

THOMAS
MERTON

In Louisville, standing on the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed by the realization that I loved all these people, that they were mine, and I was theirs, that we could not be alien to one another—even though we were total strangers. I have the immense joy of being human, a member of the race in which God himself became incarnate... as if the sorrows and stupidities of the human condition could overwhelm me—now that I realize what we really are. If only everyone could realize this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of convincing people that they



*are walking around—
shining
like the
sun!*

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 5, 2025

11:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Justin Sizemore

O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING, WE WORSHIP YOU TODAY

Prelude

Paul Manz

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Call to Worship

Sally Evans

Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last: gathered together for worship!

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past: "Arise, shine; for your light has come."

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of the world.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

So, let us receive the call of Isaiah and follow the example of the magi as we begin this new year turning our faces to God for guidance.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day.

Processional Hymn (366) †

THAXTED

O God Beyond All Praising

Prayer of Praise †

Sally Evans

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.

The Hebrew Lesson

Justin Sizemore

Isaiah 60:1-6 (Pew Bible pages 676-677 – OT)

WE CAN ONLY WONDER AT BLESSINGS WITHOUT NUMBER AND MERCIES WITHOUT END

Moment of Prayer

Yendor Knarhcs

Variations on Greensleeves

Words of Assurance

Paul Henderson

Hymn (151) †

KINGS OF ORIENT

We Three Kings

WE LIFT OUR HEARTS BEFORE YOU AND WAIT UPON YOUR WORD

The Gospel Lesson †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Matthew 2:1-12 (Pew Bible pages 1-2 – NT)

Choral Anthem

Dan Forrest

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations; to bring peace again among siblings, to make music from the heart.

Sermon

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Home by Another Way

**WE'LL TRIUMPH THROUGH OUR SORROWS
AND RISE TO BLESS YOU STILL**

Hymn of Response (278) †

BEACH SPRING

We Are Travelers on a Journey

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

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 †

Bob Cunningham

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.***

Presentation and Gifts for Mary Alice

Vaughn Bell

Doxology †

TALLIS' CANON

***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 †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Postlude

Albert Travis

Voluntary on THAXTED

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

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's processional hymn, *O God Beyond All Praise*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, proclamation and response.

We are grateful to Sharon Sanders and Stephanie Hall for their musical leadership in worship today.

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

- **Work with Center for Congregational Health** — Please reserve Sunday, January 19 for church-wide conversations with our consultants from the Center for Congregational Health. The first conversation will be from 9:30-11:00 AM, with children's and youth Bible studies meeting during this time. Following worship and a break for lunch, there will be a second church-wide conversation from 2:00-3:30 PM. Please make every effort to attend at least one of the sessions, as they will foster important dialogue as we begin this interim season.
- **Worship in January** — We will continue to have Bible study at 10:00 AM and one Sunday morning worship service at 11:15 AM on Sundays in January. This will allow all of us to worship together on Mary Alice's last Sunday, and it will accommodate our schedule when the Center for Congregational Health is in town. Our proclaimers in January will be Bob Cunningham (Jan. 12), Carol Harston (Jan. 19), and Brian Henderson (Jan. 26).
- **Wednesday Nights in January: Moving Faith Forward** — On Wednesdays January 8, 15, and 22, Carol Harston will be leading us in her latest work on Moving Faith Forward. Since leaving Highland's ministerial staff in 2021, Carol has been deepening her traumatizing theology research by wondering what it looks like for people to move past their beliefs and grow into spiritual maturity. Carol's vision is a future in which people can live at peace with the past, confident in their ability to face whatever life brings, and open to a revived spirituality that evolves as life changes. We will meet shortly after 6:00 PM each week in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Today: **Join us today for a reception to honor Mary Alice following 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