

Wage peace.
Never has the world seemed
so fresh and precious.
Have a cup of tea
and rejoice.
Act as if armistice
has already arrived.
Don't wait another minute.

~ *Mary Oliver,*
"Wage Peace"



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024

11:15 A.M.

Prelude

Calvin Hampton

Music for a Solemn Occasion

Invitation to Worship

Renee Purtlebaugh

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR THAT GLORIOUS SONG OF OLD

Candelighter Processional

Edwards/Upshaw

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

Hope, peace, joy, and love! These are gifts You bring from above.

9
Je - sus Em - man - u - el, come to be light of your peace re - flect - ed in me.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Peace

The Dickson Family

Call to Worship

Larry Gray

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 peace breaking into our world.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

Processional Hymn (79) †

VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Highland Children and Youth Handbell Choir

Prayer of Expectancy †

Larry Gray

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.

O REST BESIDE THE WEARY ROAD AND HEAR THE ANGELS SING

The Hebrew Lesson

Paul Henderson

Malachi 3:1-4 (Pew Bible page 874 – OT)

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

Prayer of Confession

Justin Sizemore

Holy one, we find ourselves asking the question, “where is the God of justice?”

Violence, hate, warfare, and rage seem to fill the air we breathe.

We read and hear the news, see the stories, and feel the weight of a world that feels so far from peace.

And yet we turn away desensitized when it doesn't affect us directly.

Forgive our apathy and complacency in doing the work of Justice. Help us to look for you again and again. Help us to be the people of peace and justice you have created us to be. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Exchange of Peace †

Hymn (132)

CAROL

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Offertory Prayer †

Mary Ida Gray

Offertory

Vierne

Reverie

FOR LO! THE DAYS ARE HASTENING ON, BY PROPHET BARDS FORETOLD

The Gospel Lesson †

Luke 1:68-79 (Pew Bible pages 56-57 – NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

Wage Peace

THE WORLD IN SOLEMN STILLNESS LAY TO HEAR THE ANGELS SING

Choral Anthem

Michael John Trotta

And Peace Shall Guard You

Peace shall guard you. In all things, with thanksgiving, make your deeds known and peace shall guard you.

It shall guard your hearts and guard your minds. For nothing be anxious, but in all things, with thanksgiving, make your deeds known.

A Time of Remembrance for Victims of Violence in Our Community

Renee Purtlebaugh

Individuals and families are invited to take a cross to place on the lawn.

Recess to the Front Lawn †

Please follow the minister to the front lawn for the conclusion of the service.

Benediction on the Lawn †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn, *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation and response.

Thanks to Tamara Scantland, for this year's beautiful Advent artwork to guide us through this season of wonder together!

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.

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

Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Children's Advent Service Tonight at 6:00 PM**

Join us for an evening of music from Highland's Carol Choir, Chorister Choir, and Children & Youth Handbell Choir—ages 3 through youth.



- **Longest Night Service December 18 at 6:00 PM**

Christmas is often characterized as the most wonderful time of the year, but it is often anything but this, especially for those who are grieving at the holidays. Whether you are reflecting on the loss of a loved one, a job, a relationship, a life transition - all are welcome to this quiet and reflective worship service on one of the longest nights of the year.

- **Upcoming Advent and New Year Events:**

Wednesday, December 11: Families w/Children Hot Chocolate **at church**, 6:00-7:15 PM (note change in venue)
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