

**“TO PAY ATTENTION,
THIS IS OUR ENDLESS
AND PROPER WORK.”**

+ MARY OLIVER, “YES! NO!” (DEVOTIONS, P. 264)



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024

11:15 A.M.

Prelude

Bach

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Invitation to Worship

Justin Sizemore

THERE'S A SONG IN EVERY SILENCE, SEEKING WORD AND MELODY

Candlelighter Processional (80)

BAUGH

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Hope

The Estes Family

Call to Worship

Scott Gunter

All I can tell you is what I know. Look, and look again! This world is not just a little thrill for the eyes.

As we light this Advent candle, let us keep watch of wondering love like the angels did on that first Christmas night.

Let us keep watch for mysteries too marvelous to be understood!

Let us keep watch for unimaginable hope breaking into our world.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus!

Processional Hymn (83) †

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Prayer of Expectancy †

Scott Gunter

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.

THERE'S A DAWN IN EVERY DARKNESS BRINGING HOPE TO YOU AND ME

The Hebrew Lesson

Renee Purtlebaugh

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (Pew Bible page 724 – OT)

Prayer of Confession

Paul Henderson

Holy Mystery, You who are coming and yet here,

You who are our hope, longed for yet unimaginable, waken us.

We confess the darkness and cold in our lives. Like barren trees in winter, we do not bear the fruits of love as you would have us. Forgive our sin. Open our hearts to hold space for you.

Silence is held.

Heal our hearts, O Hope, and be born in us again, that by your grace we may bear your light. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hymn (678) †

COURTNEY

Lord of All Hopefulness

IN OUR DOUBT THERE IS BELIEVING; IN OUR LIFE ETERNITY

The Gospel Lesson †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Luke 21:25-36 (Pew Bible page 84 – NT)

Choral Anthem

Paul Manz

E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in Heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

Sermon

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

The Watch of Wondering Love: "Our Endless and Proper Work"

UNREVEALED UNTIL IT'S SEASON, SOMETHING GOD ALONE CAN SEE

Hymn of Response (545) †

PROMISE

In the Bulb

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Justin Sizemore

Invitation to the Table

Exchange of Hope †

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.

Offertory Prayer †

Marc Dowell

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 †

VENI EMMANUEL

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,

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Benediction †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Postlude

Jacque Lemmens

Fanfare

*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.

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

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn of response, *In the Bulb*, 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 today!** Remember that there will only be one Sunday morning worship service throughout December at 11:15 AM. 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.
- **Tonight we gather 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) or any final donations for La Casita. The service will be followed by a church-wide reception in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Marilyn Whisler (502) 262-2760 if you can bring a dish to share. Savory finger foods 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, 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
 - Wednesday, December 11: Families w/Children Hot Chocolate in the Park, 5:45-7:00 PM
 - Friday, December 13: Young Adult Christmas Parties (see Justin Sizemore for more information)
 - Saturday, December 14: Youth Christmas Party, 6:00-8:00 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 at Highland
 - January 18-19: 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