

We can do hard things.  
Being human is not hard  
because you're doing it wrong,  
it's hard because you're doing it right.  
You will never change the fact  
that being human is hard,  
so you must change your idea  
that it was ever supposed to be easy.

~ *Glennon Doyle*



## HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

### ASCENSION SUNDAY

MAY 12, 2024

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

## HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE, TO HIS THRONE ABOVE THE SKIES

Prelude

LLANFAIR  
*The Strife Is O'er*  
Children's Handbells

arr. R. S. Groves (8:45)  
arr. Douglas Wagner (11:15)

Opening Words

Richard Ryan (8:45)  
Abigail Berrios (11:15)

We have come to worship God, the living God,  
***Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.***  
We have come to praise God, the almighty God,  
***Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.***  
We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,  
***Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.***  
***God of grace and glory, pour on us your power!***

Processional Hymn(285) †

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

Prayer of Praise †

Richard Ryan (8:45)  
Abigail Berrios (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 Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 1:15-23 (Pew Bible page 188 – NT)

Lauren Jones Mayfield

Anthem

*God Is Gone Up*

Gerald Finzi

God is gone up with a triumphant shout: The Lord with sounding trumpets' melodies: Sing praise, sing praises out, unto our King sing praise seraphic-wise! Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors, they sing, and let the king of glory enter in. Me-thinks I see heaven's sparkling courtiers fly, in flakes of glory down him to attend. And hear heart cramping notes of melody surround his chariot as it did ascend; mixing their music, making every string more to enravish as they this tune sing.

## HE HAS CONQUERED DEATH AND SIN. TAKE THE KING OF GLORY IN!

Prayer of Confession

Paul Henderson

***We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust. While we sing of your lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of today's events. Help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.***

Words of Assurance

Exchange of Peace †

Sally Evans

*Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*

**HARK! HIS GRACIOUS LIPS BESTOW, BLESSINGS ON HIS CHURCH BELOW**

A Reading from Acts

Acts 1:6-11 (Pew Bible page 115 – NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

*We Can Do This Hard Thing*  
*Children grades K-2 may be dismissed for Children's Worship (11:15)*

**ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

Hymn of Response †

*We, O God, Unite Our Voices*

HYFRYDOL

*We, O, God, unite our voices, raised in thankful harmony.  
You, unchanging, safe have brought us through the ever-changing sea.  
Days of calm and days of conflict, nights of darkness prove Your grace.  
Hands beneath us, arms around us, and, above, Your shining face.*

*Seeing then the task before us, bind our hearts and hands as one.  
May our labor be in union, our resolve and Yours be one.  
With one spirit let us labor toward the bright horizon far.  
In the midst of tempest peril be Your cross our guiding star.*

*Not our choice the wind's direction, unforeseen the calm or gale.  
Your great ocean swells before us, and our ship seems small and frail.  
Fierce and gleaming is Your mystery, drawing us to shores unknown;  
Lead us on with hope and courage till your harbor is our home.*

Global Mission Testimony and Offertory Prayer

Denee Walsh (8:45)  
Bonnye Swim (11:15)

Offertory

*Simple Gifts*  
Highland Handbells

arr. Brenda Austin

News for the Community

Justin Sizemore

*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 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.*

Benediction †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Postlude

L. Clerambault

*Postlude on Basse et Dessus de Trompette*

## Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn, *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation and response.

Many thanks to Sharon Sanders for her musical leadership in our worship service today.

A reminder that due to our ongoing Sacred Space project, we have no heat or air conditioning in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall. Our ministers and Sanctuary choir will not be robing on Sundays during this transitional season.

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.

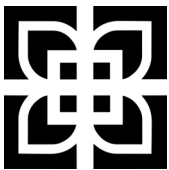
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Nearly 65% of people at Highland use online giving to make financial gifts to the church. We invite you to be one of them! Scan the QR code to be directed to our online giving page.



## Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Israel-Palestine Discussion Continues on Wednesday, May 15:** The Anti-Racism Team invites you to join us for this ongoing discussion. On May 15, Amy Shir, a local social and economic justice activist who helped organize Jewish Louisvillians for Peace following the Hamas attack on Israelis on October 7th, 2023, will lead our time together.
- **Guest Proclaimer Rev. Dr. C. Lynn Brinkley on Sunday, May 19:** We are delighted to welcome Dr. Brinkley to the pulpit next Sunday. Dr. Brinkley was recently called to serve with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as the Pan African Koinonia Ministry Coordinator. Prior to joining CBF, Dr. Brinkley served as the associate director of Baptist Women in Ministry.
- **Global Mission Offering:** Each year, Highland dedicates a month to acknowledging and raising financial support for our various mission partners through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The 2024 theme for this global mission offering is "Because Presence Matters," and Highland's goal this year is \$10,000. Please prayerfully consider your contribution to this work of Love. You may give online on the HBC website or by check, noting Missions Offering on the memo line.
- **Mary Miller Boat Cruise for Senior Adults on June 20: Join us for an Ohio River cruise and luncheon! We need your confirmation and payment by May 20.** The cruise price is \$37 per person and can be paid via the church website (please mark it for the Mary Miller Cruise) or by check to the church office. Please RSVP to either JoAnne Taheri, 502-387-4785 or David Wells, 502-931-2510 by Monday, May 20.
- **Upcoming Calendar:**
  - May 19 Children's Choir Spring Recognition Service (6:00 PM), Popsicles on the Playground (7:00 PM)
  - May 22 Spring Orchestra Concert (6:00 PM)
  - June 2 Lauren Jones Mayfield's Last Sunday in Worship and Celebration of 8 Years of Ministry at Highland
  - June 6 Drag Revival: A Family-Friendly Spiritual Night of Music and Joy (Highlands Community Ministries)
  - June 7 Racing Louisville Game (Lynn Family Stadium, 8:00 PM)



## 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

**Mary Alice Birdwhistell**  
PASTOR

**Lauren Blackwell**  
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

**Fred Bogert**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
TO FRIDAY CHURCH

**Cheryl Davis**  
OFFICE MANAGER

**Megan Fuller**  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY  
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

**Kathleen Gordon**  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**Paul Henderson**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC  
AND WORSHIP

**Lauren Jones Mayfield**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CARE  
AND JUSTICE

**Walter McWhorter**  
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

**Renee Purtlebaugh—on sabbatical**  
**Sally Evans—interim**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN  
AND THEIR FAMILIES

**Justin Sizemore**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH  
AND YOUNG ADULTS

**Tyler Swim**  
DEACON CHAIR