



# HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 2, 2022

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 and in celebration of their 68<sup>th</sup> 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 Hoyer

In honor of William H. Ray, Jr., given by Jim and Suzanne Hoyer

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

*Special thanks to Glenn Mask for his gifts and talents in adorning our church with beautiful flowers and greenery.*

# ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

PREACHING – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON

LITURGIST – LESLIE WILLIAMS

GUEST CHOIRMASTER & ORGANIST – DR. JIM COOK

VERGER – WILSON NASH

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

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

*Chorale Prelude on The Old Year Has Passed Away* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

\*HYMN IN PROCESSION 245

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

\*COLLECT FOR PURITY

*The Lord be with you. And also with you.*

*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.*

\*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

GLORIA

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

COLLECT FOR EPIPHANY

*O God, you made of one blood all nations, and, by a star in the East, revealed to all peoples him whose name is Emmanuel. Enable us who know your presence with us so to proclaim his unsearchable riches that all my come to his light and bow before the brightness of his rising, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

\*SEQUENCE HYMN 254

We Three Kings

KING OF ORIENT

*Organ Improvisation: Gerre Hancock*

\*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.*



\*THE NICENE CREED 880

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Musical Setting: Elise Eslinger (b.1943)

\*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.

\*THE PEACE

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

GREETING AND PARISH NOTICES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Coventry Carol

Lully Lullay, Thou little tiny child, By, by, lully, lullay.

O sisters, too, how may we do, For to preserve this day; This poor youngling for whom we sing, By, by, lully, lullay?  
Herod the King, in his raging, Charged he hath this day; His men of might, in his own sight, All young children, to slay.  
That woe is me, poor child, for thee, and ever mourn and day; For thy parting, nor say nor sing, By, by, lully, lullay.

Arranged by Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

Text, From the Pageant of the Shearmaen Tailors (15th Century)

\*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.**

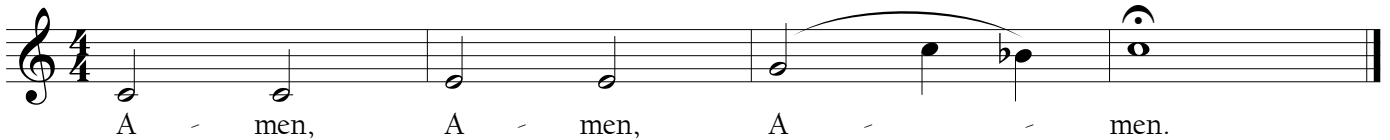
...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might. Heav - en and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. 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.



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



## THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

### THE FRACTION ANTHEM

#### Agnus Dei The Choir

William Mathias (1934-1992)

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

### RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Please come forward as directed by the ushers to receive Holy Communion and be mindful of social distancing while waiting to receive the sacrament. Holy Communion will be served by intinction; clergy will dip the bread into the cup and place in congregants' hands. Pre-packaged elements are available at the chancel rails.

**Reflecting our conviction that God's grace is for all people, everyone is invited to the Lord's table.**

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN 221

#### In the Bleak Midwinter The Choir and Congregation

CANHAM

### PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

*Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### \*HYMN 219

#### What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

### \*THE BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

**Following the retiring procession, please be seated until the conclusion of the voluntary or exit quietly.**

### \*RETIRING VOLUNTARY

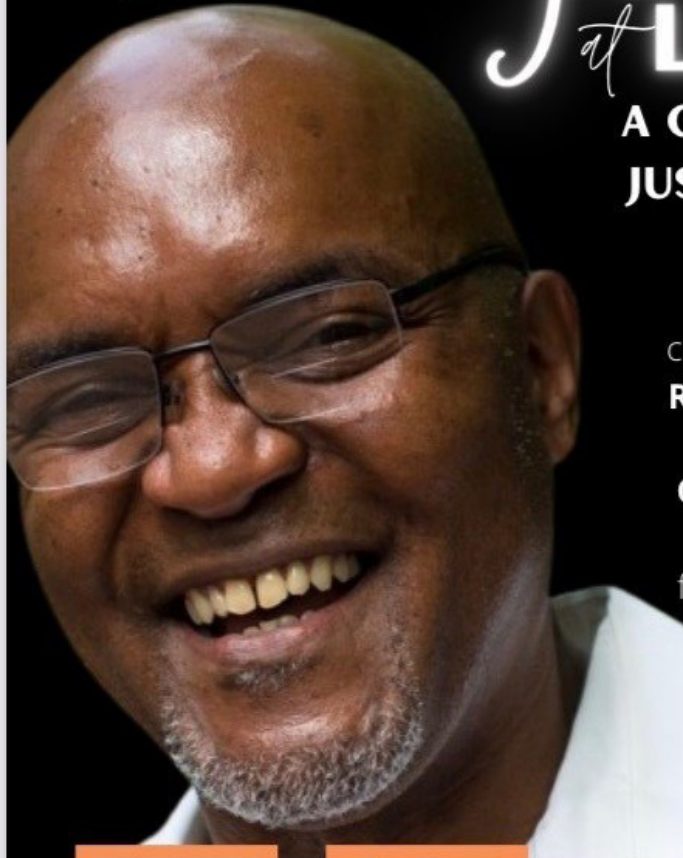
#### Allegro from Concerto in G

Johann Sebastian Bach



# Free at LAST!

## A CONVERSATION ON JUSTICE IN ALABAMA



Join us for this youth-friendly conversation with artist and activist **Ronald McKeithen**, who spent 37 years in prison, and **Carla Crowder**, the lawyer who worked tirelessly with him to win his freedom. This event is moderated by **Beth Shelburne**, the investigative journalist who first uncovered the injustice of Ron's sentence and connected Mr. McKeithen and Ms. Crowder, Executive Director of Alabama Applesseed Center for Law & Justice.



*Carla Crowder*



*Beth Shelburne*

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 13**

**6:30PM**

**HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Our host, Highlands UMC, will provide dinner in the Fellowship Hall before the event at 6:00pm. Free parking available in the lot behind the church. Metered parking along streets as well as a public deck across the street.

**\*\*\*Seating is limited! Please register in advance.**

January 2, 2022

# Happening at Highlands

The Epiphany of the Lord

## 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 the clergy or staff in the coming week. We welcome the opportunity to be in conversation with you. *Staff contact information – [www.highlandsumc.net/staff](http://www.highlandsumc.net/staff)*

## Better, Stronger, Giving TOGETHER: Stewardship for Ministries in 2022

Thank you to all our members who have made a pledge to support the ministries of Highlands in 2022. We have currently received pledges totalling \$723,750 of our \$850,000 goal. If you have not yet made your pledge for the new year, please visit [www.highlandsumc.net/pledge](http://www.highlandsumc.net/pledge) in the coming week.

## UMCOR Donations for Disaster Relief

Our prayers continue to be with all of those impacted by the tornadoes across the Midwest and Southeast last month. To aid in relief efforts, we encourage donations to The United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR responds to disasters in the United States and around the world by working with communities and local partners. When a disaster overwhelms a community's ability to recover on its own, UMCOR provides essential relief supplies and supports long-term rebuilding efforts. While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, it stands ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until a "new normal" is established after a crisis. To make a donation today, visit [www.umcmission.org/umcor](http://www.umcmission.org/umcor) or leave a check in the offering plate. Please make checks to HUMC and include "UMCOR" in the memo line

## Free at Last: A Conversation on Justice in Alabama

Join us on Thursday, January 13, 2022 from 6 to 8 PM for this youth-friendly conversation with artist and activist Ronald McKeithen, who spent 37 years in prison, and Carla Crowder, the lawyer who worked tirelessly with him to win his freedom. This event is moderated by Beth Shelburne, the investigative journalist who first uncovered the injustice of Ron's sentence and connected Mr. McKeithen and Ms. Crowder, Executive Director of Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice. Dinner will be provided in the Fellowship Hall before the event at 6:00 p.m. Seating is limited. Pre-registration is recommended. Register online at [youthservebham.org](http://youthservebham.org).

### KEEP IN PRAYER

Britton Buckner	Patty Green	Christian Riley	Lisa, sister of Angela Chramer
Tim Brennan	Sonny Holt	Nancy Sawyer	Mark Carleton, brother of Lynn Hairston
Gayle Byrne	Pamela & Paul Huck	Mary Carol Smith	Billy Ray, father of Suzanne Hoye
Adam Caldwell	Joyce Jones	Vastine Stabler	Lee Windham, son of Joyce & Ebbie Jones
Cathy Caldwell	Judy Mills	Carol & Arthur Stephens	Mary Jane Meadows, sister of Margaret Moore
Jean & James Daniels	Brook Morris	Abby Thompson	Neil Shelor, father of Jennifer Shelor
Susan Gaskin	Keith Owens	Kathleen & Tommy Thompson	Judy Trench, mother of Bart Trench
Martha George	Lois Poe		

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

Highlands United Methodist Church  
[office@highlandsumc.net](mailto:office@highlandsumc.net)  
205-933-8751

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Vimeo  
@HighlandsUMC

To include an announcement in *Happening At Highlands*, please submit information to the church office by Wednesday at noon.

### Office Hours

Monday–Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Closed for lunch 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Get email updates from Highlands!  
Text HIGHLANDS to 84576



# WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!

A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

[www.highlandsumc.net/rmn](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.highlandsumc.net)