

# HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023  
FOUR O' CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

## SOLEMN EVENSONG

SUNG BY THE CHOIR OF HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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 a psalm(s). 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 – Harold Friedell (1905-1985)  
Preces and Responses: Michael J. Gibson (b. 1939)*

PEALS FROM THE TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

*T. Frederick H. Candlyn  
(1892-1964)*

*Andante in B Flat Major  
No. II from Three Organ Preludes*

*The People stand for the procession.*

INTROIT

**Remember Not, Lord, Our Offences**

*Henry Purcell  
(1659 – 1695)*

**R**emember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers  
Neither take thou vengeance of our sins, bur spare us, good Lord,  
Spare thy people, whom thou haste redeemed with thy precious blood,  
And be not angry with us forever.

*Text, Wisdom of Solomon 15:1-3*

*The People sit for the 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.*

*The People stand as The Choir sings the opening responses.*

## 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!

*All sit.*

## GREETINGS AND PARISH NOTICES

PSALM 50:1-6

Anglican Chant: Sir George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

*Deus deorum*

**T**he Lord, the God of gods, has spoken;  
He has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals himself in glory.

Our God will come and will not keep silence;

before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.

He calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of his people.

"Gather before me my loyal followers,

those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; for God himself is judge.

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 139-1-6,13-18

Anglican Chant: C. H. H. Parry (1848-1918)

*Domine, probasti*

**L**ORD, you have searched me out and known me;  
You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

My body was not hidden from you,

while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book;

they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.

How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;

to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

Oh, that you would slay the wicked, O God! You that thirst for blood, depart from me.

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.

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Do not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. You must diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his decrees, and his statutes that he has commanded you. Do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may go in and occupy the good land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give you, thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has promised. When your children ask you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances that the Lord our God has commanded you?' then you shall say to your children, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. The Lord displayed before our eyes great and awesome signs and wonders against Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his household. He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land that he promised on oath to our ancestors. Then the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our lasting good, so as to keep us alive, as is now the case. If we diligently observe this entire commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, we will be in the right.'*

## CANTICLE

## Magnificat

**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 for ever.

*(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.

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance. 'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

## CANTICLE

## Nunc Dimittis

**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.

*Spoken by all.*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I** believe 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.

## SALUTATION

Officiant: *The Lord be with you.*  
Choir: *And with thy spirit.*  
Officiant: *Let us pray.*

*The People sit.*

Choir: *Lord, have mercy upon us.*  
*Christ, have mercy upon us.*  
*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*Spoken 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. For thine is the kingdom and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Choir: *And grant us thy salvation.*

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

**A**lmighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### COLLECT FOR PEACE

**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. Amen.

#### COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST PERIL

**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. Amen.

ANTHEM

Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)

#### Sure on This Shining Night

*This anthem was put in the music library by her family in memory of Pat Smith.*

**S**ure, on this shining night of star made shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me this side the ground.  
The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed, all is health. High summer holds the earth. Hearts all whole.  
Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder wand'ring far alone  
Of shadows on the stars.

*Text, James Agee*

## 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 Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

*The People stand.*

## THE GRACE

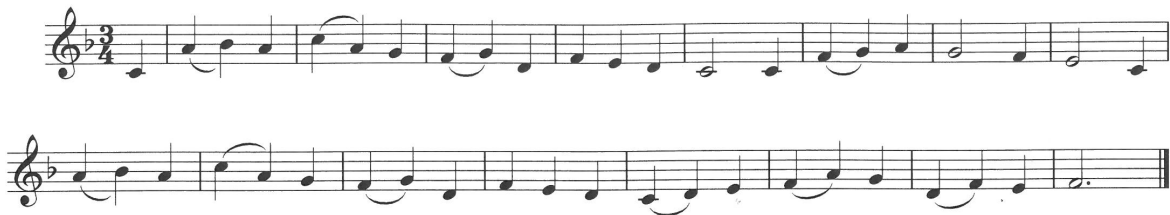
Officiant:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

## HYMN

### The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended

ST. CLEMENT



**T**he day thou gavest, Lord, is ended;  
the darkness falls at thy behest;  
to thee our morning hymns ascended;  
thy praise shall hallow now our rest.

2. We thank thee that thy church, unsleeping  
while earth rolls onward into light,  
through all the world her watch is keeping,  
and rests not now by day or night.

3. As o'er each continent and island  
the dawn leads on another day,  
the voice of prayer is never silent,  
nor die the strains of praise away.

4. So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,  
like earth's proud empires, pass away.  
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,  
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

*Text: John Ellerton*

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

## RETIRING VOLUNTARY

### Benedictus

Alec Rowley  
(1892-1985)

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

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The Reverend Mikah Hudson, *Officiant*  
Richard C. Phillips, *Choirmaster and Organist*  
Anne Rand and Laura Williams, *Readers*  
David Busby, *Cantor*  
Kara Cargile, *Chimer*  
Brian Bellenger, *Verger*  
Camile Baxley, Reed Forrester, and Millie Taylor, *Acolytes*

THE CHOIR

SOPRANO

Tessa Brown  
Ellen Buckner  
Kara Cargile  
Karlie Head  
Diega MacDougall  
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





