



If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.

"Don't Hesitate" by Mary Oliver

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2024

11:15 A.M.

Prelude

Daquin

Noel X, Var. 1-3

Invitation to Worship

Justin Sizemore

LET YOUR MUSIC FILL THE EARTH

Candlelight Processional (80)

BAUGH

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Joy

The Spade Family

Call to Worship

Karen Park

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 joy breaking into our world.

People of God, our Lord is coming!

Processional Hymn (85) †

PLEADING SAVIOR

Christians All, Your Lord is Coming

Prayer of Expectancy †

Karen Park

Gloria I. Allegro vivace

John Rutter

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te. Glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. (Gloria in excelsis Deo.)

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards all people.

We praise You. We bless You. We worship You. We glorify You. We give thanks to You for Your great glory.

(Glory be to God on high.)

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 ALL SELFISH WAYS BEHIND YOU

The Epistle Lesson

Paul Henderson

Philippians 4:4-7 (Pew Bible page 195 – NT)

Choral Prayer of Confession—Gloria: II Andante

John Rutter

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. You that take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. You that take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You that sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

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

Words of Assurance— from Isaiah 12

Renee Purtlebaugh

We will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is our strength.

With joy we will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And we will say in that day:

Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the nations; proclaim that God's name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord.

Shout aloud and sing for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Exchange of Joy †

Gloria: III. Vivace e ritmico.

John Rutter

Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus. Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe. Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen. (Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen.)

For You only are holy; You only are the Lord; You only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen. (Glory be to God on high. Amen.)

BEAR THE WORD THAT GOD HAS GIVEN

The Hebrew Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-17 (Pew Bible page 862 – OT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

Rejoice! "Joy Is Not Made to Be a Crumb"

WALK IN FAITH WHERE LIFE DEMANDS

Hymn of Response (173)

Lift Up Your Heads

TRURO

Offertory Prayer †

Sharon Sanders

Offertory

Noel X, Var. 4, 6

Daquin

News for the Community

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 †

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

Toccata on ODE TO JOY

Paul Fey

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's processional hymn, *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming*, 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!

Thanks to all our musicians for today's presentation of Rutter's *Gloria*: The Sanctuary Choir, Trumpet 1-Edwin Garr, Trumpet 2 -Neil Barton, Trumpet 3 - Will French, Trumpet 4 - Matthew Porter, Trombone 1 - Liam Martin, Trombone 2 - Larry Hoover, Bass Trombone - Jackson Turner, Tuba - Wesley Vaugh, Percussion - Ben Maples, Timpani - Bruce Maples, Organ -Joseph Parr.

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

- **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.



- **Christmas Eve Services on December 24 at 4:00 and 6:00 PM**

We will gather to sing the carols of Christmas in a more casual and family-friendly service at 4:00 PM. Lessons and Carols tells the Christmas story through scripture, carols, and music by the Sanctuary Choir at 6:00 PM. Both services end with candle-light to mark the joy of Christ's birth! *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.*

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

This Evening:	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—reception to follow
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