



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 12, 2026

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Renee Purtlebaugh

**HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE
TO HIS THRONE ABOVE THE SKIES, ALLELUIA**

Prelude

Jeanne Demessieux

Variations on O Filii et Filiae

Call to Worship

Randy Biery (8:45)
Kathy Belcher (11:15)

Hail the day that calls us here and lifts our hearts in praise.

Christ is risen, and draws us into love.

From busy lives and weary hearts, God gathers us in grace.

Christ is risen, and draws us into love.

In this time and place, there is room for each of us here.

Christ is risen, and draws us into love.

Come, let us worship the living God.

Christ is risen, and draws us into love.

Processional Hymn (219) †

LLANFAIR

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

Prayer of Praise †

Randy Biery (8:45)
Kathy Belcher (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 Anthem

K. Lee Scott

Christ Rising Again

Christ rising again dies no more, death has no strength, no power over him; for in that he lives, he lives to God.

Now death with all its dread o'er us no longer reigns, for Jesus rising from the tomb has burst its iron chains.

Destruction is destroyed by Christ, our Lord and king, whose rising forth with life restored removes death's dreadful sting. Victorious Lord of Life, who sets our hearts aflame, through deadly pain and fearful strife, we triumph in his name.

The congregation is invited to sing: ***Now lift your heart and voice in praise of him who died. In Christ let all the earth rejoice, our Lord, once crucified. Christ rising again dies no more, death has no strength, no power over him; for in that he lives, he lives to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!***

**HE HAS CONQUERED DEATH AND SIN,
TAKE THE KING OF GLORY IN, ALLELUIA!**

The Epistle Lesson

Renee Purtlebaugh

1 Peter 1:3-9 (Pew Bible page 227 – NT)

Prayer of Confession

John Kubar

God of new life, you make room for us in love, yet we confess that we do not always make room for one another. We cling to fear, make quick judgments, and hold too tightly to what feels safe and familiar. We forget that your grace is wide, your mercy is deep, and your welcome is not ours to control. Forgive us. Open our hearts, loosen our grip on all that keeps us from love, and teach us to live as people shaped by the risen Christ, making room for hope, mercy, and belonging. Amen.

Words of Assurance John Kupar
Exchange of Peace † John Kupar
Hymn (386) † ST. AGNES

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

**HARK! HIS LIPS BESTOW BLESSINGS
ON HIS CHURCH BELOW, ALLELUIA!**

A Reading from Acts Carol Harston
Acts 2:14a, 22-32 (Pew Bible pages 116-117 – NT)

Sermon
Easter Toolbox: Permission to Belong

**THERE FOR HIM HIGH TRIUMPH WAITS,
LIFT YOUR HEADS ETERNAL GATES, ALLELUIA!**

Hymn of Response (425) † FOUNDATION
How Firm a Foundation

Offertory Prayer † Bill Campbell (8:45)
Michelle Vaughn (11:15)

Offertory Joseph Parr
Fantasia on O Filii et Filiae

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 † Carol Harston

Postlude Jeanne Demessieux

Variations on O Filii et Filiae

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

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's processional hymn, *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation, and response.

Jeanne Demessieux's *Variations on O Filii*, Op. 8 No. 7 is a virtuoso organ piece based on the 15th-century Easter hymn *O Filii et Filiae*. Part of a collection of *Twelve Chorale Preludes*, it is celebrated for its technical demands, syncopated lilt, and dramatic representation of the resurrection narrative through contrasting variations.

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.

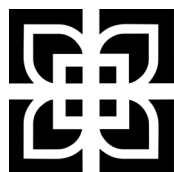
Worship care is available for infants, toddlers and preschoolers during worship. Our greeters are available to help you navigate our building. A Worship Cart with activities to engage children in the pew is located in the Commons.

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

- **Highlights Classes Coming Soon:** Interested in learning more about Highland? Join us on May 3, 10, and 17 for Highlights—a time to learn more about our congregation and its ministries while meeting other visitors and new members. We'll gather in the Commons at 10:00 AM each week.
- **Who will serve as deacons beginning this year?** Each year, our congregation nominates members to serve as deacons — not as an administrative board, but as servant leaders who invest themselves in the life and care of our congregation. Deacons serve a three-year term. Our deacon body is intentionally diverse: new members and longtime Highland families, younger voices and seasoned ones. How nominations work: you nominate up to 10 people using the link in the newsletter or paper forms available during worship. The deadline for nominations this year is April 26.
- **Easter Toolboxes, Wednesdays, April 15 and 22 at 6:15 PM:** Easter's arrival interrupts our Lenten practices with joy and delight, which can feel a little jarring when we sense that Good Friday's reality isn't fully behind us. We still encounter dead ends and face challenges. We see a world suffering from bombs, bullets, and bad news. We proclaim God's good news in worship—how do we live it out in our daily lives? In step with Carol's Eastertide sermons on the spiritual tools that help us practice resurrection faith, we'll ask each other: What's in your Easter Toolbox that lifts your spirits on tough days? What habits help you practice resurrection when you've been knocked down? What people inspire you to open your imagination about what's possible? What verses keep you going when you're tempted to give up?
- **Looking Ahead:**
 - Wednesdays, April 15 & 22: Easter Toolbox series at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall
 - Sunday, April 26: Children's Sabbath
 - Sundays, May 3, 10, 17: Highlights classes for visitors and new members during Bible study at 10:00 AM
 - Sunday, May 10: Youth Sunday



**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

Paige Harlow
DEACON CHAIR

Robert Kahne
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Leslie Morris
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Cheryl Davis
OFFICE MANAGER

Carol Harston
SENIOR PASTOR

John Kubar
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR
TO YOUTH

Joseph Parr
ORGANIST AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Megan Fuller
MINISTRY ASSISTANT AND
INTERIM CARE COORDINATOR

Paul Henderson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES