and consistently aware of what's good, true, and beautiful** demands a discipline: we must open our eyes, minds, and hearts, and keep them open.

~ Parker Palmer

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 19, 2023
8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Paul Henderson

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Prelude

arr. William Latham

Now Thank We All Our God
Highland Orchestra

Opening Words

Kim Henderson (8:45)
Molly Braun (11:15)

O give thanks to God for all the goodness we are shown! God's steadfast love endures forever!
We come from the east and the west, the north and the south, to give God thanks and praise!
We once were a wandering people, hungry and thirsty in a desert land.
We cried to God to deliver us, and we were led to a new land rich in promise and harvest.
We give thanks for God's steadfast love! God quenches the thirsty, fills the hungry, and leads us from the desert land to a harvest home.

Hymn (372) †

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Prayer of Praise †

Kim Henderson (8:45)
Molly Braun (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 OUR LIFE BE NEAR US

The Hebrew Lesson

Justin Sizemore

Psalm 65 from *Praying the Psalms* by Nan Merrill

Hymn (341) †

DIX

For the Beauty of the Earth

Testimonies of Gratitude

Justin Bolt and Elizabeth Howell,
Procter Eubank, and Vaughn Bell (8:45)
Becca and Sam Potter, Scott Schafflein, and Vaughn Bell (11:15)

Congregational Response

Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Choral Anthem

arr. Richard Proulx

O God, Beyond All Praising

O God, beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord. The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die, its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high; but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown, though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown: for Christ the man from heaven from death has set us free, and we through him are given the final victory. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as our King; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to praise you still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving Lauren Jones Mayfield

Exchange of Peace † Renee Purtlebaugh

GUIDE US WHEN PERPLEXED

The Epistle Lesson Mary Alice Birdwhistell
Philippians 4:4-9 (Pew Bible page 190—NT)

Sermon
"It Could Have Been Otherwise": A Reflection on Gratitude

KEEP US IN GOD'S GRACE

Hymn of Response (665) † SEMINARY
Because I Have Been Given Much

Call to Justice/Habitat Offering Bob Cunningham

Offertory arr. David Winkler
Beautiful Savior
Highland Orchestra

To make a donation from your phone, text "give2hbc" to 502-747-1212 and open the link.

News for the Community Lauren Jones Mayfield
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.***

Congregational Benediction † Albert H. Malotte
The Lord's Prayer

Postlude J. S. Bach
To Thee All Praise Be Given

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 orchestra prelude, *Now Thank We All Our God*, 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.

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Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Recognizing Sharon Sanders** —We are planning a special recognition after worship on Sunday, November 26 to celebrate Sharon's faithful service over the past year and a half as our Interim Organist and Music Associate. Please join us in expressing your gratitude for the incredible labor of love she has shared with us!
- **Christmas Poinsettias**—Our Sanctuary will once again be beautifully adorned with red poinsettias this Advent and Christmas. You are welcome to purchase a poinsettia for \$15 in memory, in honor, or in appreciation of a family member, friend or loved one. **You may order poinsettias through our website (www.hbclouisville.org)** or you may also submit payment and information by contacting Cheryl Davis at cheryl@hbclouisville.org. **The deadline for ordering poinsettias is Monday, November 27.**
- **Advent Small Groups**—Join Mary Alice and Leslie Townsend this Advent season for small groups based on *Bless the Advent We Actually Have*, a free online resource by Kate Bowler. We will meet on Tuesdays at 5:30 PM beginning on Tuesday, November 28 and continuing through Tuesday, December 19. To access the materials, visit <https://katebowler.com> and click on the very top link. **Please sign up by this Monday, November 20 by emailing maryalice@hbclouisville.org to receive complete details.**
- **Paths to Holiday Giving at Highland**—Please join us in shopping for the following items that we are receiving for holiday partnerships this year:
 - ◇ **Highlands Community Ministries:** New blankets and \$25 Kroger gift cards.
 - ◇ **La Casita Community Center:** Items for 200 grocery bags and 100 hygiene kits: bags of black beans and white rice, canned fruit and veggies, spaghetti, size 6 diapers, pull ups, baby wipes, \$10 Walmart gift cards, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. We will also collect paper towels, toilet paper, and specialty Latinx holiday foods.

Shopping lists and the annual family scavenger hunt are available in the Commons. Please place your donations in the brown bins outside the choir room or bring them with you to the Hanging of the Green service on December 3. Volunteers are also needed for the resource day at La Casita on Tuesday, December 12. For more information or to sign up, see the volunteer table in the Commons or contact Lauren Jones Mayfield.

- **For the full Advent schedule, please see the weekly newsletter or visit hbclouisville.org/article/advent-beyond-imagination.**



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

Don Burke
PASTOR EMERITUS

Paul Henderson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Jerre and Frank Bassett
CUSTODIANS

Cheryl Davis
OFFICE MANAGER

Robert Lee
ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Justin Sizemore
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS

Mary Alice Birdwhistell
PASTOR

Megan Fuller
CHILDREN AND FAMILY
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Lauren Jones Mayfield
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CARE
AND JUSTICE

Tyler Swim
DEACON CHAIR

Fred Bogert
MUSIC DIRECTOR
TO FRIDAY CHURCH

Kathleen Gordon
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR