



“Now faith  
is the assurance  
of things hoped for,  
the conviction  
of things not seen.”

*~ Hebrews 11:1*

**HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**SEPTEMBER 21, 2025**  
**8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.**

## YOUR HEAVENLY FRIEND THROUGH THORNY WAYS LEADS TO A JOYFUL END

Prelude

arr. David Winkler

*Beautiful Savior*  
Highland Orchestra

Call to Worship (Psalm 91:1-4)

Larry Hoover (8:45)  
Lauren Blackwell (11:15)

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
***will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."***  
For the Almighty will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence;  
***God will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; God's faithfulness is a shield and defense.***

Processional Hymn (556) †

ST. ANNE

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Prayer of Praise †

Larry Hoover (8:45)  
Lauren Blackwell (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.***

## BE STILL MY SOUL: THE LORD IS ON YOUR SIDE

A Lesson from the Psalms

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Pew Bible page 537– OT)

John Kupar

Choral Anthem

Craig Courtney

*Be Not Afraid*

Be not afraid: for I have redeemed you; be not afraid: I have called you by name. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you; when you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed; you are mine, you are precious in my sight. My love for you is everlasting, my love for you shall have no end.

Prayer of Confession

Chris Caldwell

***O God, hate, never bashful, has become ever more audacious. The quiet parts are being said out loud; temperance in thought and decency in speech are waning. We confess we are becoming numb to this. We confess that we, too, sometimes give in to hatefulness. Grant us again the audacity to hope, and forgive us when we lose faith.***

Assurance of Forgiveness

Exchange of Peace †

Chris Caldwell

Hymn (57) †

FINLANDIA

*Be Still, My Soul*

# IN EVERY CHANGE GOD FAITHFUL WILL REMAIN

The Old Testament Lesson †

Chris Caldwell

Jeremiah 32:8-9, 13-15, 24-25 (Pew Bible page 722– OT)  
*Children grades K-2 may be dismissed for Children's Worship (11:15)*

Sermon

*Hope in a Clay Pot*

## YOUR HOPE, YOUR CONFIDENCE LET NOTHING SHAKE

Hymn of Response (516) †

AR HYD Y NOS

*Day Is Done, but Love Unfailing*

Faithful Giving Story and Offertory Prayer

Missy Smith

*You are invited to bring your offerings and pledges  
to the back of the sanctuary at this time.*

Offertory

arr. David Winkler

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*  
Highland Orchestra

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 REPTON*

† *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, *Be Still, My Soul*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation, and response.

Our gratitude to Kathy Collier for her musical leadership in today's service.

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

- **Highland Welcomes John Kupar**—John has begun serving as our Interim Associate Pastor to Youth. He has served in youth and congregational ministry for several years, and finds deep joy in creating space where young people can grow in faith, ask honest questions, and know they are beloved. He is originally from Lexington (Go Cats!) and most recently served as an associate pastor in Anchorage.
- **Commitment Sunday**—Today in worship, we make our commitments to God's work through Highland in 2026. You may make your pledge using the form on the back of this week's ministry area spotlight, via the church website, or by using the QR code. We hope you'll join us in financially supporting Highland!
- **Wednesday Nights for Adults** — Throughout this year, the Anti Racism Team is exploring the connections between white supremacy and Christian Nationalism. To continue this focus, the team invites you to a screening and discussion of the documentary *God and Country*. Join us Wednesday, September 24 in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15.
- **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 is a powerful and compassionate response to the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student from Wyoming in the fall of 1998. Recommended for teens and above. You may use the QR code above to purchase tickets. Discounts code: EARLY5 (for \$5 off through September 27).
- **Looking Ahead:**
  - September 30: Cream of the Crop Lunch at the Brown Barrel, Midway, 12:00 Noon
  - October 1: No Wednesday evening activities (with the exception of Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 6:15 PM)



## 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

**John Kupar**  
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
TO YOUTH

**Walter McWhorter**  
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

**Joseph Parr**  
ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

**Margaret Pennington**  
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

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