



Geese appear high over us, pass, and the sky closes.  
Abandon, as in love or sleep, holds them to their way,  
clear in the ancient faith: what we need is here.  
And we pray, not for new earth or heaven,  
but to be quiet in heart, and in eye, clear.  
What we need is here.

*~ Wendell Berry*

**HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**

**REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY**

**SERVICE OF GRATITUDE**

**NOVEMBER 24, 2024**

**11:15 A.M.**

Invitation to Worship

Renee Purtlebaugh

**COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE COME,  
RAISE THE SONG OF HARVEST HOME**

Prelude

Michael Ryan

*Festive Peal on "Hymn to Joy"*  
Highland Handbells

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 138

Patty Martin Nichols

We gather to give you thanks with our whole hearts, O Lord.

***We gather to sing your praises before all creation.***

We gather, calling out to you with all that we are, knowing that you hear us.

***We gather to give you thanks and sing your praises. Your steadfast love endures forever.***

Processional Hymn †

ITALIAN HYMN

*Come Now, Almighty God*

***Come now, Almighty God, help us your name to laud; our songs we raise:  
Ruler all glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!***

***Come now, Incarnate Word, by heaven and earth adored; our prayer attend:  
Come, and your people bless, and give your word success; grant us your holiness, Savior and  
Friend!***

***Come, Holy Comforter, your sacred witness bear in this glad hour.  
Your grace to us impart, now rule in every heart, never from us depart, Spirit of power!***

***To you, great One in Three, eternal praises be forevermore.  
Your sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.***

Prayer of Praise †

Patty Martin Nichols

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

Handel/Liebergen

*O Praise the Mighty Lord*

O praise the mighty Lord, our God, sing a joyful song. God reigns in majesty forevermore. God reigns,  
sing praise. O praise the mighty Lord with a joyful song. Hallelujah!

The Gospel Lesson †

Paul Henderson

Matthew 6:25-33 (Pew Bible page 6 – NT)

Hymn (372) †

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

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

## GOD, OUR MAKER, DOTH PROVIDE FOR OUR WANTS TO BE SUPPLIED

Testimonies of Gratitude Kathy Golightly Sanders, Tracy Holladay, Matthew Neal

Congregational Response DIX

*Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving Justin Sizemore

Exchange of Peace † Paul Henderson

## ALL IS SAFELY GATHERED IN, ERE THE WINTER STORMS BEGIN

Poetry Reading Wendell Berry

*Wild Geese*

Sermon Mary Alice Birdwhistell

*What We Need Is Here*

## COME, WITH ALL THINE ANGELS COME, RAISE THE SONG OF HARVEST HOME

Hymn of Response (371) † NUN DANKET

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Offertory Prayer † Drew Harston

Offertory Cathy Moglebust

*Simple Gifts*  
Highland Handbells

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 † Albert Hay Malotte

*The Lord's Prayer*

Postlude Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*Now Thank We All Our God*

## Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn, *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation and response.

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.

Worship care is available for infants, toddlers and preschoolers during worship. Our greeters are available to help you navigate our building. A Worship Cart with activities to engage children in the pew is located in the Commons.

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 in the section below to be directed to our online giving page.

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## Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Advent begins on Sunday, December 1!** Remember that there will only be one Sunday morning worship service throughout December at 11:15 AM. This year's Advent theme is *The Watch of Wondering Love*, inspired by the poetry of Mary Oliver. Daily Advent Devotions will also be available via church-wide email and social media. Sign-up using the link in the QR code if you don't already receive emails.
- **We will gather that evening at 6:00 PM for the Hanging of the Green service** to adorn the sanctuary for the season. You are invited to bring donations for Highlands Community Ministries (Throw Size Blankets and \$25 Gift Cards to Kroger, WalMart, and Target). The service will be followed by a church-wide reception in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Marilyn Whisler if you can bring a dish to share. Savory dishes are needed!
- **On Monday, December 2, families with children and/or youth will meet for a Packing Party at La Casita from 6:00-8:00 PM.** All ages are welcome to join. Contact Justin or Renee to RSVP.
- **Upcoming Advent and New Year Events:**
  - Wednesday, November 27: No Wednesday Evening Activities
  - Sunday, December 1: Advent Begins - Hanging of the Green Service, 6:00 PM
  - Wednesday, December 4: Mary Alice and John Dickson share *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, shortly after 6:00 PM
  - Sunday, December 8: Peace Sunday and Crosses on the Lawn at 11:15 AM, Children's Advent Service at 6:00 PM
  - Sunday, December 15: Sanctuary Choir and Highland Brass share Rutter's Gloria at 11:15 AM, Orchestra and Handbell Christmas Concert at 6:00 PM
  - Wednesday, December 18: Longest Night Service at 6:00 PM
  - Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM
  - Sunday, December 29: One Worship Service at 10:00 AM
  - Sunday, January 5: Mary Alice's Last Sunday
  - January 17-18: Weekend with Center for Congregational Health



**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