



Advent Beyond Imagination

The song of Mary is the oldest Advent hymn.
It is at once the most passionate, the wildest,
one might even say the most revolutionary
Advent hymn ever sung.

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

Gathering Music

Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. Greaves

Fantasia on Gleensleeves
Highland Strings

Invitation to Worship

Paul Henderson

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 joy, light the light of shepherd's coming,
light the candle of God's joy, light the light that shows the way.*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Joy

Harley and Joan Wise (8:45)
Emmanuel and Kathy Maize (11:15)

Opening Words

Karen Park (8:45)
Larry Gray (11:15)

We are here, the servants of the Lord. Let it be with us according to God's word.
Our souls will magnify the Lord, and our spirits will rejoice in God our Savior.
For God has looked with favor on us.
For God has done great things for us. Holy is the name of the Lord!

MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD

Processional Hymn (94) †

WOODLANDS

Tell Out, My Soul

I. Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea Dominum. *My soul magnifies the Lord.*

II. Et exultavit spiritus meus

Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo. *And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

Prayer of Expectancy

Karen Park (8:45)
Larry Gray (11:15)

MERCY IS FOR THOSE WHO REVERE GOD

III. Quia respexit humilitatem

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae. Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent. *For God has regarded the lowliness of God's handmaiden. Behold, from henceforth, I will be called blessed. . .*

IV. Omnes generationes

Omnes generationes. . . *by all generations.*

V. Quia fecit mihi magna

Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius. *For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name.*

Prayer of Confession

Lauren Jones Mayfield

We confess, O God, our impatience with Advent waiting. In our culture of same-day mail deliveries we expect instant gratification. We grow weary, and joy takes practice. We are out of practice with both waiting and joy. Forgive us. Restore us; for indeed, you do great things for us. O come, O come, Emmanuel. Amen.

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

Assurance of Forgiveness

VI. Et misericordia

Et misericordia a progeny in progenies, timentibus eum. *Mercy is for those who revere God from generation to generation.*

Exchange of Joy †

Justin Sizemore

VII. Fecit potentiam

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit superbos mente cordis sui. *God has shown a strong arm and has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.*

VIII. Deposuit potentes

Deposuit potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles. *God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.*

IX. Esurientes implevit bonis

Esurientes implevit bonis, et divites dimisit inanes. *God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.*

MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOR

The Gospel Lesson †

Luke 1:46-55 (Pew Bible page 56—NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

Mary's Dream: A Vision Beyond Imagination

Hymn (85) †

Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

PLEADING SAVIOR

THE MIGHTY ONE HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR ME

Offertory Prayer †

Richard Ryan

Offertory

X. Suscepit Israel

Suscepit Israel puerum suum reoratus misericordie suae. *God has helped Israel remember God's mercy.*

XI. Sicut locutus

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in saecula. *According to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.*

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.*

Benediction †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

XII. Gloria

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio et nunc et saecula saeculorum, Amen. *Glory to the Creator and to the Christ and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and forever and ever, Amen.*

Postlude

arr. Betsy Read

Joy to the World

Highland Strings

Please remain seated during the postlude.

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 musical offering, *Mary's Magnificat*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service—praise, confession, proclamation and response.

We express gratitude to our soloists for today: Ashley Cissell and Emily Stewart (soprano), Dominique Cooper (alto), Kyle Melton, (tenor) and Gregory Rahming (bass). Many thanks also to our instrumentalists: Hannah Inglehart (flute 1), Lynne-Grace Wooden (flute 2), Lillian Reed (oboe 1), Adi Pandey (oboe 2), Earl Garr (trumpet 1), Neil Barton (trumpet 2), Colt Howell (trumpet 3), Jane Halliday (violin 1), Ed Bridge (violin 1), Mia Rose-Lozado (violin 2), Joseph Levinson (violin 2), Virginia Phelps (viola), Mary Meyers (viola), Brendan Stock (cello), Eli Raines (bass), and Bruce Maples (timpani).

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

• Orchestra Christmas Concert Tonight

Highland's orchestra will present "A Christmas Christ-Mass Concert" at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. The concert features songs and arrangements of the season, and we will be joined on the last number by the Highland Handbell Choir. It promises to be a fun and enjoyable concert, so come join us!

- **Financial Update:** As of December 11, our 2023 expenses exceed our income by \$390,000. While that number might be overwhelming to read, we are also bold enough to imagine that the goal of meeting our ministry expenses is entirely within reach! You are welcome to give in person during worship today or in any of our services on Sunday, December 24. You may also give online at <https://hbclouisville.org/giving-1/> or by contacting our financial secretary, Kathleen Gordon, at kathleen@hbclouisville.org or at 502-451-3735. If you would like to hand-deliver a gift to the church office, we will be open December 27-29 from 9:00 AM—3:00 PM. As a reminder, any gifts for the 2023 budget year must be received or postmarked by December 31. Thank you for all the ways you give generously to Highland as we join in the work of God, creating a world where justice and Love are abundant!

• Longest Night Service on December 21 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 beloved family member or friend, a job, a relationship, a life transition - all are welcome to this quiet and reflective worship service on the longest night of the year.

• Up Ahead:

- ◇ **Thursday, December 21:** Longest Night Service at 6:00 PM for those experiencing loss
- ◇ **Friday, December 22:** Singing the Carols of Christmas at Friday Church at 7:00 PM
- ◇ **Sunday, December 24:** Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship at 10:00 AM (no Bible study)
Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 6:00 PM—We gather to sing the carol of Christmas in a more casual and family-friendly service at 4:00 PM. Lessons and Carols, an English tradition, tells the Christmas story through Scripture, carols, and music by the Sanctuary Choir at 6:00 PM. Both service end with candlelight to mark the joy of Christ's birth!
- ◇ **Sunday, December 31:** Online worship—no in-person services or activities



**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.