



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 18, 2022

10:30 A.M. SERVICE



The bulletin cover is a mural of the Nativity, painted by the children of Highlands as a part of a Vacation Bible School project in the early 1990s. The painting was conceived and organized by Marie Jeff and her daughter Leslie Davis. The mural hangs in the Church School Building hallway opposite the Choir Room and is part of a collection of murals throughout the church that include the Creation story, the Prodigal Son and the Journeys of Paul.

Today's Christmas Pageant has evolved over many years and was originally written by longtime Highlands' staff member, Allie Norton Forte, and published by Abington Press as *The Story of Christmas*. Pageant costumes were designed by Suzy Baker, Gayle Douglas, Marie Jeff, and Mary Elizabeth Neal.

★ Advent and Christmas at Highlands ★



Artwork by Richard Long

December 20, 2022 - Advent Midday Communion

Noon – Guest Preacher: Rev. Carolyn Foster; Lunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall (\$10)

December 24, 2022 – Christmas Eve Services

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

featuring The Chamber Choir; Tessa Brown, soprano; and Levon Margaryan, violin

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

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

featuring The Choir; Dr. Roderick George, tenor; Levon Margaryan, violin; and Travis Quesenberry, trumpet

December 25, 2022 – Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas Day

– There will be no Sunday School, Atrium, or Nursery. –

ORDER FOR MORNING WORSHIP

PREACHING – REGGIE HOLDER

LITURGISTS – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON, 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: Valerie Nash

Serving as Ushers: Mark Chambers, Michael Lalor

Serving as Acolytes: Camille Baxley, Georgia Long

*Sacred Dancers for the Advent Season: Polly Dawson, Reed Forrester, Emmalynne Hudson,
Eleanor Hudson, Ann Harper Nash, Estelle Sides, Mary Solomon, Julia Stowe, Millie Taylor*

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Kara Cargile, chimer

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

PRELUDE

Air

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

From Orchestral Suite No. 3 - Movement No. 2

BWV 1068

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 220

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE
Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne

*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 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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Prelude on VENI EMMANUEL

Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943)

The Sacred Dancers

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of Mary, give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

Text, Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

*GOSPEL LESSON

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

The Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

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

THE HOMILY

Reggie Holder

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leslie Williams

GREETING AND PARISH NOTICES

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

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

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Congregation

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

The Prophecy

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Congregation

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Annunciation

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS

Congregation

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

The Visitation

HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ZLOBIE LEZY

Congregation

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

The Birth of Jesus

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

Congregation

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

The Prophecy Fulfilled

HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Congregation

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

The Shepherds and the Angels

HYMN

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night

WINCHESTER OLD

Congregation

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

The Visit of the Magi

HYMN

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

Congregation

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

REFRAIN: O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. REFRAIN

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping God on high. REFRAIN

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes of life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. REFRAIN

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. REFRAIN

Finale

HYMN

Away in a Manger

AWAY IN A MANGER

The Children's Choir

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

HYMN

Let There Be Peace on Earth

WORLD PEACE

*Children's Choir: Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*All: Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Children will remain in place until the conclusion of the voluntary for photographs.

*VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on FRENCH CAROL

Richard Phillips (b. 1959)

WE WELCOME OUR GUEST MUSICIANS TO HIGHLANDS!

Marilyn Pipkin, *violin*

Casie Ford Lowry, *viola*

Niamh Tuohy, *violin*

Kevin Kazakevich, *cello*

Laurie Middaugh, *continuo*

Christmas Pageant Cast

Angel Gabriel: Nathan Green

Gabriel's Heralds: Tristan Prewitt, Lucas Starnes

Mary: Amelia Rathmell

Elizabeth: Reed Forrester

Joseph: Mack Forrester

Inn Keeper: Adelia Arnold

Donkeys: Sam Forrester, Jack Boliek

Sheep: Libby Nash, Wesley Hudson

Cow: Piper Smith

Star Bearer: Estelle Sides

Magi: Broughton Davenport, Polly Dawson, Whit Hudson

Tiger: Alex Boliek

Camel: Miriam Hudson, Will Soong

Elephant: Julia Stowe, Millie Taylor

Shepherds: Luke Nash, Jackson Neale

Charlotte Slay, Hailey Smith

Angels: Anna Amthor, Elizabeth Baxley,

Loula Gaskin, Rory McKinnon

Narrators: Nathan Jones, John Marshall Rathmell

Director: Mary Elizabeth Neal

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

Sanctuary Chrismon Tree:

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

Front Lawn Christmas Tree:

In memory of our parents and grandparents, given by Bart, Lynne, Jack, Norah and Ryanne Trench

Sanctuary Advent Wreath:

In honor of our mothers, Jane Neill and Rebecca Amthor, given by Phil, Sara and Anna Amthor

Garland in the Chancel:

In memory of Mrs. Romaine Gaffney, given by John and Linda Gaffney

Garland over the High Altar:

In honor of Highlands United Methodist staff, given by the Forrester family

Wreaths in the Sanctuary:

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

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

Wreaths on Exterior Doors:

In memory of Jeanne Ray and Ed Hoye, given by Suzanne and Jim Hoye

In honor of Billy Ray and Mary Jo Hoye, given by Suzanne and Jim Hoye

In honor of Highlands United Methodist staff, given by the Soong family

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

Poinsettias:

In memory of Lee I. and Fay L. Hart, given by Stan Hart

In memory of Jamie Crocker, given by Joe and Dinah Hughes

In memory of Louise Hawkins Mingus, given by Lynn and Dick L'Eplattenier

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



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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