



Advent Beyond Imagination

Our spiritual life is a life in which we wait,
actively present to the moment,
expecting that new things will happen to us,
new things that are far beyond
our own imagination or prediction.

~ Henri Nouwen

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

Gathering Music arr. William Himes

Pat-a-Pan
Highland Brass

Invitation to Worship Renee Purtlebaugh

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 hope, light the light of prophet's story,
light the candle of God's hope, light the light we all must hold.*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Hope Becca Jagers (8:45)
The Swim Family (11:15)

Opening Words Gene Streible (8:45)
Scott Gunter (11:15)

Advent is the glorious affirmation that God creates newness in the world -
in your life and mine;

That something new is coming!

That is the gift, the miracle of this newness that God will give to those
with imagination enough to receive it.

New birth that can happen in and for each and every one of us.

As we light this Advent candle, may the Holy One kindle our Hope
and stir our imagination for all that is to come.

Oh come, oh come Emmanuel!

LONG PROMISED BY THE PROPHETS, LET HEAVEN WITH PRAISES RING

Processional Hymn (95) † BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the Royal Highway

Prayer of Expectancy † Gene Streible (8:45)
Scott Gunter (11:15)

Anthem arr. Howard Helvey

O Come, Divine Messiah

*O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day, When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away. Dear Saviour haste; Come, come to earth, Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace. You come in peace and meekness, And lowly will your cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness Shall we your Godhead see. O Christ, whom nations sigh for,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold, Come break the native fetters; Redeem the long lost fold.*

ALL LANDS WILL BOW BEFORE HIM

The Hebrew Lesson Paul Henderson

Isaiah 64:1-9 (Pew Bible pages 680-681—OT)

Hymn (79) † VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

Prayer of Confession

Justin Sizemore

Oh Lord, you are the potter and we are the clay.

You have told us what is good and what you expect from us.

Yet we confess that out of our own fear, shame, and at times, hopelessness, we have not been who you created us to be.

Forgive us when we are passive to injustice, passive to the needs of those around us, passive towards you and who you created us to be.

Reshape us, Lord.

Like clay on your pottery wheel, refashion us into people of justice, compassion, hope.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

HOPE, PEACE, AND JOY OUR TREASURE

The Gospel Lesson †

Luke 1:5-25 (Pew Bible page 55—NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

Hope Beyond Imagination

HOSANNA TO THE LORD, FOR HE FULFILLS GOD'S WORD!

Hymn of Response (83) †

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Lauren Jones Mayfield

Invitation to the Table

Exchange of Hope †

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Reception of the Bread and Cup †

Everyone is invited forward to receive bread and cup. All bread served is gluten friendly.

Deacons will receive tithes and offerings in the offering plates as you return to your pew.

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

Call to Justice for La Casita and Offertory Prayer

Noelle Gulden

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 †

VENI EMMANUEL

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Benediction †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Postlude

arr. William Himes

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Highland Brass

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 processional hymn, *Prepare the Royal Highway*, 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

- **Hanging of the Green at 6:00 PM**—Tonight we will gather to adorn the sanctuary for the season. You are invited to bring donations for Highlands Community Ministries and La Casita Community Center. (See below for more info). The service will be followed by a church-wide reception in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Blessing the Advent We Actually Have**—On Wednesday at 6:15 PM, Mary Alice will lead a discussion based on our Advent small groups. To learn more, or to follow along with this Advent journey, download materials at www.katebowler.com. This will be the last Wednesday night of regularly scheduled activities for the semester.
- **Paths to Holiday Giving at Highland**—Please join us in shopping for the following items for our holiday partnerships:
 - ◇ **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.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.
- **Up Ahead:**
 - ◇ **Monday, December 4:** Sorting Soiree for Senior Adults at 9:00 AM (The Commons)
 - ◇ **Friday, December 8:** Sorting Soiree for Families with Children and Youth and Young Adults at 6:00 PM (La Casita)
 - ◇ **Sunday, December 10:** Second Sunday of Advent with Crosses on the Lawn; Children's Advent Service at 6:00 PM
 - ◇ **Tuesday, December 12:** La Casita Community Center Resource Day 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 - ◇ **Wednesday, Dec. 13:** Families with Children Outdoor Hot Chocolate Bar at Brown Park, 5:45-7:00 PM
 - ◇ **Sunday, December 17:** Third Sunday of Advent with Choir Singing Bach's Magnificat; Orchestra Christmas Concert at 6:00 PM
 - ◇ **Thursday, December 21:** Longest Night Service at 6:00 PM for those experiencing loss



**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

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