



**HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**JANUARY 7, 2024**

**8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.**

Invitation to Worship

Paul Henderson

Prelude

J. S. Bach

*The Old Year Hath Passed Away*

Opening Words

Diane Endicott (8:45)  
Lewis Miller (11:15)

Come to worship! Come to listen for a holy word.  
***We gather in praise. We gather to follow a star of light.***  
Come! Dream your dreams.  
***We are here to follow God's path of salvation.***  
Come into community! It is where we imagine together.  
***Illumine our minds and hearts, O God. Equip us to serve.***

## CHRIST WHOM HEAVEN AND EARTH ADORE

Processional Hymn (150) †

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

DIX

Prayer of Praise †

Diane Endicott (8:45)  
Lewis Miller (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.***

The Hebrew Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6 (Pew Bible pages 676-677—OT)

Paul Henderson

## HOLY JESUS, EVERY DAY KEEP US IN THE NARROW WAY

Prayer of Confession

Lauren Jones Mayfield

On this Epiphany Sunday, amidst social pressures to conform and life's busyness, we fear that your call to the magi to follow a new path home might be a call to us as well.  
***Yet, we avoid risky paths that require courage. We doubt ourselves and our intuition. In doing so, we doubt your guidance. We fail to use our imaginations to follow the way of love and justice in our lives, in this country, in your world so riddled with pain.***  
***Silence.***

Forgive us, Holy One.  
***Forgive us for choosing what is familiar in place of what is liberating. Amen.***

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hymn (164) †

*O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

KINGSFOLD

## MAY WE EVERMORE BE LED TO THEE

The Gospel Lesson †

Matthew 2:1-12 (Pew Bible pages 1-2—NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

*Daring to Follow Your Dreams*

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

Anthem

Dan Forrest

*The Work of Christmas*

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations; to bring peace again among siblings, to make music from the heart.

**BRING OUR RANSOMED SOULS AT LAST  
WHERE THEY NEED NO STAR TO GUIDE**

Hymn of Response (87) †

FESTAL SONG

*Arise, Your Light Is Come*

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Justin Sizemore

Invitation to the Table

Exchange of Peace †

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.*

*The Depth of God's Love*

Crockett/arr. Cunningham and Johnson

Diane Brewer, Libby Cunningham, Martha Johnson, trio

The depth of God's love reaches down to where you are until you're found. The depth of God's love reaches down, down, down to where you are until you're found, found, found. A quiet word, or none at all, pursues the heart behind the wall. And to those who wait with darkness all around, the depth of God's love reaches down. In the silence of the night, in the stillness of this place darkness flies, all is light with the dawn of redeeming grace. For though like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll, when faith has heard the Creator's word, peace falls upon the soul.

Offertory Prayer

Allison Todd (8:45)  
Jan Forren (11:15)

News for the Community

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

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 †

TALLIS' CANON

***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 †

GO TELL IT

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!***

Postlude

Philipp Nicolai, 16th c.

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

## 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, *As with Gladness Men of Old*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service—praise, confession, proclamation and response.

Our beloved Pastor Emeritus, Don Burke, passed away on January 4 at his home in Florida. Don was deeply loved here at Highland, and his ministry, personality, and passion have and will continue to have a profound effect on who we are as a community of faith. Don's loved ones are planning a memorial service in Canada, where his family still resides. We will also be planning a special time for us to remember, grieve, and celebrate Don Burke as a congregation. The flowers on the chancel today are given by the Personnel Ministry Group with love, gratitude, and appreciation for the life and witness of Don Burke.

The artwork on the cover today is used with permission from the artist, Christina Blais, who creates art through fabric and quilting. This piece, a text quilt, is entitled "Harlem" and is based on the poem "Dream Deferred" by Langston Hughes. You can see more of her work at [Christinablais.com](http://Christinablais.com).

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

- **Six-Year Anniversary of Cloud of Witness Series**—On January 17, 2018, Highland had our very first session of the "Cloud of Witness" series, inviting three different members of the Highland family to share parts of their faith stories with the congregation. We hope you will join us on January 17th, 2024 at 6:15 PM as Carol Harston interviews Bob Cunningham on this shared experience over the past six years and as we look forward to all the new stories that will be shared in years to come.
- **Wednesday Evening: Star Words Epiphany Gathering at 6:15 PM**—On Wednesday evening, we will participate in a Epiphany tradition called "Star Words." Just as the magi followed the star to find the Christ child, we also begin the new year seeking Christ and trusting in the many ways God brings stars and signs to draw us closer to the Holy One. Come learn more about the Epiphany season and receive your unique Star Word for 2024!
- **Up Ahead:**
  - ◇ **January 9:** Book Release of *Hard and Holy Work* by Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Tyler Mayfield
  - ◇ **January 10:** Wednesday Night Supper and Activities Resume
  - ◇ **January 17:** Cloud of Witness 6-Year Anniversary Evening at 6:15 PM
  - ◇ **January 28:** Highlights Class for Newcomers after 11:15 AM Worship - More Info Coming Soon!
  - ◇ **February 11:** Church-Wide Celebration of *Hard and Holy Work* book release - More Info Coming Soon!
  - ◇ **February 14:** Ash Wednesday - The Season of Lent Begins



**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