



I put myself back in the narrative
I stop wasting time on tears
I live another 50 years...
...Who lives, who dies, who
tells your story?

~ Lin-Manuel Miranda,
Hamilton: An American Musical

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 4, 2024

10:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Paul Henderson

O PRAISE THE GRACIOUS POWER THAT TUMBLES WALLS OF FEAR

Prelude

L. Beethoven

Allegretto, Op. 119, No. 1

Call to Worship—based on Exodus 16

Lance Springs

The stories of our faith remind us who God is:

God is one who hears the cries of their people.

God is one who promises provision and sustenance.

God is one who keeps their promises.

God is one who longs for their people to listen, to follow, to trust.

God is one who is engaged in the everyday lives and stories of their people.

Having remembered, let us worship God together.

Hymn of Praise †

MARION

O Praise the Gracious Power

*O praise the gracious power that tumbles walls of fear
And gathers in one house of faith all strangers far and near:
We praise you Christ! Your cross has made us one! (chorus)*

*O praise persistent truth that opens fist-ed minds
and eases from their anxious clutch the prejudice that binds. (chorus)*

*O praise inclusive love encircling every race
oblivious to gender, wealth, to social rank or place. (chorus)*

*O praise the tide of grace that laps at every shore
with visions of a world at peace, no longer bled by war. (chorus)*

Prayer of Praise †

Lance Springs

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.*

Choral Anthem

Martin Shaw

With a Voice of Singing

O PRAISE THE TIDE OF GRACE THAT LAPS AT EVERY SHORE

A Reading from the Psalms

Paul Henderson

Psalms 51:1-12 (Pew Bible pages 509-510 – OT)

Prayer of Confession from Ephesians 4:1-6

Renee Purtlebaugh

Holy One, we do not always walk with humility, gentleness or patience. We do not always bear with one another in love or make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace. We forget that you call us to hope through faith, through baptism, through the body of Christ. O God, who is above all and through all and in all, forgive us. Fill us with your steadfast love, putting a new and right and willing spirit within us. Amen.

Words of Assurance

O PRAISE PERSISTENT TRUTH THAT OPENS FISTED MINDS

Hymn †

SLANE

What Is the World Like

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.*

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.*

*These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.*

Sermon

Who Tells Your Story?

WE PRAISE YOU CHRIST! YOUR CROSS HAS MADE US ONE!

Hymn of Response †

TRURO

Live into Hope

*Live into hope of captives freed, of sight restored, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee.*

*Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.*

*Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.*

*Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.*

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 seat.*

Deacon Testimony and Offertory Prayer

Bonnie Lindsay

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 †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Postlude

arr. Calvin Taylor

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

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

*In worship at Highland, we aim to speak and sing a theology that reflects an expansive and inclusive God. As we begin the Lord's Prayer today, we will use the words "Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father..." to offer a fuller image of who God is. Within the prayer, some of us use the word "kingdom" and others prefer the word "kin-dom" to refer to the beloved community of God. We invite you to join us in using your own creative and intentional language as you pray, knowing that no single word will ever capture the essence of who God is.

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn, *O Praise the Gracious Power*, 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.

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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

- **Congregational Votes Last Sunday:** We are happy to share that the church voted to move forward with a search for an Associate Pastor of Ministry Coordination and Formation, with Tanya Cornely, Troy Burden, Robert Davis, Tracy Holladay, Margaret Pennington, Carol Harston (consultant/ex-officio), and Mary Alice Birdwhistell (ex-officio) serving on the search committee. Additionally, the church voted to affirm the following slate of deacon candidates for the coming year: Greg Buntin, Bruce Carroll, Roy Fuller, Kelly Garrett, Noelle Gulden, Bonnie Lindsay, Corey Moran, Gene Nisbet, Gene Streible, Charlie Suer, and David Swim. We'll continue to hear from the newly elected deacons for the next few weeks in worship. We are grateful for all of those who have agreed to serve our community of faith in the days ahead!
- We will continue our Summer Schedule and relocation through at least mid-August. **We are also postponing Gather 'Round Sunday until September 8** to ensure we are back in our regular rhythms as we kick-off the new year together. Children will be promoting to their new Bible study classes for the school year next Sunday, August 11.
- **Wednesday Night Programming and Meals Resume on August 21:** We are reducing the cost of Wednesday night dinners this year by not using a caterer. Meal costs will be \$10 per person, \$5 for children, with a maximum of \$25 per family. We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship! **We also welcome more volunteers to assist with food prep and setup, making desserts, or cleanup. Contact Kathy Belcher (klbelcher53@gmail.com) if you can help or want more information. To make reservations, contact Kathleen Gordon (Kathleen@hbclouisville.org).**
- **We are thrilled to host author Cole Arthur Riley at Highland on Sunday evening, September 15 at 6:00 PM.** This event is made possible through generous funding from the Lily Endowment for Renee's sabbatical and our entire church family. You will be able to register for this event starting on Tuesday, August 13. After Labor Day weekend, we will invite the rest of the community to RSVP for any remaining spots
- **Young Adult (30 and under) Pool Party:** We'll gather at Larry and Mary Ida Gray's home on Sunday, August 18 at 1:00 PM. For more information, contact Justin Sizemore at justin@hbclouisville.org. If you're new to Highland, this will be a great opportunity to connect with the rest of the young adult community.



**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