



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY &

BLESSING OF THE INFANTS

APRIL 21, 2024 – 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

PREACHING – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON
LITURGISTS – REGGIE HOLDER, LESLIE WILLIAMS
CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS
VERGER – WILSON NASH

**Those who are able, please stand. Words in bold are spoken or sung by the congregation.*

Serving for Altar Guild: Karen Holton
Serving as Ushers: Joe Hughes, Ethan White
Serving as Acolytes: Julia Stowe, Liam Stowe
Serving as Lay Reader: Kathleen Lalor

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Kara Cargile, chimer

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on **BROTHER JAMES' AIR**

Searle Wright (1918-2004)

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 317

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing
Verses 1-5

O FILII ET FILLAE
Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne

*THE INVITATORY & GLORIA PATRI 70

MEINEKE

Alleluia! Christ 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-**vi**or praise; come en-**ter** in with shouts of joy, your
The heights and depths of earth are cra-**dl**ed 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-**d**ored.
sea, and land. Come wor-**ship** God, come kneel and bow be-**fore** the Lord our Mak-**er** now.

BLESSING OF THE INFANTS

Beloved in Christ: The birth or adoption of a child is a joyous and solemn occasion in the life of a family. It is also an occasion for rejoicing in the church family. I bid you, therefore, to join with the parents in giving thanks to God for the gift of these children and their families.

Ben Amthor

Gracious God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named: We come before you with gratitude for the gift of these children, for the joy that has come into their families, and the grace that surrounds them and all of us. Help us joyfully to nurture them within your Church. By the power of your Holy Spirit, fill their homes with love, trust, and understanding. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALTER

Psalm 23

Haldane Campbell Stewart (1868-1942)

The Choir

Dominus regit me

¹*The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing.*

²*He shall feed me in a green pasture and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.*

³*He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.*

⁴*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.*

⁵*Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me, thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.*

⁶*But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

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.

FIRST LESSON

1 John 3:16-24

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

*CANTICLE *(See inside back cover)*

Glory to You

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy name; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the cherubim; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

*GOSPEL LESSON

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

The Lesson

John 10:11-18

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

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYERS

Leslie Williams

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the Good Shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear the Shepherd’s voice we may know who calls us each by name, and follow where we are led; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer 895

GREETINGS AND PARISH NOTICES

Reggie Holder

ALABAMA ARISE ANNOUNCEMENT

Weily Soong

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

None Other Lamb

The Choir

*None other Lamb, none other name, none other hope in heav’n or earth or sea,
None other hiding place from guilt and shame, none beside thee!
My faith burns low, my hope burns low; only my heart’s desire cries out in me
By the deep thunder of its want and woe, cries out to thee.
Lord, thou art life, though I be dead; love’s fire thou art, however cold I be:
Nor heav’n have I, nor place to lay my head, nor home, but thee. Amen.*

Joseph Roff (1910-1993)

Text, Christina G. Rossetti

*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*HYMN 138

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ST. COLUMBIA

*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

ORGAN IMPROVISATION ON A HYMN TUNE

MOTHER'S DAY

Hydrangeas



\$30 each

Order by April 30

*Flowers may be taken after the
service to give to honorees.*

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. —



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 card, credit card, or bank account.

Sustainable Giving:

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



SCAN THE CODE WITH YOUR MOBILE
DEVICE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING AT HIGHLANDS!

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