

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn of response, *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*, 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

- **Advent begins today!** Remember that there will only be one Sunday morning worship service throughout December at 11:15 AM. Daily Advent devotions will also be available via church-wide email and social media. Sign-up using the link in the QR code if you don't already receive emails.
- **Tonight we gather at 6:00 PM for the Hanging of the Green service** to adorn the sanctuary for the season. You are invited to bring donations for Highlands Community Ministries (throw-size blankets and \$25 gift cards to Kroger, Walmart, and Target) or final donations for La Casita. The service will be followed by a church-wide holiday reception in Fellowship Hall. Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and 2s.
- **Tuesday, December 2: Sorting Soiree for Families with Children and Youth from 6:00-8:00 PM at La Casita. All ages are invited to join. All ages are welcome to join.** Contact Renee to RSVP.
- **Upcoming Advent and New Year Events:**
 - Tonight: Hanging of the Green service, 6:00 PM with reception to follow
 - December 2: Sorting Soiree at La Casita, 6:00-8:00 PM
 - Sunday, December 7: Peace Sunday and Crosses on the Lawn at 11:15 AM, Children's Advent Service at 6:00 PM
 - Wednesday, December 10: Families with Children Hot Chocolate & Pizza Night. From 5:30-7:00 PM at Highland!
 - Sunday, December 14: Joy Sunday. Sanctuary Choir and Brass present music of the season.
 - Wednesday, December 17: Orchestra Christmas Concert at 6:00 PM
 - Friday, December 19: Friday Church at 7:00 PM. Join us as we sing the carols of Christmas.
 - Friday, December 19: Youth Christmas Party 5:00 to 8:00 PM. at the home of Kathey and Mark Golightly Sanders
Contact John Kubar to RSVP.
 - Sunday, December 21: Love Sunday at 11:15 AM, Longest Night Service at 6:00 PM
 - Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM
 - Sunday, December 28: One worship service at 10:00 AM



We will resume our regular Sunday schedule on January 4



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

Out of the Blue

Advent 2025

Out of the Blue engages the theme of surprise.
We are surprised by mercy, new beginnings,
wild growth, love in the face of violence,
and a baby in the manger.

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

11:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Renee Purtlebaugh

The Hebrew Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (Pew Bible page 724 – OT)

Chris Caldwell

**CHRIST, THE MORNING STAR OF SPLENDOR,
GLEAMS WITHIN A WORLD GROWN DIM**

Prelude

Improvisation on STUTTGART

Joseph Parr

Song of Prophecy

KINGSFOLD
text, Lauren Blackwell

***Ancient stories filled with mystery still speak to us today.
The gift of hope, peace, joy, and love from the child placed in the hay.
And as I grow, I want to be a part of the story, too.
Sharing the good gifts God gave to us in everything I do.***

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Hope

The Kahne Family

Call to Worship

Scott Schafflein

When headlines weigh heavy and fear feels familiar, we gather for hope.
When longing stretches us thin, we remember the One who draws near.
Our hearts whisper the ancient promise again.
Come, thou long-expected Jesus, make your home among us.

Sermon

Symbols of Hope

Chris Caldwell

**CHILD WHO COMES TO GRACE THE MANGER,
TEACH OUR HEARTS TO WELCOME YOU**

Processional Hymn (83) †

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Hymn of Response (86) †

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

JEFFERSON

Prayer of Expectancy †

Scott Schafflein

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.***

Offertory Prayer †

Jan Forren

Offertory

Improvisation on CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

A seventh-century Latin hymn used during the season of Advent. It is also known in English as “Creator of the Stars of Night”

Joseph Parr

**CHRIST ETERNAL SUN OF JUSTICE,
COME TO BELSS WITH FIRE AND FRAGRANCE**

The Gospel Lesson †

Luke 21: 25-31 (Pew Bible page 84 – NT)

Paul Henderson

News for the Community

Renee Purtlebaugh

Anthem

O Come, Emmanuel

Elaine Hagenberg

O come! O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. O come, thou Dayspring come and cheer our spirits by thine Advent here, and drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee O Israel. O come, Desire of nations bind all people in one heart and mind; Bid envy strife and quarrels cease, and fill the world with Heaven's peace.

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.***

Prayer of Confession

John Kupar

Holy One, we confess the ways we participate in the world's brokenness. We scroll past suffering and call it being informed. We accept violence as normal and division as inevitable. We let political anger numb our compassion. We lose hope when change feels too slow. O come, O come, Emmanuel. Be present in our fear. Strengthen our resolve to seek justice. Root us again in Your hope. Forgive us. Transform us. Make us instruments of Your peace. Amen.

Doxology †

VENI EMMANUEL

***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,
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Benediction †

Chris Caldwell

Words of Assurance

Exchange of Hope †

**DIAMOND BRILLIANCE THROUGH THE DARKNESS
SHINES THE HOPE OF COMING DAY**

Postlude

Improvisation on MERTON

Joseph Parr

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” (1 syllable) and “Father” with “Parent,” “Holy,” or “Divine” (2 syllables). We would love to hear what creative language for God you might use in worship, too.

Hymn (99) †

View the Present Through the Future

AR HYD Y NOS, alt

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