

# HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## SOLEMN EVENSONG

### THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

FOUR O' CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON



1045 TWENTIETH STREET SOUTH  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA  
THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON, SENIOR PASTOR

**The Reverend Mikah Hudson, Officiant**  
**Richard C. Phillips, Choirmaster and Organist**  
**Karen Holton and Kirk Smith, Readers**  
**David Busby and Rachel Satterwhite, Cantors**  
**Kara Cargile, Chimer**  
**Brian Bellenger, Verger**  
**Dylan Higgs, Crucifer**

## THE CHOIR

### SOPRANO

Tessa Brown  
Ellen Buckner  
Kara Cargile  
Karlie Head  
Caitlin Mullin  
Renee Peacock  
Rachel Satterwhite  
Lizzy Tagtmeyer

### ALTO

Naomi Archer  
Kathy Burdette  
Micaela Hamilton  
Suzanne Phillips  
Lee Stayer  
Kendal Stine

### TENOR

David Busby  
Chris Culpepper  
Tom Head  
Dylan Higgs  
Josh Rezek

### BASS

Brian Bellenger  
Jake Borton  
Austin Hamilton  
Thomas Head  
Brett Huffman  
Jack Smith

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## SERVICE OF CHORAL EVENSONG

Since the fourth century, the Christian cycle of daily public prayer services has been in existence. Evensong is Evening Prayer which is sung. By observing Evensong, we establish our identity as a Christian community, bound together and set apart. Our community includes those present, as well as the whole people of God across the ages. To those who have gone before us, we join our own voices, so that the whole company of heaven and earth becomes united in prayer, song and praise. The music sung by the choir is traditionally accorded an important role. Evensong begins with introductory sentences, versicles, and psalms. There are usually two lessons, each one followed by a *canticle*, which is a song. The first canticle is the *Magnificat*, "My soul doth magnify the Lord." (Luke 1:39-56). Mary's song is composed of a number of Old Testament phrases, and it expresses the hopes of all those who are poor, oppressed, and powerless, and who faithfully anticipate the fulfillment of God's promises. The *Nunc Dimittis*, the *Song of Simeon* (Luke 2:29-32) is the second canticle. It blends together three ideas: that God's promise to Israel has been fulfilled; that the coming of night and of peaceful rest are blessings for us; and that like Simeon, we may approach death with the knowledge of our salvation. "Suffrages" are short prayers sung by the cantor and the choir. Concluding the service are prayers called the "collects."

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# ORDER OF SERVICE

*Setting: Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in F Major – Gerald Near (b. 1942)*

*Preces and Responses: Michael J. Gibson (b. 1939)*

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

## PEALS FROM THE TOWER BELLS

### PRELUDE

*John Ireland (1879-1962)*

### Sursum Corda

### \*THE PROCESSION

*(The people stand for the procession until The Choir is in place, then be seated.)*

### INTROIT

*Healy Willan (1880-1968)*

### Behold the Lamb of God

**B**EHOLD the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.  
Surely, He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.  
He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities.  
Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

*Text, John 1:29 and Isaiah 53:4,5*

### CONFESSION

*Officiant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.*

*Officiant and People:*

**A**Lmighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

*Officiant: The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## \*VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Cantor: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Cantor: O God, make speed to save us.

Choir: O Lord make haste to help us,

Cantor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Choir: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Cantor: Praise ye the Lord!

Choir: The Lord's name be praised!

## GREETINGS AND PARISH NOTICES

### PSALM 8

Anglican Chant: Thomas Attwood Walmisley (1814-1856)

#### DOMINE, DOMINUS NOSTER

**L**ORD our Governor, how exalted is your name in all the world!  
Out of the mouths of infants and children, your majesty is praised above the heavens.  
You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, to quell the enemy and the avenger.  
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,  
What is man that you should be mindful of him? The son of man that you should seek him out?  
You have made him but little lower than the angels; you adorn him with glory and honor;  
You give him mastery over the works of your hands; you put all things under his feet:  
All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.  
O Lord our Governor, how exalted is your name in all the world!  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

### PSALM 84

Anglican Chant: Charles Parry (1848-1918)

#### QUAM DILECTA!

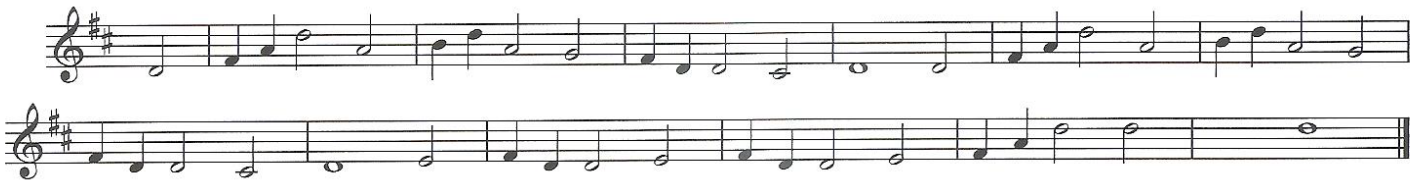
**H**OW dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.  
The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.  
Happy are the people whose strength is in you! Whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.  
No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity.  
O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you since you are not under law but under grace.

## \*HYMN

## BROTHER JAMES' AIR

*Descant Setting: Richard Phillips*



1. How lovely is thy dwelling-place, O Lord of Hosts, to me!  
My thirsty soul desires and longs within thy courts to be.  
my very heart and flesh cry out, O living God, for thee.
2. Beside thine altars, gracious Lord, the swallows find a nest.  
how happy they who dwell with thee and praise thee without rest,  
and happy they whose hearts are set upon the pilgrim's quest.
3. They who go through the desert vale will find it filled with springs,  
and they shall climb from height to height till Zion's temple rings  
with praise to thee, in glory throned, Lord God, great King of kings.
4. One day within thy courts excels a thousand spent away.  
how happy they who keep thy laws nor from thy precepts stray,  
for thou shalt surely bless all those who live the words they pray.

**M**Y SOUL doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior,  
For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.  
For, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me and Holy is his name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm;  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and the meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel  
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

*(The people stand at the Gloria Patri, and then sit for the lesson.)*

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.

## SECOND LESSON

John 5:19-24

Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomsoever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgement to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life.

**L**ORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

*(The people stand at the Gloria Patri and remain standing for the Creed.)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

\*APOSTLES' CREED

*(Monotone by all.)*

Officiant:

**I** BELIEVE

All: in God, the Father, Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*(The people remain standing.)*

SALUTATION

Cantor: *The Lord be with you.*

Choir: *And with thy spirit.*

Cantor: *Let us pray.*

*(The people sit.)*

Choir: *Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*(Monotone by all.)*

**O**UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Cantor: *O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.*

Choir: *And grant us thy salvation.*

Cantor: *O Lord, save the state.*

Choir: *And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*

Cantor: *Endue thy ministers with righteousness.*

Choir: *And make thy chosen people joyful.*

Cantor: *O Lord, save thy people.*

Choir: *And bless thine inheritance.*

Cantor: *Give peace in our time, O Lord.*

Choir: *Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.*

Cantor: *O God, make clean our hearts within us.*

Choir: *And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant:

**O** GOD, whose glory it is always to have mercy:  
*Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever.*

Choir: Amen.

## COLLECT FOR PEACE

Officiant:

**O** GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed:  
*Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior.*

Choir: Amen.

## COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST PERIL

Officiant:

**L**IGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Choir: Amen.

## ANTHEM

### Jesus So Lowly

Harold Friedell (1905-1958)

**J**ESUS, so lowly, child of the earth; christen me wholly, bring me new birth.  
Jesus, so lonely, weary and sad: teach me that only love maketh glad.  
Jesus, so broken, silent and pale; be this the token love will not fail.  
Jesus, victorious, mighty and free; teach me how glorious death is to be!

Text, Edith Williams

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant:

**A**Lmighty GOD, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us all. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we may show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.



**\*THE GRACE**

**M**AY God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart. **Amen.**  
May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds. **Amen.**

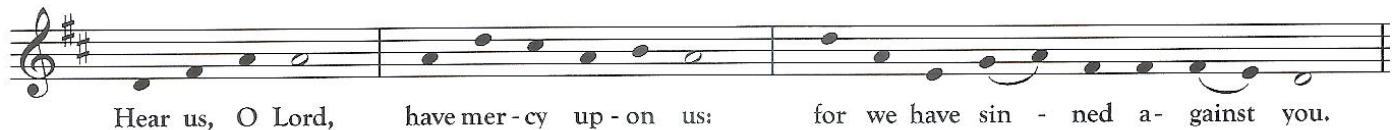
May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**LENTEN PROSE**

*Plainsong (Mode V)*

*(The Cantor and Choir will sing the first Refrain and verses. The people join in for each repetition of the Refrain.)*



Refrain:

**H**EAR us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory: lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:  
listen, O Jesu, to our supplication. **Refrain**

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated: bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:  
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses. **Refrain**

Innocent, captive, taken unresisting: falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced,  
save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer. **Refrain**

**\*RECESSION OF THE CHOIR AND CLERGY**

*Please remain standing until the procession leaves the Nave.*

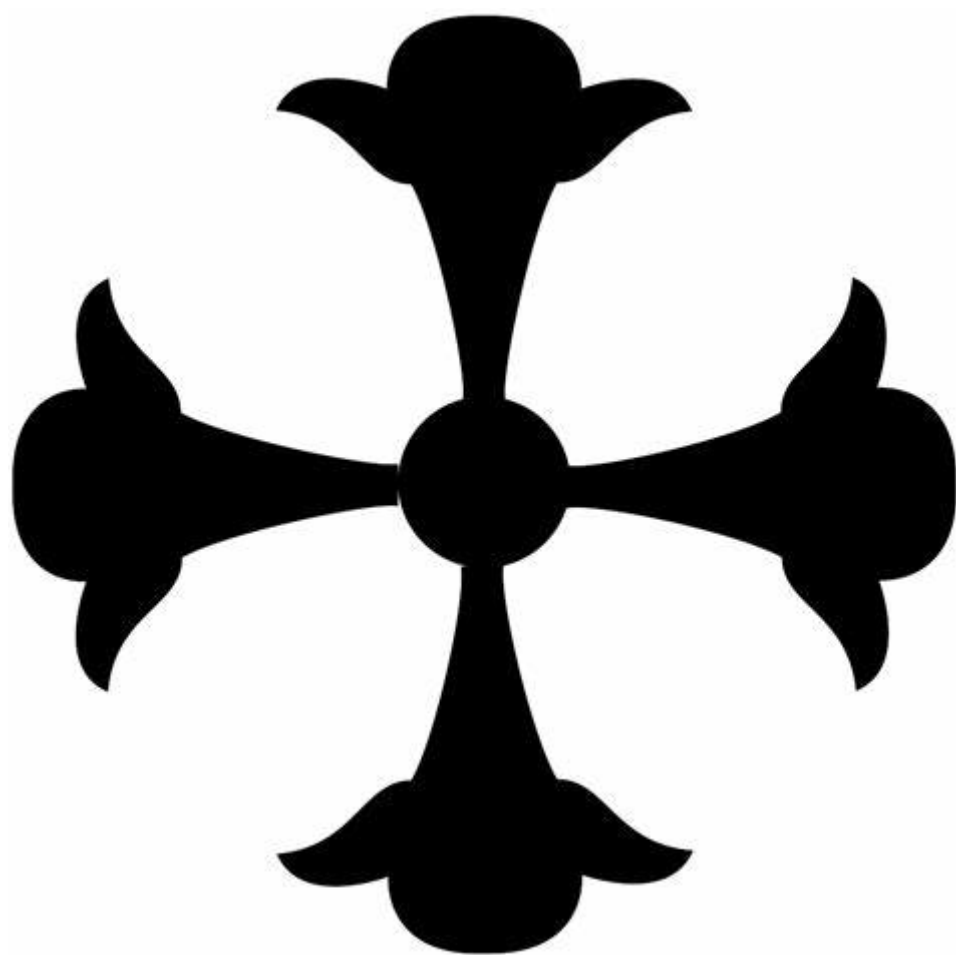
**POSTLUDE**

**Solitude**

*Herbert Brewer (1865-1928)*

*You are invited to remain seated in the Nave until the conclusion of the Postlude.  
Those who wish to leave are asked to do so quietly.*

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In  
remembrance  
of me...

# LENTEN MIDDAY COMMUNION

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



Highlands United Methodist Church  
1045 20th Street South  
Birmingham, AL 35205

[www.highlandsumc.net/lent](http://www.highlandsumc.net/lent)



**February 20**

Rev. Amy DeWitt  
Trinity UMC - Homewood



**February 27**

Rev. Erica Cooper  
Baptist Church of the Covenant



**March 5**

Rev. Mary Henley  
Assistant District Superintendent



**March 12**

Dr. Tim Kelley  
Southside Baptist Church



**March 19**

Stephen Ingram  
Grace United Methodist Church



**March 26**

Rev. Charles Lee  
Retired United Methodist Clergy



# WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!

## ALL ARE WELCOME

*A Reconciling Congregation with the Reconciling Ministries Network – [rmnetwork.org](http://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.*

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### 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.

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### OFFERING

#### *Cash or Check Giving:*

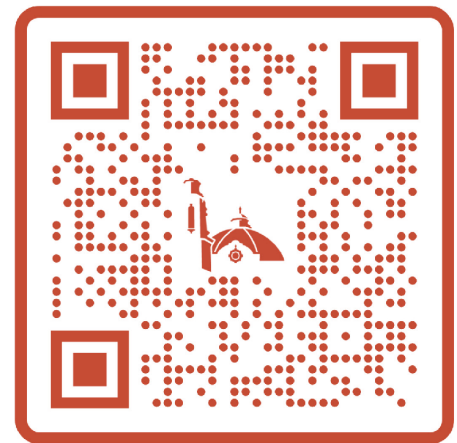
- Giving envelopes are available in the pew racks.  
Checks may be made payable to HUMC.

#### *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](http://www.highlandsumc.net/giving) to give using a debit card, credit card, or bank account.

#### *Sustainable Giving:*

- To set up automatic monthly bank drafts, contact financial manager Tyra Johnson-Pirtle at [finance@highlandsumc.net](mailto:finance@highlandsumc.net).



SCAN THE CODE WITH YOUR MOBILE  
DEVICE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT'S  
HAPPENING AT HIGHLANDS!

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