

# 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**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 14, 2025**

**11:15 A.M.**

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Invitation to Worship

John Kubar

**THE BRIDEGROOM COMES, AWAKE;  
YOUR LAMPS WITH GLADNESS TAKE! ALLELUIA!**

Prelude

J.S. Bach

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BMV 645*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Joy

The Zoeller Family

Choral Introit

David Danner

*Arise, Your Light Has Come*

Awake, my spirit, awake, lute and harp; I will awake with the dawn of day. I will confess You, O Lord among the nations. I will raise a psalm to You, for Your love, is wide as the heavens, And Your truth reaches to the skies! Wake, awake for night is flying, The watchmen on the heights are crying, Awake Jerusalem at last. Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Come forth, you maidens! Night is past. The bridegroom comes, Awake; Your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia! Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord, Whose light has stirred the waiting guard. Zion hears the watchman singing And in her heart new joy is springing. She wakes, she rises from her gloom, For her Lord comes down all glorious, the strong in grace, in truth victorious. Her star is risen, her light is come. Oh, come, You Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna! We go until the halls we view Where You have bid us dine with You. Now let all the heavens adore You, And saints and angels sing before You. The harps and cymbals all unite. Of one pearl each shining portal, Where dwelling with the choir immortal We gather round Your dazzling light. No eye has seen, nor ear Has yet been trained to hear. What joy is ours! Crescendos rise; You halls resound; Hosannas blend in cosmic sound. Arise, O Jerusalem! Arise clothed in light! Your light has come, And the glory of God upon your hearts will shine. Alleluia!

Hymn (94) †

WOODLANDS

*Tell Out, My Soul*

Prayer of Expectancy †

Susan Coleman Layman

The Gospel Lesson †

Paul Henderson

Luke 1: 47-55 (Pew Bible page 56 – NT)

Dedication of Norah Joylynn Worstell

Renee Purtlebuagh

Word of Commitment

Presentation

Prayer of Dedication

And so we are reminded once again of the words of the apostles that, "Before we loved God, **God loved us.**"

Song of Dedication

O WALY WALY

text, Diane Brewer

For this great gift we thank you God and pledge to love as if our own.

To teach and guide through word and deed with joy to watch them as they grow.

**I WILL CONFESS YOU, O LORD AMONG THE NATIONS.  
I WILL RAISE A PSALM TO YOU**

Prayer of Confession

John Kupar

**One: God of wonder** All: Tune our hearts to joy.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Exchange of Joy †

Anthem

Gustav Holst

*Christmas Day*

(Soloists: Jenna Profit, Andrew Schaftlein, Phillip Garrett, Linda Campbell, Jillian Dunning)

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice; Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today: Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now. Christ was born today! God rest you merry, gentle ones, Let nothing you dismay, Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas day, To save us all from woe and sin, When we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy. In Bethlehem, in Jewry, This blessed Babe was born, and laid within a manger, Upon that holy morn; The which His mother, Mary, Did nothing take in scorn. O tidings of comfort and joy. Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart and soul and voice: Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath oped the heavenly door, And we are blessed evermore. Christ was born for this! Come, ye lofty, come, ye lowly, Let your songs of gladness ring; In a stable lies the Holy, In a manger rests the King: See, in Mary's arms reposing, Christ by highest heaven adored. Come, your circle round Him closing, Pious hearts that love the Lord. Come, ye poor, no pomp of station Robes the Child your hearts adore: He the Lord of all salvation, Shares your want, is weak and poor: Oxen, round about behold them; Rafters naked, cold and bare, See the shepherds, God has told them That the Prince of Life lies there. Come, ye children, blithe and merry, This one Child your model make; Christmas holly, leaf and berry, All be prized for His dear sake; Come, ye gentle hearts, and tender, Come, ye spirits, keen and bold; All in all your homage render, Weak and mighty, young and old. High above a star is shining, And the Wisemen haste from far: Come, glad hearts and spirits pining: For you all has risen the star. Let us bring our poor oblations, Thanks and love and faith and praise: Come, ye people come, ye nations, All in all draw nigh to gaze. Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place, And with true love and unity Each other now embrace; This holy tide of Christmas All others doth deface. O tidings of comfort and joy. Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one, and calls you all, To gain His everlasting hall: Christ was born to save.

**FOR THE LORD COMES DOWN ALL-GLORIOUS,  
THE STRONG IN GRACE, IN TRUTH VICTORIOUS**

Scripture

Paul Henderson

Isaiah 35:1-4 (Pew Bible page 649 – OT)

*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.*

Anthem

Benjamin Britten

*"This Little Babe" (from A Ceremony of Carols)*

This little Babe so few days old, Is come to rifle Satan's fold; All hell doth at his presence quake, Though he himself for cold do shake; For in this weak unarmed wise The gates of hell he will surprise. With tears he fights and wins the field, His naked breast stands for a shield; His battering shot are babish cries, His arrows looks of weeping eyes, His martial ensigns Cold and Need, And feeble Flesh his warrior's steed. His camp is pitched in a stall, His bulwark but a broken wall; The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes; Of shepherds he his muster makes; And thus, as sure his foe to wound, The angels' trumps alarum sound. My soul, with Christ join thou in fight; Stick to the tents that he hath pight. Within his crib is surest ward; This little Babe will be thy guard. If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy, then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

**NO EYE HAS SEEN, NOR EAR HAS YET BEEN TRAINED TO HEAR.  
WHAT JOY IS OURS!**

Hymn (102) †

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the World! The Lord is Come*

Offertory Prayer †

Ken Burke

Offertory

Joseph Parr

*Improvisation on WEXFORD CAROL*

Anthem

arr. Howard Helvey

*The Wexford Carol*

(soloist: Susan Coleman Layman)

Good people all, this Christmas time, Consider well, and bear in mind What our good God for us has done In sending His beloved Son. With Mary holy we should pray, To God with love this Christmas Day; In Bethlehem upon that morn, There was a blessed Messiah born. Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep; To whom God's angels did appear, Which put the shepherds in great fear. "Prepare and go," the angels said, "To Bethlehem, be not afraid; For there you'll find this happy morn, A princely Babe, sweet Jesus, Born." With thankful heart and joyful mind, The shepherds went the babe to find, And as God's angel had foretold, They did our Savior Christ behold. Within a manger He was laid And by His side a virgin maid, Attending on the Lord of Life, Who came on earth to end all strife.

News for the Community

Renee Purtlebaugh

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

Paul Henderson

Postlude

Joseph Parr

*Improvisation on HELMSLEY*

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

## Today in Worship

Phrases from today's hymn of response, *Arise, Your Light Has Come*, 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.

The flowers on the chancel today are given by the Nomads Bible Study Class in honor of Doris Hornbuckle for her 15 years of co-teaching the Nomads. Previous to the Nomads she also co-taught the Deborah class with Dottie Frank for 5 years. We are grateful for her years of leadership, friendship, and the genuine care for those in our class over the years.

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### Out of the Blue in Today's Music

**Arise, Your Light Has Come**—Our grand processional today was written by David Danner in 1989 and incorporates the hymn tune, WACHET AUF or "Sleepers Awake!" from the opening chorus of Bach's Cantata BMV 140. Listeners are encouraged to awaken from their slumber to greet the coming Christ child. Our Light has come!

**Christmas Day**— This carol medley composed by Gustav Holst in early 1910 weaves four carols into one joyful fabric appropriate for Advent 3: Joy! A secondary and perhaps unexpected theme is that this Child is coming for all people regardless of position. "Come, ye people come, ye nations, All in all draw nigh to gaze."

**The Little Babe**— Composer Benjamin Britten drew the poetry for this movement from Robert Southwell a late 16th century catholic missionary in protestant England. "This Little Babe" retells the classic struggle between good and evil using driving rhythms, vivid imagery, and compelling metaphors to explore the surprise, wonder, and remarkable paradoxes of the birth of Christ.

**The Wexford Carol**— This haunting Irish carol set by Howard Helvey asks us to hear the astonishing news that God has sent Jesus to be born for all, and live on earth in incredibly humble surroundings.

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## Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Advent reminders:** Remember that there is just one Sunday morning worship service throughout December at 11:15 AM. Daily Advent devotions are available via church-wide email and social media. Sign-up using the link in the QR code if you don't already receive emails.
- **Orchestra Concert:** Join us this Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. This delightful concert featuring fun and festive music will include a choral ensemble. *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.*
- **Upcoming Advent and New Year Events:**
  - 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.