

The problem with miracles  
is that they let us off the hook.  
They appeal to the part of us that is all too  
happy to let God feed the crowd,  
save the world, do it all.  
But in this story, God tells us,  
"Stop waiting for food to fall from the sky  
and share what you have. Stop waiting for a  
miracle and participate in one instead."

~ *Barbara Brown Taylor*



# HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

## EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 14, 2024

10:15 A.M.

---

Invitation to Worship

Justin Sizemore

**WE TURN TO YOU, OFFERING UP OURSELVES IN PRAISE**

Prelude

F. Mendelssohn

*Song without Words, Op. 19, No. 4*

Opening Words

Paige Harlow

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today.

***With our songs, with our words, with our actions, we praise you.***

As we look at creation and see your beauty everywhere

***O God beyond all praising, we worship you today.***

We lift our hearts, we lift our minds, we lift all that we are.

***O God beyond all praising, we worship you today.***

Hymn of Praise †

THAXTED, alt.

*O God Beyond All Praising*

*O God beyond all praising, we worship You today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at every gift You send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end;  
we lift our hearts before You and wait upon your Word,  
we honor and adore You our great and mighty Lord.*

*Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
that we who know Your favor may serve You as our King;  
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at Your beauty and glory in Your ways,  
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.*

Prayer of Praise †

Paige Harlow

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.*

A Reading from the Psalms

Renee Purtlebaugh

Psalm 24 (Pew Bible page 491 – OT)

**BORN WITH TALENTS, MAKE US SERVANTS  
FIT TO ANSWER AT YOUR THRONE**

Prayer of Confession

Justin Sizemore

*We have heard these words: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it."  
Yet we have been gatekeepers. We have decided who is and who is not worthy of your love.  
Forgive us for the gates we have built to keep others out, O Lord. Lift up these gates of racism,  
war, violence, homophobia, transphobia, and all the gates that have been built to keep anyone away  
from your love. Lift up these gates, O Lord, and remind us to show your love and light to all creation.*

Words of Assurance

Exchange of Peace †

Paul Henderson

Hymn †

BEACH SPRING

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store:  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;  
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at Your throne.*

*Treasure, too, You have entrusted, gain through powers Your grace conferred;  
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.*

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

# HEALING, TEACHING, AND RECLAIMING, SERVING YOU BY LOVING ALL

Choral Anthem

arr. Mark Hayes

*Grace*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound; that saved someone, someone like me; I once was lost, but now am found;  
I once was blind, but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and that same grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour when I first believed! Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already safely come; This grace hath brought me safe thus far, and surely grace will lead me home, I shall go  
home. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the glorious sun, we've no less days to sing  
God's praise than since the day we first begun.

The Gospel Lesson †

Mark 6:35-44 (Pew Bible pages 39-40 – NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

*"Go and See": Ministry in a Time of Scarcity*

## OPEN WIDE OUR HANDS FOR SHARING, AS WE HEED CHRIST'S AGELESS CALL

Hymn of Response †

ITALIAN HYMN

*God of the Fertile Fields*

*God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:  
forth from Your bounteous hand come gifts Your love has planned, that all in every land be clothed and fed.*

*We would be stewards true, holding in trust from You all that You give;  
help us in love to share, teach us like You to care for people everywhere, that all may live.*

*As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, Your reign yet grows.  
So let our toil be used, no gift of Yours abused, no humble task refused Your love bestows.*

*God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:  
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to You; guide all we say and do, till life is done.*

Offertory Prayer

Kent Pugh

Offertory

arr. Mark Hayes

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

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.***

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

arr. Bruce Greer

*Postlude on "Italian Hymn"*

## Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn, *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*, 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 today's service.

Permission to print and stream music obtained from One License #A-726201. All rights reserved.

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

- **Deacon Candidates**

Over the next several weeks, we will hear in worship from those who have been nominated to serve as deacons: Greg Buntun, Bruce Carroll, Roy Fuller, Kelly Garrett, Noelle Gulden, Bonnie Lindsay, Corey Moran, Geneene Nisbet, Gene Streible, Charlie Suer, and David Swim. We are excited about the gifts that each of these individuals bring and grateful for their willingness to serve.

- **The Anti-Racism Team will host local artist Rebecca Cavalcante and her Threads of Incarceration Workshop today from 2:00-4:00 PM.** Threads of Incarceration is a community art project connecting and visualizing the threads of impact of incarceration on Kentucky families. Through art workshops, an online survey, and research, this project will culminate in a digital magazine and large-scale community art piece. **We still have some spaces available! See Missy Smith after worship if you'd like to attend.**

- **Vote on Sunday, July 28**

**On Sunday, July 28, we will have a ballot vote on 3 items:** the job description for the new Associate Pastor of Ministry Coordination and Formation, the search committee for this position, and deacon candidates for the coming year. We had discussion on this position in last month's QCC, and members of Personnel and Ministry Council will be available before and after worship that Sunday for any further questions or feedback you may have. **More information will be available in the newsletter this week.**

- **Party with your Pastors**

Party with your Pastors is a fun and relaxed way to meet new people and to get to know our pastors in a more personal way. Don't worry, we've got great questions to spark the conversation, too! **Our next party will be at Justin and Abby Sizemore's house on Sunday, July 21 from 4:00-5:30 PM,** and you can RSVP using the link in the newsletter. Even if you've participated before, you're welcome to come back and meet new people!



**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

**Bob Cunningham**  
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR

**Kathleen Gordon**  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**Renee Purtlebaugh**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN  
AND THEIR FAMILIES

**Mary Alice Birdwhistell**  
PASTOR

**Cheryl Davis**  
OFFICE MANAGER

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

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

**Lauren Blackwell**  
INTERIM MINISTRY COORDINATOR  
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

**Megan Fuller**  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY  
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

**Walter McWhorter**  
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

**Tyler Swim**  
DEACON CHAIR

**Fred Bogert**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
TO FRIDAY CHURCH