



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 2, 2018

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.



WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!

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, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, family, financial status, nationality, physical or mental ability, past or future, there is room for you at Highlands.

- † All children are welcome to participate in worship. A nursery is provided for ages 4 and younger; an usher will be happy to direct you. Children of all ages are invited to participate in the Children's Moment. Children ages 4 – 2nd grade may then attend Children's Church; older children are invited to return to sit with their family. If you are visiting today or this is your child's first time in Children's Church, we ask that a parent accompany their child to the Fellowship Hall in order to meet our staff and provide emergency contact information.
- † Children's bulletins, books, and crayons are available from the ushers for use in worship.
- † Please visit the hospitality table in the Greeting Space after worship for a homemade treat and information about the Highlands family. Feel free to call or email the church with any questions or pastoral care needs. We would love to have the opportunity to visit with you.
- † Parking is free on Sundays at all metered street spaces near the church, at public parking deck on Magnolia Avenue, and in the Highlands Bar and Grill lot on 11th Avenue South.

*The flowers on the altar on Sunday, November 25 were given to the glory of God
and in memory of Mary Lillian Garr Williams by her children..*

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Service Musical Setting C – Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

PREACHING – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON

LITURGIST – THE REVEREND DEB WELSH

CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT – REGGIE HOLDER

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

Serving as Altar Guild: Beth Douthit

Serving as Ushers: Porter Fell, Maurice Green

Serving as Acolytes: Jack Halliday, James Halliday, Madora Pirtle, Neal Pirtle

Serving as Communion Stewards: Jean Daniels, Dick L'Eplattenier, Lynn L'Eplattenier

Serving as Verger: Brian Bellenger

Serving as Lay Reader: Anne Buckley

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Ellis Landers, Chimer

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Chorale Prelude on Wachet auf! ruft uns die Stimme

BWV 645

(Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying - UMH 720)

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verses 1-4, 6

VENI EMMANUEL

Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne

*COLLECT FOR PURITY

Let us pray: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

Chorale Prelude on THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10 (Sung by The Choir)

Anglican Chant: James Turtle (1802-1882)

¹Unto thee O LORD will I lift up my soul, my God I have put my trust in thee:

O let me not be confounded, neither let mine enemies triumph over me.

²For all they that hope in thee shall not be ashamed: but such as transgress without a cause shall be put to confusion.

³Shew me thy ways O LORD: and teach me thy paths.

⁴Lead me forth in thy truth and learn me: for thou art the God of my salvation in thee hath been my hope all the day long.

⁵Call to remembrance O LORD thy tender mercies: and thy loving-kindness which have been ever of old.

⁶O remember not the sins and offenses of my youth: but according to thy mercy think thou upon me O LORD for thy goodness.

⁷Gracious and righteous is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

⁸Them that are meek shall he guide in judgment: and such as are gentle, them shall he learn his way.

⁹All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth: unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

¹⁰For thy Name's sake O LORD: be merciful unto my sin for it is great.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Reggie Holder

Children of all ages are encouraged to participate. Following the Children's Moment, children ages 4 to 2nd grade may attend Children's Church in the Fellowship Hall or return to sit with their family. If this is your child's first time attending Children's Church at Highlands, a parent is asked to accompany their child to meet staff and provide contact information.

*SEQUENCE HYMN 196

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne

Descant Setting: Richard Phillips

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

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 21:25-36

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

God in Christ breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and divide us from one another. We are the body of Christ. Around this table, we enact our faith. The Communion Table is open to all who are in love with God and their neighbor and seek forgiveness and healing in this broken world. Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen

***THE PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. And also with you.

GREETING AND PARISH NOTICES

THE OFFERTORY

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come
The Choir

*Peace be to you and grace from Him, Who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!*

Paul O. Manz (1919-2009)

Text, Revelation 22

***DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS 94**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. _____ might. _____

Heav - en and earth are full, _____ full _____ of _____ your glo - ry. Ho -
Bless - ed is he who comes, _____ in the name of the Lord. _____

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, _____ Christ is ris - en, Christ _____ will come a - gain.

...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

AGNUS DEI (*Sung by The Choir*)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

The Handbell Choir - Kathy Burdette, Director

ANTHEMS

Follow the Star
Hyfrydol
Advent Tidings
On a Still, Silent Night

William E. Moats
Arranged by Kathleen Wissinger
Michael E. Akers
Michael E. Akers

POST-COMMUNION ANTHEM

Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether
The Choir

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name, two or three are met together,
Thou art in the midst of them: Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem.
As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Father
Break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up.
All our meals and all our living, make as sacraments of thee that by caring, helping, giving,
We may true disciples be. Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.*

Harold Friedell (1905-1958)

Text, B. R.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

*THE BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

After the retiring procession concludes, you are invited to be seated in the sanctuary until the conclusion of the voluntary.

*VOLUNTARY IN PROCESSION

Chorale Prelude on Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
BWV 599
(Savior of the Nations, Come - UMH 214)

Johann Sebastian Bach

*PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

★ Advent and Christmas at Highlands ★★



Artwork by Richard Long

Sunday, December 9, 2018 – Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. *Holy Communion in the Chapel*

10:30 a.m. *Service of Choral Matins in the Sanctuary*

Sunday, December 16, 2018 – Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. *Holy Communion in the Chapel*

10:30 a.m. *Morning Worship featuring The Choir and members of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra*

Friday, December 21, 2018 - All Is Calm

6:00 p.m. *A Service of Contemplative Prayer for the Longest Night in the Chapel*
Chapel will be open for prayer and meditation for one hour following the service.

Sunday, December 23, 2018 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. *Holy Communion in the Chapel*

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

Monday, December 24, 2018 – Christmas Eve Services

4:15 & 10:15 p.m. *Music of Christmas, Choral Concert*

5:00 & 11:00 p.m. *Holy Communion and Candlelight Service*

Tuesday, December 25, 2018 – Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. *Community Christmas Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall*

Sunday, December 30, 2018 – First Sunday of Christmas

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



On this first Sunday of the Advent season, the following are given to the glory of God:

Flowers at the Altar: Drs. Renee Peacock & Steven Bair in honor of Lauren & Richard Jacques and Callen, Will, & Ben Thistle

Sanctuary Advent Wreath: Joy McPherson

Chapel Advent Wreath: Andrea & Goodloe White

Sanctuary Chrismon Tree: Coke & Kelly Williams

Throughout the season of Advent, the Sanctuary and church building will be adorned with garlands, wreaths, poinsettias, and altar flowers. More is added each week, so that as we approach Christmas, we will experience increasing beauty in our worship spaces. We wish to offer special thanks to Glenn Mask for his gifts and talents during the season to bring this beauty to life.



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.

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