



Each full  
and unreserved  
'yes' we say to God  
is the beginning  
of a new story.

*~ Pope Francis*

**HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**JANUARY 21, 2024**  
**8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.**

Invitation to Worship

Justin Sizemore

Prelude

J. S. Bach

*Air from Suite in D*

Opening Words

Greg Aguilon (8:45)  
Troy Burden (11:15)

We gather in the presence of God to encounter Love that sets us free.

***We do not come seeking crumbs of justice but a way of life that liberates.***

The Spirit leads us in power and truth. Our faith is placed in Love Eternal  
that lifts broken spirits and brings new life from places of ruin.

***With hope that is neither narrow nor fragile, we listen to hear the voice of Love  
and choose to say yes. We will walk humbly with our God.***

### ALMIGHTY, VICTORIOUS, THY GREAT NAME WE PRAISE

Processional Hymn (58) †

ST. DENIO

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Prayer of Praise †

Greg Aguilon (8:45)  
Troy Burden (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.***

### THY JUSTICE, LIKE MOUNTAINS HIGH SOARING ABOVE

The Hebrew Lesson

Renee Purtlebaugh

Jonah 3:1-5; 10 (Pew Bible page 845—OT)

Choral Confession

John Ness Beck

*Offertory*

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, shall I come before God with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give God my first born for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul. God has shown you, dear ones. God has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice and to love kindness? And to walk humbly, walk humbly with your God.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Paul Henderson

Exchange of Peace †

Lauren Jones Mayfield

### IN ALL LIFE THOU LIVEST, THE TRUE LIFE OF ALL

Hymn (71) †

SLANE

*Be Thou My Vision*

The Gospel Lesson †

Mark 1:14-20 (Pew Bible page 34—NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

*Saying YES to the Divine*  
*Children grades K-2 may be dismissed for Children's Worship (11:15)*

### ALL PRAISE WE WOULD RENDER

Hymn of Response (473) †

*Will You Come and Follow Me?*

KELVINGROVE

Offertory Prayer

Bill Campbell (8:45)  
Drew Harston (11:15)

Offertory

*Pastorale*

Flor Peeters

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 †

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

*Postlude on ST. DENIO*

Robert Lee

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

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 processional hymn, *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service—praise, confession, proclamation and response.

Pardon our Progress! Highland is in the midst of a renovation process to update our irreparable HVAC System with a more sustainable energy model in addition to some other needed repairs and updates in our sanctuary. During this time, our pews have been removed from the sanctuary, and you will notice temporary changes in lighting, flooring, and/or machinery in the sanctuary. Please take a green hymnal as you enter and return it to one of the carts before you leave. Additionally, under the first chair on either side of the center aisle, you will find a friendship registry and a folder with information for newcomers. To learn more about the significance of this ongoing work and how you can support us in these efforts, visit [hbclouisville.org](http://hbclouisville.org) and click on "Sacred Space for Everyone."

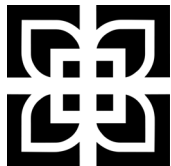
Listening Assist Devices are available. Please see our sound technician or an usher for assistance. Large print hymn sheets are also available upon request for visually impaired persons. An usher can provide a copy for you.

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## Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Highlights Class on Sunday, January 28**—If you're visiting Highland and want to know more about us, or a new member with lots of questions, we invite you to join the ministers, a few deacons, and the new members ministry group for lunch next Sunday from 12:30-3:00 PM. Please email Lauren Jones Mayfield to RSVP at [laurenjm@hbclouisville.org](mailto:laurenjm@hbclouisville.org).
- **Wednesday Night Series: Loving Our Own Bones**—If you'd like to continue learning and growing to love yourself as God created you to be, join our next Wednesday night class on the book *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole*. I (Mary Alice) deeply appreciated reading this book throughout my own recovery and the author, Julia Watts Belser, a rabbi, Hebrew scholar, and wheelchair user, has such rich wisdom to share with us. The conversation around our tables will be richer because of everyone who participates: January 24 and 31 and February 7 at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- **End-of-Year Giving**—You may remember that in December, we anticipated that end-of-year expenses could significantly exceed our income. We are overjoyed to share that Highland boldly stepped up to the challenge, and we ended the year having received \$1,238,262 for our ministry budget, in addition to \$824,616 for the Sacred Space Campaign. That's over \$2 million dollars toward creating a world where justice and Love are abundant. Thank you, Highland, for your faithfulness and generosity! Unfortunately, we still ended the year \$55,809 behind our expenses, although this number is not nearly as high as it could have been. You will be hearing more feedback from the Finance Ministry Group on these topics at the Quarterly Church Conference on February 4.
- **Up Ahead:**
  - ◇ **January 28 :** Highlights Class for Newcomers after 11:15 AM Worship
  - ◇ **February 4:** Quarterly Church Conference at 4:00 PM via Zoom (note date change)
  - ◇ **February 11:** Church-Wide Celebration of Hard and Holy Work book release —More Info Coming Soon!
  - ◇ **February 13:** Cream of the Crop Potluck "Agape" Fellowship Meal at 12:00 PM—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.