



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 19, 2021

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 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 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 on the Front Lawn

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

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

*A nursery for children ages 3 and younger will be available.

December 26, 2021 – The First Sunday of Christmas

10:30 a.m. – Service of Lessons and Carols

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

ORDER FOR MORNING WORSHIP

PREACHING – REGGIE HOLDER
LITURGIST – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON
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: Lizzy Glenn, John Marshall Rathmell, Liam Stowe
Lighting the Advent Candles: Susan Crow, Steve Norris
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

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

Frederick H. Candlyn (1892-1964)

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

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

God for whom we wait and watch, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people for the coming of the Messiah.

Inspire the ministers and stewards of your truth to turn our disobedient hearts to you; that, when Christ shall come again in glory to be our judge, we may stand in confidence before him, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

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

*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 Luke. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Lesson

Luke 3:7-18

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

THE HOMILY

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

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

He Is Born

IL EST NE

Congregation

He is born, the holy child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy child, sing we all of the Savior mild.
Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming;
Thru long ages of the past, now the time has come at last!
He is born, the holy child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy child, sing we all of the Savior mild.

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!

Pei-Ju Wu, *violin*

Michael Fernandez, *viola*

Yuriko Yasuda, *violin*

Peter Garrett, *cello*

Jen Tanner, *continuo*

Christmas Pageant Cast

Angel Gabriel: Georgia Long

Mary: Millie Taylor

Elizabeth: Amelia Rathmell

Joseph: Will Soong

Inn Keeper: Camille Baxley

Magi: Eleanor Hudson, Adelia Arnold, Mack Forrester

Star Bearer: Polly Dawson

Tiger: Ann Harper Nash

Camel: Miriam Hudson, Julia Stowe

Elephant: Reed Forrester, Nathan Green

Donkeys: Luke Nash, Lucas Starnes

Sheep: Broughton Davenport, Elizabeth Baxley

Cow: Estelle Sides

Angels: Helen Davis, Libby Nash,

Hailey Smith, Piper Smith

Shepherds: Paul Davis, Sam Forrester, Whit Hudson

Tristan Prewitt, Sims Taylor

Narrators: John Marshall Rathmell, Katie Soong

Director – Mary Elizabeth Neal

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

Sanctuary Chrismon Tree: In memory of Dr. Charles Tyndal and in celebration of their 68th wedding anniversary on December 21, given by Tutter Tyndal

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

Sanctuary Advent Wreath: In honor of Mary-Kate and Savannah Laird and Caroline and 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

Garland in the Chancel: In memory of Mr. & Mrs. George Warren Laird, Sr., given by their children and grandchildren

Garland over the High Altar: In memory of Joseph Everett Sanders, Jr., given by Anne, Ned, Lewis, and Lillian Rand

Poinsettias: In memory of Thomas Neal Johnson, given by Tyra Johnson Pirtle; In honor of the staff of Highlands, given by Weily, Lauri, Katie, and Will Soong; In memory of Scott Welch, given by Steve & P.J. Ellis and Alli Rivers; In memory of Kirk Griffin, given by Steve & P.J. Ellis and Alli Rivers; 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; In honor of the clergy, staff, and choir of Highlands, given by Brian Bellenger



WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!

A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

www.highlandsumc.net/rmn



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.

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- 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.
- Please be mindful of social distancing, especially in narrow hallways and in restroom facilities.

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