

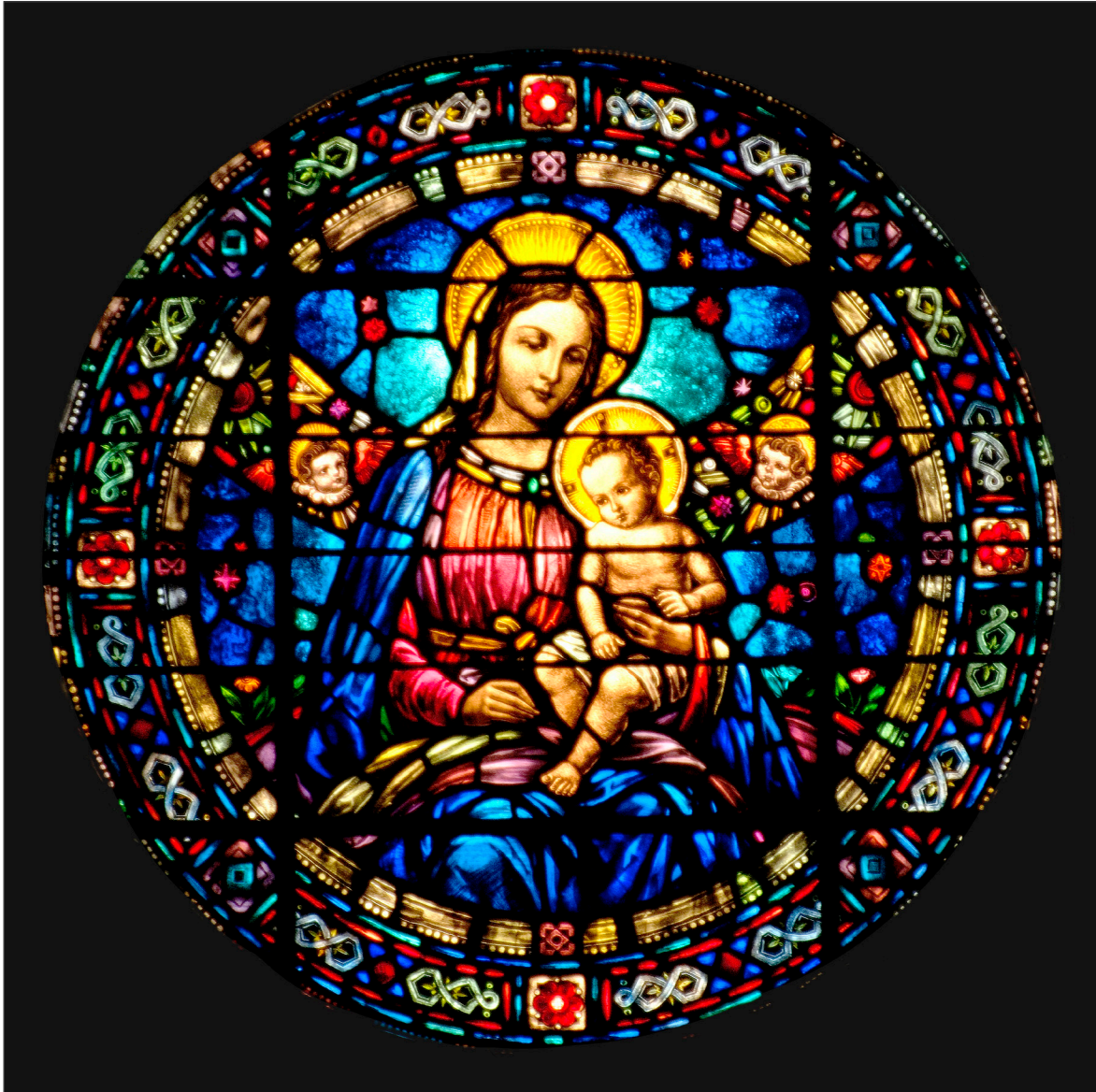


HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 12, 2021

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.

★ Advent and Christmas at Highlands ★★



Artwork by Richard Long

December 14, 2021 – Advent Midday Communion

Noon – Service of Holy Communion

Preaching: Leslie Williams, Highlands UMC Seminarian in Residence

Lunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall (\$10)

December 19, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

*10:30 a.m. Morning Worship featuring the
Children's Christmas Pageant & String Quartet*

December 21, 2021 – Advent Midday Communion

Noon – Service of Holy Communion

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Cole Goodrich, Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) and Thank You Books

Lunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall (\$10)

December 24, 2021 – Christmas Eve Services

2:00 p.m. Children and Family Service of Holy Communion

3:00 p.m. Tower Bells 100th Anniversary Concert

4:30 p.m. The Music of Christmas Choral Concert

5:00 p.m. Service of Holy Communion and Candlelighting

ORDER FOR MORNING WORSHIP

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

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

Serving for Altar Guild: Lynn Hairston, Valerie Nash
Serving as Ushers: Jeff Davenport, Porter Fell, Will Stowe
Serving as Acolytes: Austin Meredith, Ben Shacka, Madeline Solomon
Lighting the Advent Candles: Austin Meredith, Cinda York
Sacred Dancers for the Advent Season: Polly Dawson, Reed Forrester, Eleanor Hudson,
Emmalynne Hudson, Miriam Hudson, Mary Solomon, Julia Stowe

Congregants are asked to wear a face mask throughout the service to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Frederick H. Candlyn (1892-1964)

Chorale Prelude on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
(Of the Father's Love Begotten – UMH 184)

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray: God our Redeemer, you chose Mary to be the mother of our Lord and Savior. Fill us with your grace that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a
May these words reveal Christ to us. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Lift Up Your Heads
from MESSIAH
The Choir and Orchestra

*Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be ye lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be ye lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.*

George Frederick Handel

Psalm 24:7-10

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:46b-55

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

*SEQUENCE HYMN 240

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

MENDELSSOHN
Descant Setting: Sir David Willcocks

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

Leslie Williams

GREETING AND PARISH NOTICES

Reggie Holder

OFFERTORY 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

Isaiah 9:6

*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*HYMN 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Congregation, Choir, and Orchestra

ADESTE FIDELES
Descant Setting: Sir David Willcocks

*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Following the retiring procession, please be seated until the conclusion of the voluntary or exit quietly.

*VOLUNTARY

Concerto Grosso in G Major
Movement No. 1 Largo - Allegro
HWV 314

George Frederick Handel

The Choir

<u>Soprano</u>	<u>Alto</u>	<u>Tenor</u>	<u>Bass</u>
Ellen Buckner	Naomi Archer	David Busby	Larry Brasher
Savannah Busby	Kathy Burdette	Dylan Higgs	Thomas Head
Kara Cargile	Madi Carr	Josh Rezek	Brett Huffman
Carol Ann Head	Caitlin Mullin		Jack Smith
Diega MacDougall	Suzanne Phillips		
	Lee Stayer		
	Kendal Stine		

The Orchestra

Pei-Ju Wu, Violin	Machiko Schlaffer, Oboe
Sodam Lim, Violin	Kelly Newport, Oboe
Lucina Horner, Viola	Tariq Masri, Bassoon
Yeonwoo Seo, Cello	Grant Dalton, Timpani
Nick Scholefield, Bass	Laurie Middaugh, Continuo

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

Sanctuary Chrismon Tree: Tutter Tyndal

Front Lawn Christmas Tree: In memory of Courtney Haden, given by Steve and P.J. Ellis

Sanctuary Advent Wreath: In honor of Mary-Kate & Savannah Laird and Caroline & Adam Caldwell, given by Warren Laird

Wreaths in the Sanctuary: In honor of Benjamin and Alice Thistle, and Marion Jacques, given by their grandparents, Renee Peacock and Steve Bair; In memory of Murray Willard Bair, given by Renee Peacock and Steve Bair.

Wreaths on Exterior Doors: In honor of Rick Phillips and The Choir, given by Joe and Dinah Hughes; In memory of Jeannette Leslie Ray, given by Jim and Suzanne Hoye; In honor of William H. Ray, Jr., given by Jim and Suzanne Hoye; In memory of Abigail L'Eplattenier given by Dick and Lynne L'Eplattenier;

Poinsettias: In memory of Thomas Neal Johnson, given by Tyra Johnson Pirtle; In honor of the staff of Highlands UMC, given by Weily, Lauri, Katie, and Will Soong; Phil, Sara, and Anna Amthor

Lighted Exterior Garland: Poinsettias: In honor of Judge Sharon Lovelace Blackburn, given by Stephanie Goodwin; In memory of John "Coach" Calvert, given by Cinda York; In honor of Broughton Davenport, given by Jeff and Celia Davenport



ADVENT MIDDAY COMMUNION

**Tuesdays at Noon
Lunch to follow in the
Fellowship Hall (\$10)**



November 30
Rev. Emily Freeman Penfield
Woodlawn UMC
Senior Pastor



December 7
Rev. Sarah Shelton
Baptist Church of the Covenant
Pastor Emeritus



December 14
Leslie Williams
Highlands UMC
Seminarian In Residence



December 21
Rev. Elizabeth Cole Goodrich
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Thank You Books



Highlands United Methodist Church
1045 20th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35205
www.highlandsumc.net/advent



100 Year Anniversary of the Tower Bells

1921-2021

Celebrate 100 years of Tower Bells at
Highlands United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve Concert
3:00 PM on the Front Lawn



Christmas Eve at Highlands

2:00 p.m. – Children and Family Service of Holy Communion

3:00 p.m. – Tower Bell Anniversary Concert on the Front Lawn

4:30 p.m. – The Music of Christmas Choral Concert

5:00 p.m. – Service of Holy Communion and Candlelighting

All are welcome!





WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!



A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

www.highlandsumc.net/rmn

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.

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- Social distancing and face masks that cover both the mouth and nose are required throughout the building at all times, regardless of your vaccination status.
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the Sanctuary and church building. Congregants are especially encouraged to sanitize hands prior to receiving Holy Communion.
- As you exit the Sanctuary, please be mindful of social distancing, especially in narrow hallways.
- Restroom facilities are open. Please be mindful of social distancing in restrooms and adjacent corridors.

If you have questions or concerns regarding in-person worship COVID 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.*



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.

1045 Twentieth Street South • Birmingham, Alabama 35205
(205) 933-8751 • www.highlandsumc.net