

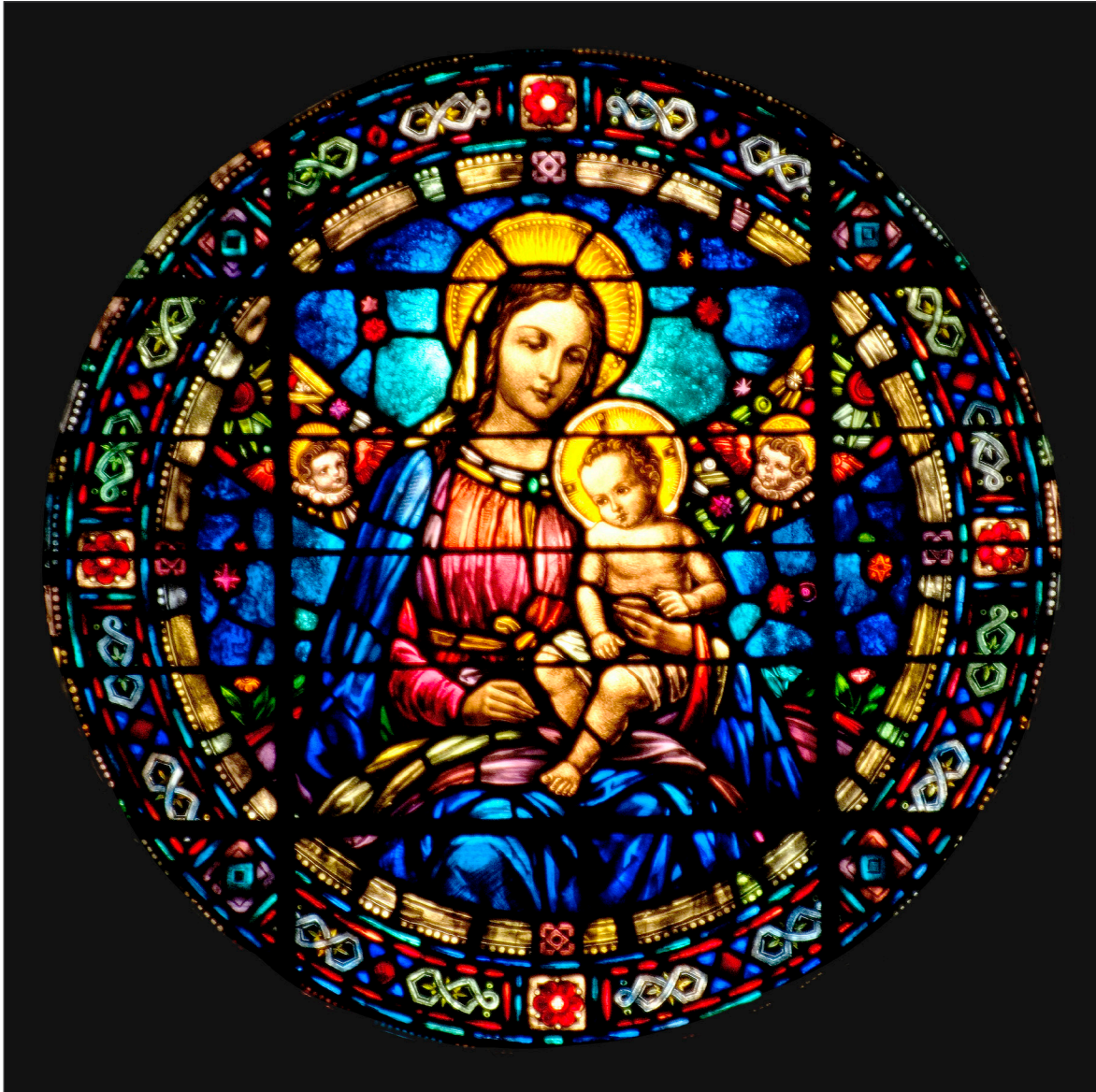


HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2023

10:30 A.M. SERVICE



Advent is the liturgical season of preparation that begins four Sundays prior to Christmas. It is a season of hope and longing, joyful expectation, and peaceful preparation. During Advent, the paraments – the cloths adorning the altar, lectern, and pulpit, as well as the stoles worn by the clergy – are purple, the royal color of the coming King. The evergreen Advent wreath symbolizes everlasting life amidst a dark, cold winter. Each Sunday, a new candle is lit in anticipation of the birth of the Christ child.



This Advent & Christmastide, the following are given to the glory of God

Sanctuary Chrismon Tree:

In honor of Ben and Alice Thistle, and Marion, Roe, and Fances Jacques, given by their grandparents, Renee Peacock & Steve Bair.

Front Lawn Christmas Tree:

Given by PJ & Steve Ellis

Sanctuary Advent Wreath:

Given by Scott & Laura Williams

Greenery in the Chancel and over the High Altar:

In memory of Robert & Carol Forrester, given by The Forrester family

In memory of our parents, Barbara & Jim Short, given by their family

In memory of our parents, Bobbie & Wayne Smith, given by their family

In honor of Jack & Lisa Reed, given by The Forrester family

In honor of Rick Phillips and The Choir given by Dr. Brian L. Bellenger

In honor of Mary Elizabeth Neal, Lindsay Dawson, and Polly Dawson, given by Don & Kelley Neal

In honor of Mary Elizabeth Neal, Lindsay Dawson, and Polly Dawson, given by Les & Mitchie Neel

Given by Kathy Burdette, Jeff & Celia Davenport, and Mark Chambers & Joy McPherson

Wreaths in the Sanctuary:

In honor of Reggie Holder and PJ Ellis, given by Suzanne Hoye

Given by Mark Chambers & Joy McPherson

Wreaths on Exterior Doors:

In memory of Judy Mills, given by The Soong family

In memory of Dr. Charles Tyndal, given by Tutter Tyndal

In memory of Abigail L'Eplattenier, given by Dick & Lynn L'Eplattenier

In honor of Nancy & Eric Barkemeyer, given by Dan & Nancy Hill

In honor of Mary Elizabeth Neal, Lindsay Dawson, and Polly Dawson, given by Les & Mitchie Neel

In honor of the welcoming congregation of Highlands UMC, given by the Five Points Business

Alliance and Five Points South Neighborhood Association

Poinsettias:

In memory of Jimmy Lennon, given by Dinah Hughes

In memory of Betsy Smith Watson, given by Winston, Tyra, Neal & Madora Pirtle

In memory of Thomas Neal Johnson, given by Winston, Tyra, Neal & Madora Pirtle

In honor of Kathi Ash, given by Betsy Mackin

In honor of Sarah and James Darby, given by Matt Darby

In honor of Ms. Nancy Harris, given by The Soong family

Given by Cinda York

Additional Greenery:

In memory of Kenneth Heath, and Ann & Michael Shacka, given by Sonya Heath Shacka

In honor of Bess, Reed, Mack, and Sam Forrester, given by Tate & Kirk Forrester

In honor of Mary Elizabeth Neal, given by the Highlands Children's Program

In honor of Lauri Soong and the Atrium Catechists, given by the Highlands Youth Program

Given by Ann Day Hunt and Denise Williams

ORDER FOR MORNING WORSHIP

PREACHING – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON
LITURGIST – REGGIE HOLDER
CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS
VERGER – BRIAN BELLENGER

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

Serving for Altar Guild: Valerie Nash • *Serving as Ushers:* Mark Chambers, Michael Lalor
Serving as Lay Reader: Laura Williams • *Serving as Acolytes:* Ann Harper Nash, Robert White
Sacred Dancers for the Advent Season: Camille Baxley, Elizabeth Baxley, Polly Dawson,
Emmalynne Hudson, Ann Harper Nash, Estelle Sides, Julia Stowe, Millie Taylor

*The flowers on the altar are from the wedding of Anna Lea Strickland and Travis Cleveland on Saturday, December 9, 2023.
They are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of The Reverend & Mrs. Belon O. Friday.*

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Kara Cargile, chimer

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

PRELUDE

Sinfonia
from **MESSIAH**
The Orchestra

George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 250

Once in Royal David's City
Congregation, Choir, and Orchestra

IRBY
Descant Setting: Sir David Willcocks

*THE INVITATORY & GLORIA PATRI 70

MEINEKE

*O Lord, open our lips. And we shall declare your praise.
We praise you, Lord. Your holy name be praised.
Glory by 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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Fantasy on PERSONET HODIE
The Sacred Dancers

Phil Lehenbauber (b. 1960)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

*The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Let us pray: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:
Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

PSALTER

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
The Gentlemen of the Choir

Plainsong Tone I.2

Benedixisti, Domine

¹You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

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

Isaiah 40:1-11

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

ANTHEM

For Unto Us a Child Is Born
from MESSIAH
The Choir and Orchestra

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder;
And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

Isaiah 9:6

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Reggie Holder

Children of all ages are invited to participate. Following the Children's Moment, all children are invited to Children's Choir. After the service, parents may pick up children in the Children's Choir Room. If this is your first time at Highlands, a parent is asked to accompany their child to meet staff and provide contact information.

*SEQUENCE HYMN 240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
Congregation, Choir, and Orchestra

MENDELSSOHN
Descant Setting: Sir David Willcocks

*GOSPEL LESSON

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

The Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

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

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881

THE APOSTLES' CREED

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

Reggie Holder

GREETING AND PARISH NOTICES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

And the Glory of the Lord
from MESSIAH
The Choir

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

Text, Isaiah 40:5

*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*HYMN 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Congregation, Choir, and Orchestra
Verses 1, 2, 3, and 6

ADESTE FIDELES
Descant Setting: Sir David Willcocks

*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

VOLUNTARY

Concerto in A Minor
Movement No. 3 – Vivace
Opus 3, No. 6
The Orchestra

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

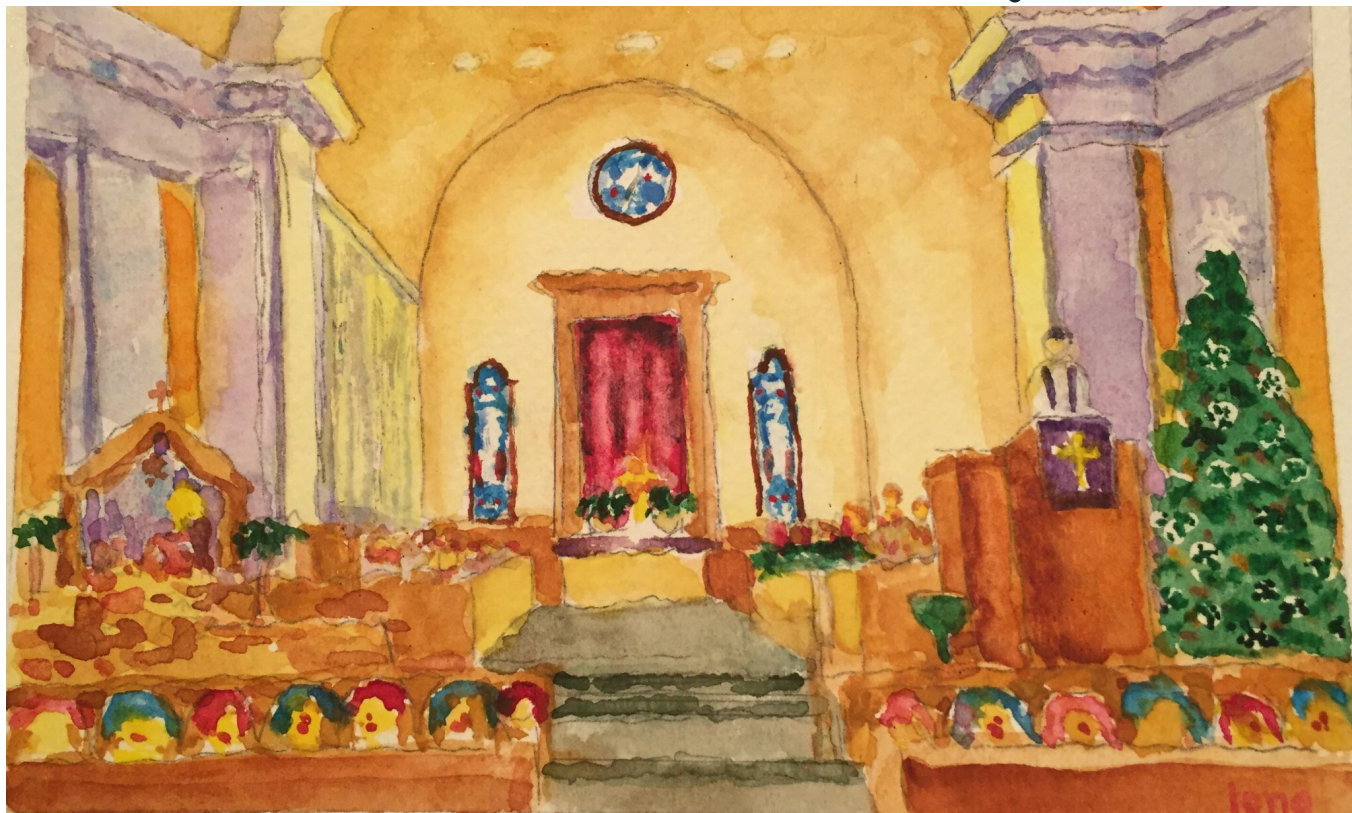
The Choir

<u>Soprano</u>	<u>Alto</u>	<u>Tenor</u>	<u>Bass</u>
Tessa Brown	Naomi Archer	David Busby	Brian Bellenger
Ellen Buckner	Kathy Burdette	Chris Culpepper	Jake Borton
Kara Cargile	Micaela Hamilton	Tom Head	Austin Hamilton
Karlie Head	Suzanne Phillips	Dylan Higgs	Thomas Head
Caitlin Mullin	Lee Stayer	Josh Rezek	Brett Huffman
Renee Peacock	Kendal Stine		Jack Smith
Rachel Satterwhite			
Lizzy Tagtmeyer			

The Chamber Orchestra

Godehard Oepen, violin	Jim Sullivan, oboe
Joanna Pepple, violin	Tim Griffin, oboe
Lucina Horner Cosby, viola	Adriel Gonzalez, bassoon
Mary De Gobbo, cello	Laurie Middaugh, organ
Sam Rocklin, double bass	

★ Advent and Christmas at Highlands ★



Artwork by Richard Long

December 10, 2023 – Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
featuring The Choir and Chamber Orchestra

December 17, 2023 – Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
featuring the Children's Christmas Pageant

December 24, 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve Services

10:30 a.m. Children and Family Service of Holy Communion
featuring The Chamber Choir

4:30 p.m. The Music of Christmas Choral Concert
5:00 p.m. Service of Holy Communion and Candlelighting

December 31 – First Sunday of Christmas

9:00 a.m. Community New Year's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas

Festival of the Three Kings

Saturday, December 16, 2023
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Gifts should be returned by
Wednesday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to assist with gifts
distribution during the festival. To sign up,
contact Danny Jones danny@highlandsumc.net.

Children's Advent Service Project

Tuesday, December 19, 2023
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Children age 4 and older are invited for an
afternoon of service projects for our church family
and community, seasonal snacks, and fellowship
with each other. Drop off and pick up in the
Fellowship Hall. RSVP to Lauri Soong at
laurisoong@hotmail.com.



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.

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.

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- If you have been exposed to COVID-19 or exhibit symptoms of illness, please join us for online worship. *Worship services are livestreamed on Facebook, Youtube, and Vimeo. Visit www.highlandsumc.net for more information.*
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the Sanctuary and church building. Congregants are especially encouraged to sanitize hands prior to receiving Holy Communion.

If you have questions or concerns regarding in-person worship safety protocols, please contact the church office at 205-933-8751.

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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