



"We are prophets of a future
not our own."

~ Oscar Romero

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

SERVICE OF GRATITUDE

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

AND ADORING BEND THE KNEE WHILE WE PRAISE THE MYSTERY

Prelude

Joseph Parr

Improvisation on GONFALON ROYAL

Call to Worship—from Psalm 46

Rebecca Jagers (8:45)

Patty Martin (11:15)

In this present time, no matter what passes before us,
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
As earth shakes and nations are in an uproar,
God is present with us and is our refuge in times of trouble.
As the world trembles in fear and worry,
May we find stillness and peace, knowing God is God of all.

Processional Hymn (9) †

GROSSER GOTT

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Prayer of Praise †

Rebecca Jagers (8:45)

Patty Martin (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 Praise

arr. Lloyd Larson

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him the Lord of life! Crown Him the Lord of Love! Crown Him with many crowns! Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne; hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own: awake my soul and sing of Him who died for thee, and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity. Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave, and rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save; His glories now we sing who died, and rose on high, who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die. ***Crown Him the Lord of love! Behold His hands and side, those wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified: all hail, Redeemer, hail! for Thou has died for me! Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.***

AND FROM MORN TILL SET OF SUN, THROUGH THE CHURCH THE SONG GOES ON

The Epistle Lesson

Paul Henderson

Colossians 1:11-20 (Pew Bible page 196 – NT)

Prayer of Confession

Chris Caldwell

O God, we can be people of anger rather than serenity in the face of the things we cannot change.
We can be people of apathy rather than courage when we see the things we can change. We confess that in our frustration at not being able to change it all, we sometimes give up too easily.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Exchange of Peace †

Hymn (371) †

NUN DANKET

Now Thank We All Our God

**PROPHETS SWELL THE GLAD REFRAIN,
AND THE WHITE ROBED MARTYRS FOLLOW**

The Gospel Lesson †

Luke 23:33-43 (Pew Bible page 87 – NT)

John Kupar

Sermon

The Power of Vulnerable Love

INFINITE YOUR VAST DOMAIN; EVERLASTING IS YOUR REIGN

Hymn of Response (1) †

Holy, Holy, Holy

NICAEA

Offertory Prayer †

Debbie Hoover (8:45)
Larry Marcum (11:00)

Offertory

Improvisation on NUN DANKET

Joseph Parr

News for the Community

Paul Henderson

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 †

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

Postlude

Improvisation on DIADEMATA

Joseph Parr

† 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 processional hymn, *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*, 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.

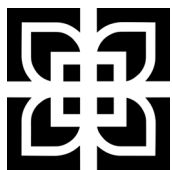
Worship care is available for infants, toddlers and preschoolers during worship. Our greeters are available to help you navigate our building. A Worship Cart with activities to engage children in the pew is located in the Commons. Children's Worship is available for K-2nd graders during the 11:15 service.

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

- **Holiday Giving Opportunities**—This season, our congregation will bring warmth and joy to families in need—in the ways they need it most—through three of our partner organizations doing incredible work in our community: The Solidarity Project, Highland Community Ministries, and La Casita. Collection boxes are available in the Commons now through November 30, or you may bring your items to the Hanging of the Green service on Sunday, November 30 at 6:00 PM. The items each organization has requested of us can be found using the QR code or by referencing the church newsletter throughout this month.
- **Ordering Poinsettias**—Our Sanctuary will once again be beautifully adorned with red poinsettias this Advent and Christmas. All members are invited to purchase a poinsettia for \$15 in memory, in honor, or in appreciation of a family member, friend or loved one. You may order poinsettias through our website. You may also submit payment and information by contacting Kathleen in the church office or at 502-451-3735. The deadline for ordering poinsettias is tomorrow, November 24.
- **Joining Highland on Sunday, November 30**—Have you considered joining Highland but weren't sure how to do so? Did you recently attend the Highlights Class and are ready to make your commitment to be part of Highland official? Have you wished someone else might join when you do, so that you aren't being introduced all on your own? If any of these describe you, on Sunday, November 30, you are invited to take the membership leap! During the Hymn of Response immediately following the sermon, you're invited to let the congregation know of your decision to become a full participant in this faith community with others who wish to do the same. We look forward to welcoming you!
- **Looking Ahead:**
 - November 30: First Sunday of Advent (Hope), 11:15 AM
Hanging of the Green service, 6:00 PM, with reception to follow—use the QR code to sign up to help
 - December 2: Sorting Soiree at La Casita, 6:00-8:00 PM
 - December 7: Second Sunday of Advent (Peace), Crosses on the Lawn, 11:15 AM
Children's Advent Service, 6:00 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

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 Kubar
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