



Look, you saints, the cloud of witness gathered 'round this sacred place;
rise as one to cheer us onward, all who choose to run the race.
Sound the trumpets! We will journey swift of foot and brave of soul.
Let us run the race before us with our God, as those of old.

~ John Dickson, *Celebrating Grace Hymnal*

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

Invitation to Worship

Justin Sizemore

PRAISE TO GOD THE CROWN OF HONOR WAITS FOR ALL

Prelude

Samuel Coleridge Taylor

Three Short Pieces for Organ: I. Arietta

Call to Worship

Roy Fuller (8:45)
Becky Hines (11:15)

Gather 'round, all who need a fresh word of hope this morning!
Gather 'round, you who are young with energy and you who are aged with wisdom.
Gather 'round, to worship and wonder, sing and proclaim the mystery of God's love!
Come, gather 'round this sacred place as we worship God together.

Hymn of Praise (298) †

ABBOT'S LEIGH

God Is Here

Prayer of Praise †

Roy Fuller (8:45)
Becky Hines (11:15)

Recognition of Kindergarteners

Renee Purtlebaugh

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.

SET ASIDE THE SIN THAT STRANGLES

Prayer of Confession

Renee Purtlebaugh

God is here, but often we are anywhere but "here."
Forgive us, Holy One, for living in our anxieties, frustrations, and preoccupations.
We confess them to you now. (Silence)
Help us to be present to this moment, to this beloved community, and to You, O God.
Open our ears, minds, and imaginations, that we might encounter You anew
as we gather 'round this sacred place. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Exchange of Peace †

Paul Henderson

THE VICTOR CRIES, "JOIN THOSE SAINTS, THE CLOUD OF WITNESS"

Hymn (630) †

EVANGELINE

Look, You Saints, the Cloud of Witness

A Reading from the Psalms

Paul Henderson

Psalm 122 (Pew Bible page 560 – OT)

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

Choral Anthem

arr. Tom Trenney

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent word! What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled? "Fear not, I am with thee, oh be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand. When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress. When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine." The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.

The Epistle Lesson

James 2:14-19 (Pew Bible page 225 – NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

For the Living of These Days: Yes, and . . .
Children grades K-2 may be dismissed for Children's Worship (11:15)

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Hymn of Response (649) †

Christ, You Call Us All to Service

IN BABILONE

Offertory Prayer

Gene Streible (8:45)
Jan Forren (11:15)

Offertory

Three Short Pieces for Organ: III. Melody

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

News for the Community and Recognition of Sixth Graders

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

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Three Short Pieces for Organ: II. Elegy

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn, *Look, You Saints, the Cloud of Witness*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation and response.

We are grateful for a generous gift from the estate of Louis and Thelma Baisch, who were longtime members of Highland and the parents of Rose Hawkins. This gift has made possible our newly installed sound system in the sanctuary and will impact the worship, music, proclamation, and witness of Highland for years to come!

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

- **Join us for Gather Round today!** After the 11:15am worship service, we gather outside for a time of food and fellowship. There are games set up, the playground is open for families, and you can find a cozy spot to sit anywhere out front. If you are a guest with us today, we do have some extra lunches and would love to have you join!
- **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 are still in need of one more person each week to help dry dishes. **Contact Kathy Belcher (klbelcher53@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 this Wednesday night.



**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