



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 16, 2023

10:30 A.M. SERVICE



ALL ARE WELCOME

Highlands United Methodist Church affirms that nothing can separate anyone from the love of God. We invite all to worship, wonder, and discover God's grace as we aspire to create a safe space for all to participate fully in the life of this community of faith. We are called to shine as a beacon of hope, grace, belonging, and respect for all people. Regardless of age, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, family, financial status, nationality, physical or mental ability, past or future, there is room for you at Highlands.

ORDER FOR MORNING WORSHIP AND CONFIRMATION

PREACHING – DANNY JONES

LITURGISTS – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON, REGGIE HOLDER, LESLIE WILLIAMS

GUEST ORGANIST – JACK SMITH

VERGER – BRIAN BELLENGER

**Congregation please stand. Words in bold are spoken or sung by the congregation.*

Serving for Altar Guild: Beth Crane, Dinah Hughes • *Serving as Ushers:* Joe Hughes, Todd Edmondson

Serving as Acolytes: Bess Forrester, Reed Forrester, Will Soong, Robert White

Serving as Lay Readers: Julia Stowe, Millie Taylor

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Kara Cargile, chimer

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

PRELUDE

Arranged by Kevin McChesney (b. 1963)

Thine Is the Glory/Crown Him with Many Crowns

The Handbell Choir

Kathy Burdette, Director

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 304

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

REGENT SQUARE

*THE INVITATORY & GLORIA PATRI 70

MEINEKE

Alleluia! The Lord is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

O Lord, open our lips. And we shall declare your praise.

We praise you, Lord. Your holy name be praised.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. And also with you.

*VENITE

Psalm 95: Come, Sing With Joy to God

DARWALL'S 148TH



Come, sing with joy to God, our Rock and Sa-
vior praise; come en-ter in with shouts of joy, your
The heights and depths of earth are cra-
dled in God's hand; the same al-might-y power made moun-tains,



voic-es raise. O might-y God, You are the Lord, the God of gods by all a-dored.
sea, and land. Come wor-ship God, come kneel and bow be-fore the Lord our Mak-er now.

May these words reveal Christ to us. Thanks be to God.

*CANTICLE

Glory to You

John Rutter (b.1945)

Glo-ry to you, Lord God of our fa-thers; you are wor-thy of praise;
 glo-ry to you. Glo-ry to you for the ra-di-ance of your
 ho-ly name; we will praise you and high-ly ex-alt you for-ev-er.
 Glo-ry to you, in the splen-dor of your tem-ple; on the throne of your ma-jes-ty,
 glo-ry to you. Glo-ry to you seat-ed be-tween the Che-ru-
 bim; we will praise you and high-ly ex-alt you for-ev-er.
 Glo-ry to you, be-hold-ing the depths; in the high vault of hea-ven,
 glo-ry to you. Glo-ry to you Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly
 Spi-rit; we will praise you and high-ly ex-alt you for-ev-er.

***GOSPEL LESSON**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Lesson

John 20:19-31

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

Danny Jones

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION & PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price. Through confirmation, and through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church. I present these candidates for confirmation.

Lucy Edmondson
Bess Forrester
Reed Forrester
Nathan Green

Eleanor Hudson
Miriam Hudson
Beatrice Lowery
Scarlett Martin

Will Soong
Julia Stowe
Millie Taylor
Robert White

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

TO THE CONFIRMANDS:

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sins? I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? I do.

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world? I will.

TO THE CONGREGATION:

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

(All stand.)

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

(All sit.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

THE CONFIRMATION

Families are asked to come forward as their child is confirmed.

AS EACH CANDIDATE IS CONFIRMED:

Remember your baptism and be thankful. Amen.

NAME, *the Lord defend you with heavenly grace and by the Holy Spirit confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

TO ALL CONFIRMANDS:

As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Highlands United Methodist Church, and support its ministries by your prayers, your presences, your gifts, your service, and your witness? I will.

TO THE CONGREGATION:

Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your continued love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together in the body of Christ and Highlands United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Leslie Williams

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray: Faithful God, the strength of all who believe and the hope of those who doubt; may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer 895

GREETING AND PARISH NOTICES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

This Joyful Eastertide

The Choir

*This joyful Eastertide away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.*

REFRAIN: *Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.*

*My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.* REFRAIN

*Death's flood has lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river.
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.* REFRAIN

17th Century Dutch, Arr. Philip Ledger (b. 1937-2012)

Text, George Ratcliffe Woodward

***DOXOLOGY 94**

LAST UNS ERFREUEN WITH ALLELUIAS

***HYMN 610**

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ENGELBERG

***BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

ORGAN IMPROVISATION ON A HYMN TUNE

**JOIN US IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOLLOWING WORSHIP
FOR A LUNCHEON CELEBRATING OUR CONFIRMANDS.**



WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!

ALL ARE WELCOME

A Reconciling Congregation with the Reconciling Ministries Network – rmnetwork.org



Highlands United Methodist Church is a community of disciples of Christ; a beacon of hope, inviting all to become new persons in Christ, to be sent into the world to share the Gospel, and to serve our neighbors; and a sanctuary for those in need of God's love and grace.

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INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

The message of the Hebrew prophets, Jesus, Paul, and the early church was always a message of welcome and inclusion for all. The image of God's kingdom is of something small and insignificant growing into something larger and of great significance. The oppressed, the alien, and the outcast were all welcomed, included, and cared for. In this sense, our faith is built upon the idea of gracious hospitality. Followers of Jesus are not about walls of exclusion but bridges of grace and acceptance. Ours is a faith of invitation, for all to come to know Jesus as the living Christ who overcomes all brokenness, sin, and even death, offering a way to make all things new. This invitation extends to you. If you desire to explore what this means for you, please speak to a member of the clergy after the service or sometime this week. We welcome the opportunity to visit with you.

OFFERING

Cash or Check Giving:

- Giving envelopes are available in the pew racks. Checks may be made payable to HUMC.

Electronic Giving:

- Text GIVE to 205-900-3040. A link will be provided for a simple, quick way to give with one click.
- Visit www.highlandsumc.net/giving to give using a debit/credit card or bank account.

Sustainable Giving:

- To set up automatic monthly bank drafts, contact financial manager Tyra Johnson-Pirtle at finance@highlandsumc.net.
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