



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 3, 2026
8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Paul Henderson

GOD IS HERE! AS WE YOUR PEOPLE MEET
TO OFFER PRAISE AND PRAYER

Prelude

Jeanne Demessieux

Litanie on In manus tuas, Domine

Call to Worship

Robin Ramsay Lee (8:45)
Susan Coleman Layman (11:15)

God is here, not because we have climbed our way to heaven, but because grace has met us here.

God is here, as we gather with praise and prayer.

God is here, in song and silence, in scripture and story, in bread and cup.

God is here, calling us out of fear and into faithfulness.

Come, beloved people of God, let us worship the One who gathers us, forms us, and gives us voice.

God is here!

Processional Hymn (298) †

ABBOT'S LEIGH

God Is Here!

Prayer of Praise †

Robin Ramsay Lee (8:45)
Susan Coleman Layman (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

Debbie Wiseman

Alleluia

Alleluia. O clap your hands together all ye people; O sing unto God with a voice of melody, for the Lord is high and to be feared. He is the great King upon all the earth. Alleluia!

**HERE ARE SYMBOLS TO REMIND US
OF OUR LIFELONG NEED OF GRACE**

The Epistle Lesson

Paul Henderson

1 Peter 2:2-10 (Pew Bible page 228 – NT)

Prayer of Confession

John Kupar

Holy God, we confess that we have made too small a room for your presence. We have looked for you only where the music is beautiful, where the words are easy, where the company feels safe. But you are here also in the hard word, the costly witness, the mercy offered while stones are still in the air. We confess that we have covered our ears to voices we did not want to hear. We have guarded our hearts when you called us to forgive. We have stayed quiet when love needed a voice. Forgive us. Open us again to the wideness of your grace. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hymn †

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

From All That Dwells Below the Skies

*From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong: Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**HERE IN HONESTY OF PREACHING,
GOD THE SPIRIT COMES TO EACH**

A Reading from Acts

Carol Harston

Acts 7:55-60 (Pew Bible pages 123 – NT)

Sermon

Carol Harston

Easter Toolbox: Fearless Speech and Angry Crowds

**IN AN AGE OF CHANGE AND DOUBT,
KEEP US FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL**

Hymn of Response (285) †

CWM RHONDDA

God of Grace and God of Glory

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Renee Purtlebaugh

Invitation to the Table

Exchange of Peace †

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer*

Words of Institution

Reception of the Bread and Cup †

Everyone is invited forward to receive bread and cup. All bread served is gluten friendly.

Deacons will receive tithes and offerings in the offering plates as you return to your seat.

Communion Anthem

Thomas Tallis

If Ye Love Me
Choral Ensemble

Offertory Prayer

Corey Moran (8:45)
Jeff Layman (11:15)

News for the Community

Renee Purtlebaugh

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 †

TALLIS' CANON

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

Paul Manz

God of Grace

*In worship at Highland, we aim to speak and sing a theology that reflects an expansive and inclusive God. As we begin the Lord's Prayer today, we will use the words "Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father ..." to offer a fuller image of who God is. Within the prayer, some of us use the word "kingdom" and others prefer the word "kin-dom" to refer to the beloved community of God. We invite you to join us in using your own creative and intentional language as you pray, knowing that no single word will ever capture the essence of who God is.

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

Today in Worship

Phrases from today's processional hymn, *God Is Here!*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation, and response.

Our thanks to the choral ensemble for their musical leadership during worship: Stephanie Hall, Kim Henderson, Jillian Dunning, Jenna Profit, Drew Harston, Joseph Parr, Steve Miller, Ben Pacyga, and Jim Shelton.

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 Begin Today:** Interested in learning more about Highland? Join us today and on May 10 and 17 for the Highlights class—a time to learn more about our congregation and its ministries while meeting other visitors and new members. We'll gather in the Commons, just outside the sanctuary, at 10:00 AM each week.
- **Quarterly Church Conference:** Join us this afternoon at 4:00 PM on Zoom for our Quarterly Church Conference. Topics to be covered include reports from the Sacred Space project, the Finance Ministry Group, the Personnel Ministry Group, and the Congregational Engagement Ministry Group.
- **Orchestra Concert:** You are invited to Highland Orchestra's spring concert on Sunday, May 17, at 6:00 PM. The theme of the program is "A Classical Feast." We'll be presenting classics from a variety of times and places, including some of your favorites! So invite your friends and family and join us for a wonderful evening!
- **Racing Louisville FC Pride Night:** Don't miss Highland's night at Racing Louisville FC! It is coming up on Friday, May 29 at 8:00 PM at Lynn Family Stadium. This is one of the best nights of the season, and it's even better when we show up together. Check your newsletter for ticket information.
- **Looking Ahead:**
 - Today: Quarterly Church Conference, 4:00 PM on Zoom
 - Sundays, May 3, 10, 17: Highlights classes for visitors and new members during Bible study at 10:00 AM, Commons
 - Sunday, May 10: Youth Sunday
 - Sunday, May 17: Highland Orchestra Spring Concert—"A Classical Feast" at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary
 - Friday, May 29: Racing Louisville FC Pride Night, Lynn Family Stadium, 8:00 PM



**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 Kupar
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