



In the end, that is the only evidence we have to offer
those who ask us how we can possibly believe:
Because we live, that is why. Because we have found,
to our surprise, that we are not alone.
Because we never know where Christ will turn up next.
Here is one thing that helps: never get so focused on the empty tomb
that you forget to speak to the gardener.

~ Barbara Brown Taylor

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31, 2024

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

Chiming of the Hour

The Easter Gospel

Lauren Jones Mayfield and Lewis Miller (8:45)
Sally Evans and Lewis Miller (11:15)

Mark 16:1-7 (Pew Bible page 53 – NT)

Congregational Response

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Choral Introit

John Ferguson

Easter Introit

Listen! The One who bore God's heart, the One who spoke God's peace, the One in whom God agonized, is now the risen Lord! Death was no prison for Him! Jesus is raised and among us. All that you see and hear comes from the One who was freed. Listen! Hear, O people of God, that Jesus Christ is Lord. Alleluia!

Processional Hymn (194) †

EASTER HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving †

Kathey Golightly Sanders

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.***

LOVE'S REDEEMING WORK IS DONE

Prayer of Confession

Lauren Jones Mayfield

God of new life, so many of your children, here in this room and around the world, cannot yet see the hope of resurrection this Easter morning.

Forgive us for not noticing the pain that touches each of us through the violence of racism, homophobia, ableism, and greed.

Forgive us for not responding to the devastations of war because of our own comforts, confusion, and feelings of insignificance.

Forgive us for thinking that our humble responses are too small to make a difference.

Help us celebrate the mystery of resurrection even amid despair.

Inspire us to embrace the Good News of this day with bold acts of justice and faithful demonstrations of love. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Exchange of Peace †

Renee Purtlebaugh

Hymn (217) †

HYMN TO JOY

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

CHRIST HAS OPENED PARADISE

The Gospel Lesson †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

John 20:1-18 (Pew Bible pages 112-113 – NT)

Anthem

Gustav Holst

Psalm 148

Lord, who hast made us for Thine own, hear as we sing before Thy throne. Alleluia! Accept Thy children's reverent praise for all Thy wondrous works and ways. Alleluia! Waves rolling in on every shore, pause at God's footfall and adore. Alleluia! Ye torrents rushing from the hills, bless God whose hand your fountains fill. Alleluia! Earth ever through the power divine seed time and harvest shall be Thine. Alleluia! Sweet flowers that perfume all the air, praise God that hath made all things fair. Alleluia! Burn, lamps of night, with constant flame, Shine to the honor of God's name. Alleluia! Thou sun, whom all the lands obey, renew God's praise from day to day. Alleluia!

Sermon

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Supposing Him to be the Gardener

SING, YE HEAVENS, AND EARTH REPLY

Hymn of Response †

HYFRYDOL

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

*Christ has risen while earth slumbers; Christ has risen where hope dies,
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.*

*Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!*

*Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.*

*Christ has risen and forever lived to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.*

Offertory Prayer †

Mark Sanders

Offertory

Cathy Moglebust

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds
Highland Handbells

*Please pass the friendship register. If you are visiting with us, we invite you
to find a "Welcome" folder on the backside of the register to take home with you.*

Doxology †

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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.*

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

Postlude

Charles-Marie Widor

Toccata ~ Symphony No. 5

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, *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation and response.

Jim Hawkins, Highland member and local artist, created the original art for our Easter bulletin. Please express your gratitude to Jim for sharing his gifts to enrich this day.

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

- **Deacon Nomination Process Begins**—Each year, our church nominates members to serve as Deacons at Highland. **Our Deacons are not an “administrative board,” but rather servant leaders who invest themselves in the life of the church and care for our community.** The deacon body is a blend of new and long-time Highland Baptist Church members, young, seasoned, and diverse. You are invited to nominate up to 9 people to serve as Deacons in the coming year. More information will be available in next week's newsletter. **The deadline for nominations is Sunday, April 28.**
- **Reminder**—please take any remaining food or containers brought today for breakfast home after the 11:15 service. Your breakfast contributions are greatly appreciated!
- **Are you looking for a way to connect or re-connect at Highland? Bible Study classes are a great “next step” to engage with us as the family of God in this place!** Classes for all different ages and life journeys meet Sundays from 10:00-11:00 AM. We would love to help you get connected with a space to get to know others and to be known within our community of faith!
- **There are no Wednesday evening activities on Wednesday, April 3.**
- **Nearly 65% of people at Highland use online giving to make financial gifts to the church.** We invite you to be one of them! Scan the QR code to be directed to our online giving page.



**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.

Jerre and Frank Bassett
CUSTODIANS

Cheryl Davis
OFFICE MANAGER

Paul Henderson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Mary Alice Birdwhistell
PASTOR

Megan Fuller
CHILDREN AND FAMILY
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Lauren Jones Mayfield
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CARE
AND JUSTICE

Justin Sizemore
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS

Lauren Blackwell
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Kathleen Gordon
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Tyler Swim
DEACON CHAIR

Fred Bogert
MUSIC DIRECTOR
TO FRIDAY CHURCH