



Religion has always had the power to elevate or ruin us. To make us compassionate and creative, or stingy and small-minded. To grant us peace, or stir us to war. If our past teaches us anything, it is that we dare not treat our pursuit of God casually; the stakes are too high. What we profess and practice when it comes to religion really, *really* matters.

~ *Debie Thomas*

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024
8:45 AND 10:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

John Dickson

CHRISTIAN PEOPLE, SING TOGETHER, ALL UNITED IN ONE VOICE

Prelude

Florence Price

Adoration

Call to Worship

Vicki Runnion (8:45)
David Wells (11:15)

Come, let us sing together.

United in one voice, praising you, O Lord.

Come, even in the midst of our hopes, fears, doubts, and dreams.

Let us be united in worship, giving God our thanks and praise.

Hymn of Praise (271) †

JUBILEE, alt.

Christian People, Sing Together

Prayer of Praise †

Vicki Runnion (8:45)
David Wells (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.

AS YOU CALL US TO YOUR PURPOSE, BLESS OUR WORKING IN YOUR NAME

The Gospel Lesson †

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15 (Pew Bible page 41 – NT)

Lauren Blackwell

Prayer of Confession

Justin Sizemore

Words of Assurance

Let us listen and understand: the voice of the Beloved speaks to us! God is implanting the word of hope, the word of grace, and the word of forgiveness into our hearts.

We listen and understand. Every gift comes from God, especially the gifts of mercy and love.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Hymn †

ST. PETER

In Christ There Is No East or West

***In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.***

***In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.***

***Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.***

***In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.***

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

THOUGH WE LOOK FROM MANY ANGLES,
ALL OUR VIEWS REFLECT THE SON

The Epistle Lesson

James 1:17-27 (Pew Bible page 224 – NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

For the Living of These Days: Stimulus (Pause) Response

SHOW HOW EVERY PERSON MATTERS AS OUR CALLING WE FULFILL

Hymn of Response (482) †

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM, LORD

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Renee Purtlebaugh

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.

Choral Anthem

Offertory

John Ness Beck

Offertory Prayer

Mary Alice Birdwhistell (8:45)

Call to Justice and Offertory Prayer

Sally Evans (11:15)

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

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Postlude

Fugue in D Major

J.S. Bach

*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 of praise, *Christian People, Sing Together*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation and response.

We gladly welcome Joseph Parr to Highland as he begins serving as our new organist and music associate.

Thanks to John Dickson for his musical leadership in today's service.

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.

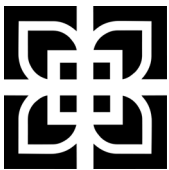
Permission to print and stream music obtained from One License #A-726201. All rights reserved.

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

- **The church office is closed on Monday, September 2 for Labor Day.**
- **Gather Round: We will “Gather Round” on Sunday, September 8 as we kick off the fall semester together.** Use the QR code at right, the newsletter link, or call the church office to RSVP for a picnic lunch by September 1. The cost is \$7 per person with a \$21 maximum for families. There will be outdoor games set up as we gather round and fellowship together. Bring a lawn chair or blanket!
- **Wednesday Night Programming and Meals continue:** Meal costs are \$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 volunteers to assist with food prep and setup, making desserts, or cleanup. **Contact Kathy Belcher (kbelcher53@gmail.com) if you can help. Reservations need to be made each Monday by 12:00 PM for that week's meal by contacting Kathleen Gordon (kathleen@hbclouisville.org) or using the QR code above.**
- **Louisville Pride on September 14 from 11:00 AM–10:00 PM.** We need booth volunteers! Sign up using the QR code above or the link in the newsletter.
- **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 Purtlebaugh's sabbatical and our entire church family. **Registration is required and you can use the QR code above or the link in the newsletter to sign up.** We will continue exploring Black liturgies by Riley over the next two Wednesday nights.



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

Joseph Parr
ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Mary Alice Birdwhistell
PASTOR

Cheryl Davis
OFFICE MANAGER

Paul Henderson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Lauren Blackwell
INTERIM MINISTRY COORDINATOR
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Megan Fuller
CHILDREN AND FAMILY
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Robin Ramsay Lee
DEACON CHAIR

Justin Sizemore
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR