



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 1, 2023

10:30 A.M. SERVICE



Today we celebrate Epiphany, which is the climax of the Christmas season and the twelve days of Christmas. The term *epiphany* is Greek and means “to manifest” or “to show.”

Today’s lesson from Isaiah foretells the light of Christ that will arise over all nations.

In Matthew, the Wise Men also follow a light—a star that guides them to the Christ child, revealing to the world that this small infant is Lord and King.

In John’s Prologue, it is also revealed that Jesus is the eternal Word of God, the Word that is spoken into the darkness of this world, and the light that the darkness cannot overcome.



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

Sanctuary Chrismon Tree:

In memory of Dr. Charles Tyndal, given by Tutter Tyndal

Front Lawn Christmas Tree:

In memory of our parents and grandparents, given by Bart, Lynne, Jack, Norah and Ryanne Trench

Sanctuary Advent Wreath:

In honor of our mothers, Jane Neill and Rebecca Amthor, given by Phil, Sara and Anna Amthor

Garland in the Chancel:

In memory of Mrs. Romaine Gaffney, given by John and Linda Gaffney

Garland over the High Altar:

In honor of Highlands United Methodist staff, given by the Forrester family

Wreaths in the Sanctuary:

In honor of Eric and Nancy Barkemeyer, given by Dan and Nancy Hill

In memory of Abigail L'Eplattenier, given by Dick and Lynn L'Eplattenier

Wreaths on Exterior Doors:

In memory of Jeanne Ray and Ed Hoye, given by Suzanne and Jim Hoye

In honor of Billy Ray and Mary Jo Hoye, given by Suzanne and Jim Hoye

In honor of Highlands United Methodist staff, given by the Soong family

In honor of Mary Elizabeth Neal, Lindsay Dawson, and Polly Dawson, given by Les and Mitchie Neel

Given by Cinda York and Austin Meredith

Poinsettias:

In memory of Lee I. and Fay L. Hart, given by Stan Hart

In memory of Jamie Crocker, given by Joe and Dinah Hughes

In memory of Louise Hawkins Mingus, given by Lynn and Dick L'Eplattenier

In memory of Betsy Smith Watson, given by Winston, Tyra, Neal & Madora Pirtle

In memory of Thomas Neal Johnson, given by Winston, Tyra, Neal & Madora Pirtle

Lighted Fence Garland:

Given by Goodloe, Andrea, Robert, and Virginia White

ORDER FOR MORNING WORSHIP

PREACHING – REGGIE HOLDER

GUEST CHOIRMASTER & ORGANIST – JACK SMITH

VERGER – BRIAN BELLENGER

LAY READER – WARREN LAIRD

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

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Kara Cargile, chimer

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on KINGS OF ORIENT

Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)

We Three Kings

Text, UMH 254

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 245

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

*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.

*THE PEACE

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

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

GLORIA

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Fintan O'Carroll (1922-1981) and Christopher Walker (b. 1947)

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

***GOSPEL LESSON**

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

The Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

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

HOMILY

Reggie Holder

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

CREATED BY THE YOUTH OF HIGHLANDS UMC

We believe in God, the Creator,
all powerful and all knowing,
who formed us in God's own image,
and calls us to justice,
leading us, guiding us, loving us.

We believe in God the Son, the Redeemer,
God among us in the form of a selfless human,
who teaches, forgives, and accepts us,
calling us to liberation and to liberate others.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
ever present,
guiding us and encouraging us,
motivating us and enabling us,
sustaining us and comforting us.

THE PRAYERS

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Silent Prayer, Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer 895

GREETING AND PARISH NOTICES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

In the Bleak Mid-Winter
The Choir

*In the bleak midwinter frosty winds made moan, earth stood hard as iron water like a stone
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow; in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain; Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there; cherubim and seraphim thronged the air.
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
I were a Wiseman I would do my part; yet what can I give him? Give him my heart.*

Robert Lau (b. 1943)

Text, Christina Rossetti

*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*HYMN 254

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

ORGAN IMPROVISATION ON A HYMN TUNE

AFTER CHURCH CHILI POTLUCK



SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Ward off the cold of winter with delicious chili and warm fellowship. Bring your favorite chili, toppings, breads, crackers, or desserts to share.

ALL ARE WELCOME AND INVITED!

Welcome to Highlands!

Thank you for joining us in worship today! If you would like to learn more about the ministries of Highlands, please fill out an information card found in the pews, or speak with a member of our staff in the coming week. We welcome the opportunity to be in conversation with you.

Staff contact information – www.highlandsumc.net/staff

Youth Group Gathering - January 2

Although our youth group won't have our regular Sunday night programming on New Year's Day, we are so excited to gather tomorrow evening for some fun at The Soongs'. Join us on Monday, January 2 from 5 to 7 PM for pizza, games, treats, and maybe even a fire and s'mores if weather cooperates. Contact Danny or Leslie for address.

Contact: Danny Jones – danny@highlandsumc.net OR Leslie Williams – leslie@highlandsumc.net

Coffee and Connect - January 8

Guest, visitors, and those looking to become members of Highlands are invited to coffee and conversation on Sunday, January 8, 2023. We will offer pastries and coffee at 9:30 AM in the Greeting Space, followed by a Q&A session with senior pastor Mikah Hudson in the Chapel, and a tour of the building, ending in time for worship. If you have been looking for a way to connect with the people of Highlands, you are warmly invited. For more information, contact Reggie Holder – reggie@highlandsumc.net.

After Church Chili Potluck - January 8

Join the Highlands family after worship on Sunday, January 8 to stave off the cold of winter with a chili potluck lunch and warm fellowship. Bring your best chili, cornbread, sides, and deserts to share! All are welcome and invited.

**Church Retreat January 14-15, 2023 - Registration Now Open**

Join the Highlands family at Camp Sumatanga for a relaxed time of fellowship, community, and worship this MLK, Jr. Weekend – January 14-15, 2023. There will be activities for the whole family, plenty of time to spend in nature, worship, and tons of fun! This event is for adults, kids, youth, families, singles, and everyone in between. You are invited! Registration is open at www.highlandsumc.net/church-retreat

Cost: Adults – \$100 Children and Youth – \$50 (Children under 2 free)

\$300 registration cap per family. Registration covers the cost of lodging, meals, and programming.

KEEP IN PRAYER

Laura Barron
Britton Buckner
Gayle Byrne
Mike Curry
Susan Gaskin
Martha George

Janet Holt
Judy Mills
Lois Poe
Nina Reeves
Nancy Sawyer
Billy Smith

Allison Solomon
Vastine Stabler
Abby Thompson
Kathleen Thompson
Jean & James Daniels
Carol & Arthur Stephens

The Halliday family
Jim Douthit, brother of Beth Crane
Leo Bolack, grandson of Jettye and Jon Davis
Billy Ray, father of Suzanne Hoye
Will and Joseph Harper-Hooper

Contact information for those listed is available on the ShelbyNext Membership Directory. For help connecting to the directory, visit www.highlandsumc.net/shelbynext or contact Mary Elizabeth Neal at maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net.



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 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.

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