



*“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth
peace among those whom God favors!”*

~ Luke 2:14

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2025 – Six O’clock p.m.
Highland Baptist Church – Louisville, Kentucky

Tonight's scripture lessons are pictured in the side banners in the sanctuary beginning with the First Lesson by the organ and moving counterclockwise to the Christmas tree.

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Johannes Brahms

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

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Coleman Family

Processional Carol (104) †

IRBY

Once in Royal David's City
Stanza One: Jenna Proffit, mezzo-soprano

The Bidding Prayer

Paul Henderson

THE FIRST LESSON

Carol & Walt Harston

God announces in the Garden of Eden
that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.
~ Genesis 3:8-15

Carol (81) †

PICARDY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

THE SECOND LESSON

Ben Pacyga

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed
shall the nations of the earth be blessed.
~ Genesis 22:15-18

Carol

John Rutter

Nativity Carol

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago; born 'neath light of star He who loved us so. Far away
silent He lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.
Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. Far
away silent He lay, born today, your homage pay; Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.
Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills worship this babe so rare, hearts with
His warmth he fills. Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; innocent dreaming babe,
make me thy love to know.

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

THE THIRD LESSON

Sean Cornely

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.
~ Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

Carol (127) †

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

THE FOURTH LESSON

Paul Henderson

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.
~ Micah 5:2-4

Carol (107) †

ST. LOUIS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

THE FIFTH LESSON

Wallace and Findley

The Angel Gabriel salutes the blessed virgin Mary.
~ Luke 1:26-35, 38

Carol

arr. Howard Helvey

The Wexford Carol

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.

THE SIXTH LESSON

John Kubar

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.
~ Luke 2:1-7

Carol (110) †

MUELLER

Away in a Manger

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Renee Purtlebaugh

The shepherds go unto the manger.

~ Luke 2:8-16

Offertory Carol

text, Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

music, John Rutter

What Sweeter Music

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honor
to this day that sees December turn'd to May, that sees December turn'd to May. Why does the
chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'tis He is born, whose
quick'ning birth gives life and luster, public mirth, to heaven and the under-earth. We see Him
come, and know Him ours, who, with His sunshine and His show'rs, turns the patient ground to
flow'rs. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome Him. The no-
bler part of all the house here, is the heart, which we will give Him; and bequeath this holly, and
this ivy wreath, to do Him honor; who's our King, and Lord of all this revelling.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Walter McWhorter

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

~ Matthew 2:1-11

Carol (124) †

THE FIRST NOWE;L

The First Nowell

THE NINTH LESSON

Chris Caldwell

St. John unfolds the great mystery of incarnation.

~ John 1:1-14

Carol (102) †

ANTIOCH

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

The Lighting of the Christ Candle and Passing of the Light

Carol

STILLE NACHT

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and Child, holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Chris Caldwell

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

The Blessing

Recessional Carol (103) †

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him born the King of angels:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
True God of true God, Light from Light eternal,
lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest”;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Postlude

Sonata No. 1, Mvmt 4.
Allegro assai vivace

Felix Mendelssohn

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 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.



**Please join us on Sunday, December 28 for one worship service
at 10:00 a.m. Bible study classes will not meet that day.**

**Our regular Sunday schedule will resume on January 4 with worship services
at 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. and Bible Study for all ages at 10:00 a.m.**



**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
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AND THEIR FAMILIES