

"Good Shepherd,
You have a wild and crazy sheep
in love with thorns and brambles.
But please don't get tired
of looking for me!
I know You won't.
For You have found me.
All I have to do is stay found."

~ Thomas Merton



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Renee Purtlebaugh

STREAMS OF MERCY, NEVER CEASING, CALL FOR SONGS OF LOUDEST PRAISE

Prelude

Francois Couperin

Recit de Cornet

Call to Worship

Vicki Runnion (8:45)
Marc Dowell (11:15)

We worship to be embraced by the steadfast love of God.
We embrace a divine mercy beyond our understanding.
Let us hear joy and gladness at the whisper of God's Spirit.
O God, open our lips and hearts to praise you. Amen.

Hymn of Praise (339) †

CORONATION

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Prayer of Praise †

Vicki Runnion (8:45)
Marc Dowell (11:15)

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.

Choral Anthem

Felix Mendelssohn

Above All Praise and All Majesty

Above all praise and all majesty. Lord, thou reignest evermore. Forevermore. Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

LET THY GOODNESS, LIKE A FETTER, BIND MY WANDERING HEART TO THEE

The Epistle Lesson

Paul Henderson

1 Timothy 1:12-17 (Pew Bible page 204– NT)

Prayer of Confession

Jim England

O God who upsets our self-constructed balance of good and bad.
We see either/or, black or white and limit possibilities.
You embrace beautiful shades of multiple colors.
We confess our limiting of your love to those we think deserving.
We confess to limiting love to our own understanding.
Help us embrace Your limitless love and the sweet knowledge
that we are included in that love. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Exchange of Peace †

Jim England

Hymn (295) †

NETTLETON

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

JESUS SOUGHT ME WHEN A STRANGER, WANDERING FROM THE FOLD OF GOD

The Gospel Lesson †

Chris Caldwell

Luke 15:1-10 (Pew Bible page 212– NT)
Children grades K-2 may be dismissed for Children's Worship (11:15)

Sermon

Disproportionate Grace

HERE'S MY HEART, LORD, TAKE AND SEAL IT, SEAL IT FOR THY COURTS ABOVE

Hymn of Response (587) †

NEW BRITAIN

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

Original line: "That saved a wretch like me!"
Alternative line: "That saved a child like me!"

Faithful Giving Story and Offertory Prayer

Jesse McClain

Offertory

Alice Jordan

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

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 †

Chris Caldwell

Postlude

Joseph Parr

Improvisation on LOVE UNKNOWN

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

In worship at Highland, we aim to sing music with a theology that reflects an expansive and inclusive God. Occasionally, our printed music may use language that limits God. When we are unable to re-print a more inclusive text, we encourage you to use language that better fits your image of God. Our ministers and choir will often replace "He/Him" with "God" or "Love" (one syllable) and "Father" with "Parent," "Holy," or "Divine" (two syllables). We would love to hear what creative language for God you might use in worship, too.

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn, *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation, and response.

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

- **Wednesday Nights for Adults** — Throughout this year, the Anti Racism Team will be exploring the connections between white supremacy and Christian Nationalism. To kick off this focus, the team invites you to a two-week screening and discussion of the documentary *God and Country*. Join us Wednesday, September 17 and 24 in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 as we ask the question: What happens when a faith built on love, sacrifice, and forgiveness grows political tentacles, conflating power, money, and belief into hyper-nationalism?
- **Commitment Sunday**—In worship on September 21, we will make our commitments to God's work through Highland in 2026. You can make your pledge using the form on the back of each week's ministry area spotlight, via the church website, or making use of the QR code. We hope you'll join us in financially supporting the mission and ministries of Highland in the coming year!
- **Ministry Council Nominations Needed**—In this busy season in the life of our church, we need to identify folks who will provide leadership as part of our ministry council. Ballots, including information about this process, are available today. **Please place your completed ballot in the offering plate or return it to the church office by September 28.**
- **Considering Matthew Shepard**—Members of Highland's Sanctuary Choir along with members of Voices of Kentuckiana will join forces to present *Considering Matthew Shepard* at Actors Theatre on Friday, October 10 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, October 12 at 2:30 PM. The entire three-part oratorio told through poetry, historical accounts, choral and solo singing, is a powerful and compassionate response to the brutal murder of Matthew Shephard, a gay college student from Wyoming in the fall of 1998. Recommended for teens and above. Ticket information is coming soon!
- **Looking Ahead:**
 - September 17: Parent Chat with Children's Families, 6:00 PM
 - September 21: Commitment Sunday—For Such a Time as This
 - September 30: Cream of the Crop Lunch at the Brown Barrel, Midway, 12:00 Noon



**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

Chris Caldwell
INTERIM PASTOR

Cheryl Davis
OFFICE MANAGER

Jim England
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Megan Fuller
MINISTRY ASSISTANT AND
INTERIM CARE COORDINATOR

Kathleen Gordon
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Paige Harlow
DEACON CHAIR

Paul Henderson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Joseph Parr
ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Margaret Pennington
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES