



Hold fast to dreams,  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird,  
That cannot fly.

*~ Langston Hughes*

## HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 26, 2025

11:15 A.M.

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Invitation to Worship

Paul Henderson

**GOD IS HERE! AS WE YOUR PEOPLE  
MEET TO OFFER PRAISE AND PRAYER**

Prelude

Adolphus Hailstork

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Call to Worship

Genene Nisbet

We gather to worship God  
***Who created each of us and loves us,***  
Who gifted us with beautiful diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation,  
***Who shows us how to love and care for one another through Christ,***  
Who calls us all to seek justice, share power, welcome the stranger, and live together in love and equality,  
***Who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all,***  
And whose presence, grace, and love sustain us in our living.  
***We gather to worship you, our God.***

Processional Hymn (248) †

EDEN CHURCH

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Prayer of Praise †

Genene Nisbet

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.*

**HERE ARE SYMBOLS TO REMIND US  
OF OUR LIFELONG NEED OF GRACE**

The Epistle Lesson

Paul Henderson

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (Pew Bible page 170– NT)

Prayer of Confession

Justin Sizemore

Words of Assurance

When one member of the body is hurting, we all hurt. Let us work together to care for one another and love one another. Even on days when the work is difficult and we don't want to do it:  
*Let us keep going, knowing that Christ is with us, we are forgiven, and we are loved. Amen.*

Exchange of Peace †

Renee Purtlebaugh

Hymn †

GATHER US IN

*Here in This Place*



1. Here in this place the new light is stream - ing; now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way;  
2. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter; here we will take the bread of new birth.  
3. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en, light years a - way:



see in this space our fears and our dream - ings brought here to you in the light of this  
Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters, call us a - new to be salt for the  
here in this place the new light is shin - ing; now is the king - dom, and now is the



day. — Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath - er us in, the blind and the lame;  
earth. — Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion; give us to eat the bread that is you;  
day. — Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath - er us in and make us your own;

14



call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en; we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. —  
nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. —  
gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er, fire — of love in our flesh and our bone. —

HERE IN HONESTY OF PREACHING,  
GOD THE SPIRIT COMES TO EACH

Choral Anthem

Thomas Tallis

*If Ye Love Me*

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever, ev'n the spirit of truth.

The Hebrew Lesson

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (Pew Bible page 430 – OT)

Bob Cunningham

Sermon

*No Need to Mourn*

Brian Henderson

*Children grades K-2 may be dismissed for Children's Worship (11:15)*

IN AN AGE OF CHANGE AND DOUBT,  
KEEP US FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL

Hymn of Response (298) †

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*God Is Here!*

Offertory Prayer

Lewis Miller

Offertory

Don Phillips

*Meditation on WONDROUS LOVE*

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 †

OLD HUNDREDTH

***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 †

Brian Henderson

Postlude

arr. Joseph Parr

*Improvisation on SPANISH HYMN*

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

## Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn of response, *God Is Here*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation, and response.

We welcome Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson as our guest proclaimer today. He is an ordained American Baptist minister who has served three congregations over 25 years. Brian has worked with the Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists' Board and Staff since 2019 before beginning as full-time Executive Director in 2024. Outside of his ministry responsibilities, Brian loves traveling and spending time with his three (nearly) young adult children.

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 is available for K-2nd graders during the sermon.

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

- **Worship in February** — We will continue to have Bible study at 10:00 AM and one Sunday morning worship service at 11:15 AM through next Sunday, February 2. This will allow all of us to worship together on Mary Alice's last Sunday. We will then resume our regular Sunday schedule on February 9. Our proclaimers in February will be: Mary Alice Birdwhistell (Feb. 2), Bob Cunningham (Feb. 9), Justin Sizemore (Feb. 16), and Sally Evans (Feb. 23).
- **Wednesday Nights: Moving Faith Forward** — On Wednesday, February 5, Carol Harston will conclude her sessions 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 in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - January 29: Cloud of Witness: Justin Boldt, Greg Buntten, and Linda Waller
  - February 2: Mary Alice's last Sunday and reception; QCC at 4:00 PM on Zoom
  - February 9: Regular Sunday Schedule returns: 8:45 Worship, 10:00 Bible Study, 11:15 Worship
  - March 7-9: Women's Retreat—contact Ginger Miller for more information
  - March 15: Jean Janes Yard Sale



## 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

**Cheryl Davis**  
OFFICE MANAGER

**Tracy Holladay**  
INTERIM STAFF COORDINATOR

**Margaret Pennington**  
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

**Lauren Blackwell**  
INTERIM MINISTRY COORDINATOR

**Megan Fuller**  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY  
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

**Robin Ramsay Lee**  
DEACON CHAIR

**Renee Purtlebaugh**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN  
AND THEIR FAMILIES

**Bob Cunningham**  
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR

**Kathleen Gordon**  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**Walter McWhorter**  
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

**Justin Sizemore**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH  
AND YOUNG ADULTS

**Paul Henderson**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC  
AND WORSHIP

**Joseph Parr**  
ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE