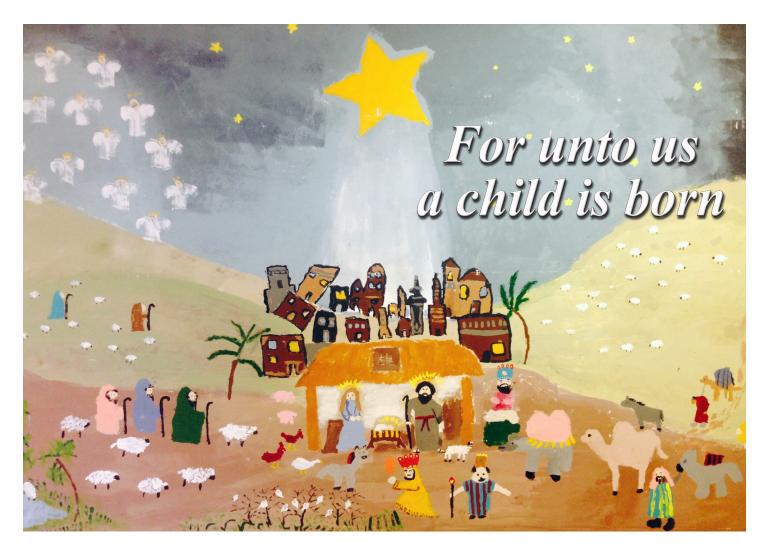


HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH The Fourth Sunday of Advent The Children's Christmas Pageant

December 18, 2022

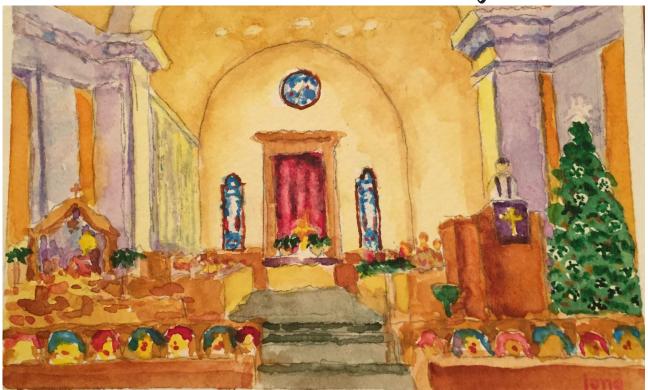
10:30 A.M. Service



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.

st Advent and Christmas at Highlands $\stackrel{\scriptstyle \star}{st}$



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

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Air 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

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	Prelude on VENI EMMANUEL	Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943)
	The Sacred Dancers	

Collect of the Day $% \left({{{\rm{D}}_{{\rm{A}}{{\rm{A}}{\rm{A}}{\rm{A}}{\rm{A}}{\rm{A}}{\rm{A}$

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.

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

Kara Cargile, chimer

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

MEINEKE

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 Hande	el (1685-1759)	Text, Isai
*Doxology with Alleluias 94		LASST UNS
	THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT	
Нуми	O Come, All Ye Faithful Congregation	ADEST
	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 Congregation	VENI E
	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.	
	2	

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!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*GOSPEL LESSON

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

THE HOMILY

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GREETING AND PARISH NOTICES

Leslie Williams

Matthew 1:18-25

Reggie Holder

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

ERFREUEN

TE FIDELES

MMANUEL

ST. LOUIS Text, Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

ah 40:5

The Annunc	iation	
Hymn	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Congregation	ES IST EIN ROS
	Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's linage coming, as those of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the	night.
The Visitati	on	
Hymn	Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Congregation	W ZLOBIE LEZY
	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 Congregation	ST. LOUIS
	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 Prophec	y Fulfilled	
Hymn	Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Congregation	MENDELSSOHN
	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 Shepher	ds and the Angels	
Hymn	While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night Congregation	WINCHESTER OLD
	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

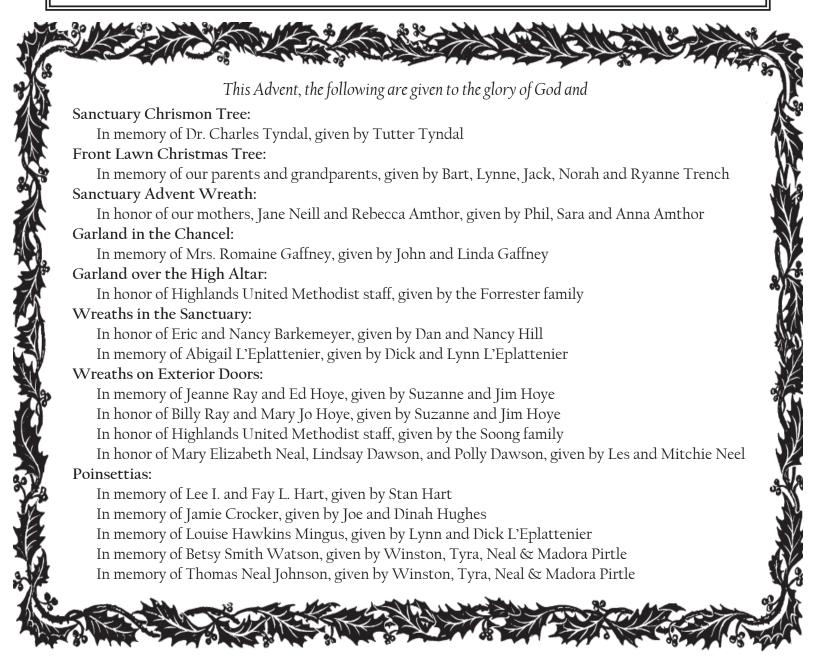
	Congregation	
	We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.	
]	REFRAIN: O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.	
	Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. REFRAIN	
Р	Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh, rayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. REFRAIN	
Sorre	Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes of life of gathering gloom; owing, 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 MANO The Children's Choir	FER
	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 PE	ACE
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 Sen	iding Forth	
Childre	en will remain in place until the conclusion of the voluntary for photographs.	
*Voluntary	Improvisation on FRENCH CAROL Richard Phillips (b. 19	ə59)
	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

<u>Angel Gabriel</u>: Nathan Green <u>Gabriel's Heralds</u>: Tristan Prewitt, Lucas Starnes <u>Mary</u>: Amelia Rathmell <u>Elizabeth</u>: Reed Forrester <u>Joseph</u>: Mack Forrester <u>Inn Keeper</u>: Adelia Arnold <u>Donkeys</u>: Sam Forrester, Jack Boliek <u>Sheep</u>: Libby Nash, Wesley Hudson <u>Cow</u>: Piper Smith <u>Star Bearer</u>: Estelle Sides <u>Magi</u>: Broughton Davenport, Polly Dawson, Whit Hudson <u>Tiger</u>: Alex Boliek <u>Camel</u>: Miriam Hudson, Will Soong <u>Elephant</u>: Julia Stowe, Millie Taylor <u>Shepherds</u>: Luke Nash, Jackson Neale <u>Charlotte Slay, Hailey Smith</u> <u>Angels</u>: Anna Amthor, Elizabeth Baxley, Loula Gaskin, Rory McKinnon <u>Narrators</u>: Nathan Jones, John Marshall Rathmell Director: Mary Elizabeth Neal





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 <u>www.highlandsumc.net/giving</u> 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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