

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 2025

11:15 A.M.

REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO THEE, O ISRAEL!

Prelude

11 Chorale Preludes, Op.122, No. 8 Es ist ein ros

Johannes Brahms

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Love

The Bolton Family

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19)

Claire Dickey

We come seeking a sign from You, the One who sits upon the throne.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

We come seeking to worship You, the One who dwells with us always.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

We come seeking to witness your might, a child to be born in a coming night.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Processional Hymn (79) †

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Prayer of Expectancy †

Claire Dickey

DISPERSE THE GLOOMY CLOUDS OF NIGHT, AND DEATH'S DARK SHADOWS PUT TO FLIGHT

A Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 80: 1-3 (Pew Bible page 529 – OT)

Renee Purtlebaugh

Prayer of Confession

Paul Henderson

God, our shepherd – Restorer of our souls, In a world full of hopelessness, we have sometimes forgotten that you have shown your hope in endless ways.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your hope.

In the mirey mess of the world, we have sometimes neglected to lean into your peace that transcends comprehension.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your peace.

In a culture shrouded in doom and despair, We have often forgotten how to fight for our joy.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your joy.

In a moment when it is easier to hate others because they believe differently, love differently, live differently, vote differently – we have forgotten how to love beyond the bounds of what separates us.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your love. Stimulate our memory, O divine Creator. Remind us that even in our weakness, you are mighty.

Words of Assurance

Exchange of Love †

Hymn (105) †

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS'

Anthem

Elaine Hagenberg

O Love

O Love, O Love, O Love, that will not let me go, O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, That in Thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O Joy, O Joy, O Joy that seeks me through the pain. I cannot close my heart to Thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

**TO US THE PATH OF KNOWLEDGE SHOW,
AND CAUSE US IN HER WAYS TO GO**

The Hebrew Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16 (Pew Bible page 623 – OT)

Chris Caldwell

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.*

Sermon

The Willingness of Mary

Chris Caldwell

**BID ENVY STRIFE AND QUARRELS CEASE;
FILL ALL THE WORLD WITH HEAVEN'S PEACE**

Hymn (147) †

Love Came Down at Christmas

GARTAN, alt.

Offertory Prayer †

Susan Pierce

Offertory

*Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599
(Now Come, Savior of the Gentiles)*

J.S. Bach

News for the Community

John Kupar

For the ministries that shape the life of our community, ***thanks be to God.***

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

Postlude

Adolphus Hailstork

Toccata on VENI EMMANUEL

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

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's processional hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, 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

- **Christmas Eve Services:** Our 4:00 PM service is a more casual and family-friendly service of carols and scripture readings. The 6:00 PM Lessons and Carols service is a formal time together and tells the Christmas story through scripture and music led by the Sanctuary Choir. Both services end with candlelight.
- **Tonight we gather at 6:00 PM for The Longest Night service:** Christmas is often characterized as a joyful time, but for many folks it is anything but this. Whether you are grieving the loss of a loved one, a job, a relationship, or are in a difficult life transition, all are welcome to this quiet and reflective worship service held on the longest night of the year. *Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.*
- Thank you for your generous giving which supports the ongoing ministry of Highland Baptist Church as we seek to live out the good news of Christmas, creating a world where justice and Love are abundant! Currently, our Finance Ministry Group is projecting we will come in a bit behind on income toward our 2025 ministry expenses. If you are able to complete your pledge and/or consider giving an end-of-year financial gift to Highland, please do so. You may use the QR code above or place your gift in the offering plate. Know how grateful we are for the many ways you invest yourself in the life of our beloved community, not only during the holiday season, but all year long.
- **Upcoming Advent and New Year Events:**
 - Sunday, December 21: 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, no Bible Study
 - Sunday, January 4: Regular Sunday schedule resumes
 - Wednesday, January 7: Wednesday Evening activities resume



**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 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