



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER

APRIL 18, 2021

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 HOLY COMMUNION

PREACHING – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON

LITURGIST – THE REVEREND HENRY GIBSON

CHILDREN’S MOMENT – REGGIE HOLDER

CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS

VERGER – BRIAN BELLENGER

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

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Savannah Busby, chimer

PRELUDE AND PROCESSION

Chorale Prelude on Christ Lag In Todesbanden
BWV 625
(Text, UMH 319)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

CALL TO WORSHIP AND WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*HYMN 308

Thine Be the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS
Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne

*COLLECT FOR PURITY

Let us pray: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*GLORY TO GOD

David Haas (b. 1957)

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est! Sing glo-ry to God! _____

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth! _____

Verses (Sung by The Choir)

Lord God, heavenly king, Almighty God and Father. We worship you. We give you thanks. We praise you for your glory.

Refrain.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father. Lord God, Lamb of God. You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father. Receive our prayer.

Refrain.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray: God of life and love, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Open our eyes that we may see him in his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PSALM 4 (Sung by The Choir)

Anglican Chant: George Elvey (1816-1893)

¹ Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness:
thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hearken unto my prayer.

² O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine honour,
and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek after falsehood?

³ Know this also, that the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is godly; when I call upon the Lord he will hear me.

⁴ Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart, and in your chamber, and be still.

⁵ Offer the sacrifice of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.

⁶ There be many that say, Who will show us any good?

⁷ Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.

⁸ Thou hast put gladness in my heart; yea, more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

⁹ I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest; for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 3:1-7

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Fintan O'Carroll (1922-1981) and Christopher Walker (b. 1947)

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation 'Alleluia'. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes on both staves.

*GOSPEL LESSON

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

The Lesson

Luke 24:36b-48

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

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN 191

Jesus Loves Me, verse 1

JESUS LOVES ME

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Reggie Holder

THE HOLY COMMUNION
Musical Communion Setting A: Elise Eslinger (b. 1943)

*INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

We are the body of Christ. Around this table, we live out our faith. The communion table is open to all who love God and their neighbor and seek forgiveness and healing in our world.

*THE PEACE

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

GREETINGS AND PARISH NOTICES

For a complete list of this week's announcements, see the weekly *Happening at Highlands* email. Sign up at www.highlandsumc.net.

ANTHEM

All in the April Evening
The Choir

All in the April evening, April airs are abroad. The sheep with their little lambs passed me by on the road.
The sheep with their little lambs passed me by on the road. All in the April evening, I thought on the Lamb of God.

The lambs were weary and crying with a weak human cry. I thought on the Lamb of God going meekly to die.
Up in the blue, blue mountains, dewy pastures are sweet. Rest for the little bodies, rest for the little feet

But for the lamb, the Lamb of God, up on the hilltop green, only a cross, a cross of shame, two stark crosses between.
All in the April evening, April airs were abroad. I saw the sheep with the lambs and thought on the Lamb of God.

Sir Hugh Stevenson Robertson (1874 -1952)

Text, Katherine Tynan

*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS 94

LAST UNS ERFREUEN WITH ALLELUIAS

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

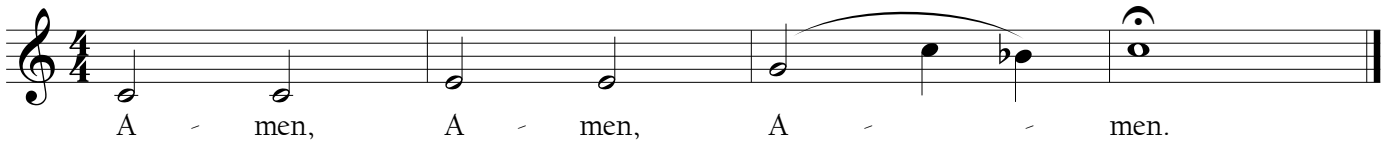
...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Jesus Lamb of God The Choir

William Mathias (1934-1992)

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Please come forward as directed by the ushers to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion and be mindful of social distancing while waiting to receive the sacrament. Holy Communion will be received by intinction; clergy will use utensils to dip the bread into the cup and place in congregants' hands. Pre-packaged communion elements are available at the chancel rails.

Reflecting our conviction that God's grace is for all people, everyone is invited to the Lord's table.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee The Choir

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast; but sweeter far thy face to see and in thy presence rest.
O hope of ev'ry contrite heart, O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!
But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show; the love of Jesus, what it is, none by this loved ones know.
Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be; Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.

John B. Dykes (1823-1876)

Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th Century,
English translation by Edward Caswall

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*HYMN 311

Now the Green Blade Riseth, verses 1 & 3

FRENCH CAROL

***BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

Please be seated until the conclusion of the voluntary.

VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on a Melody by Mechior Vulpius

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

OFFERING DURING SOCIALLY DISTANCED SERVICES

You may leave a cash or check offering in the offering plates near the Sanctuary exits as you leave the service today. 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 draft, contact financial manager Tyra Johnson-Pirtle at finance@highlandsumc.net.*



WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!



A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

www.highlandsumc.net/rmn

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COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- Seating in the Sanctuary is spaced carefully to maintain social distancing. The pews to be used are identified by a black foam tube on the top of the pew rail. Each pew may contain up to five people from the same household.
- Social distancing and face masks that cover both the mouth and nose are required throughout the building.
- Congregants may enter the Sanctuary through the Prayer Garden or the Greeting Space.
- Greeters will meet congregants at the Sanctuary entrances to take your temperature using a hand-held thermal device. To be admitted, congregants' temperature must be no more than 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit.
- At the close of the service, please be seated until the conclusion of the voluntary. As you exit the Sanctuary, please be mindful of social distancing, especially in narrow hallways. If you are sitting on the Magnolia Avenue side of the sanctuary or have limited mobility, you are encouraged to exit through the Greeting Space. Those who are seated on the 11th Avenue side of the sanctuary are encouraged to exit through the Prayer Garden. The front doors may be used to exit the Sanctuary by those who are sitting in the balcony; however, once you exit, the door will lock behind you.
- All restroom facilities are open. Please be mindful of social distance in restrooms and adjacent corridors.
- The Sanctuary and restrooms will be cleaned thoroughly prior to and after each service.

If you have questions or concerns regarding in-person worship COVID protocols, please contact church administrator Dick L'Eplattenier at 205-933-8751 or dick@highlandsumc.net.

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 by 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.



Vision Statement

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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