



**HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 22, 2024**

**11:15 A.M.**

Invitation to Worship

Renee Purtlebaugh

## TELL OUT MY SOUL, THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD

Prelude

Calvin Hampton

*Prelude on O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Candelighter Processional (80)

BAUGH

*Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Love

The Dansby-McClain Family

Call to Worship

Zeke Braun

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 love breaking into our world. With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sing God's praise!***

Processional Hymn (94) †

WOODLANDS

*Tell Out, My Soul*

Prayer of Expectancy †

Ainsley Braun

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.***

## GOD'S MERCY SURE, FROM AGE TO AGE THE SAME

The Gospel Lesson †

Bob Cunningham

Luke 1:39-45 (Pew Bible page 56 – NT)

Prayer of Confession

Paul Henderson

What do our souls magnify, O God, our light?

***In this time of expectant waiting, may it be love.***

Where hate and fear divide, show us how to embrace and cherish each other.

***Where injustice sows the seeds of that hate and fear, show us how to cede the center of our own desires and share Your carefully crafted creation equitably.***

When we get tired of waiting, when we expect the worst in each other, when we dim our lights so there's more for us, love us back to life. (Silence is kept.)

***Shine Your light on our path so we can find You and each other.***

***Magnify Your vision in our lives, O Lord of Love. Amen.***

Words of Assurance

Exchange of Love †

Hymn (281) †

BEECHER

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

## TENDER TO ME THE PROMISE OF GOD'S WORD

The Gospel Lesson †

Luke 1:46-55 (Pew Bible page 56 – NT)

Justin Sizemore

Sermon

*Mary Did, In Fact, Know*

## IN GOD MY SAVIOR SHALL MY HEART REJOICE

Hymn of Response (136) †

*Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*

SAMFORD

Call to Faithful Giving and Offertory Prayer

Rob Thompson

Offertory

*Abide Among Us with Thy Grace*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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 †

Justin Sizemore

Postlude

*Toccata on VENI EMMANUEL*

Adolphus Hailstork

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

## Today in Worship

Phrases from today's processional hymn, *Tell Out, My Soul*, 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. Children's Worship, for K-2nd graders during the sermon, has paused for Advent/Christmas season and will return on January 12.

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

- **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 candlelight to mark the joy of Christ's birth! *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.*



- **Today, Highland's Children and Family Ministry has a gift for you!** Pick up a set of Nativity Stickers, a background, and a Christmas morning activity sheet on the 2nd floor or in the Commons. These packets make great Stocking Stuffers for your children and grandchildren, perfect to use as an activity on Christmas morning or at your holiday meal. Enjoy!

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

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 Birdwhistell's last Sunday at Highland— **a reception to honor Mary Alice will follow 11:15 AM worship**  
Wednesday, January 8: Wednesday Night Supper and activities resume  
January 18-20: Weekend with Center for Congregational Health  
Sunday, February 2: Regular Sunday schedule resumes; QCC at 4:00 PM on Zoom



### 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