



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 21, 2024

10:30 A.M.



ALL ARE WELCOME

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.

GLORIA

Richard Proulx

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo-ple on
 earth. Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
 wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*(Sung by the Choir) Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
 You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.*

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord. You a -
 lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

PREACHING – DANNY JONES

LITURGIST – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON, REGGIE HOLDER, LESLIE WILLIAMS

CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS

VERGER – BRIAN BELLENGER

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

Serving for Altar Guild: Leslie Davis, Lynn L'Eplattenier • *Serving as Ushers:* Geoff Green, Will Stowe

Serving as Lay Reader: Kathleen Lalor • *Serving as Acolytes:* Robert White, Virginia White

Serving as Communion Stewards: Steve Glenn, Lizzy Glenn

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Kara Cargile, chimer

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

PRELUDE

Fugue in D Minor

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 577

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONNDA

Organ Improvisation: Samuel Metzger

Descant Setting: Charles Webb

*COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 (*See facing page*)

Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father,
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

(Sung by the Choir)

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

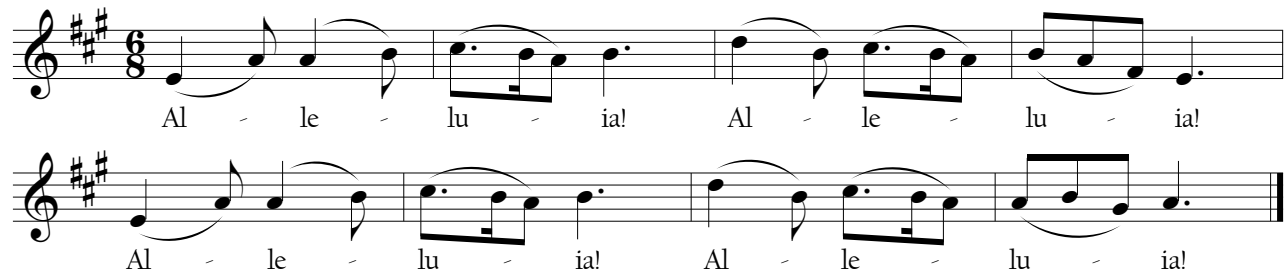
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray: Loving God, through your Son you have called us to repent of our sin, to believe the good news, and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom. Grant that we may hear the call to discipleship and gladly proclaim the gospel to a waiting world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

*GOSPEL LESSON

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

The Lesson

Mark 1:14-20

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

THE HOMILY

Danny Jones

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

*Let us thank God for those persons who have responded to Christ's call to serve him in the world.***Lord, we know that you call us to serve our neighbor in love in the world in which we live.***For those who seek both to glorify you and to help their neighbor through their work: We give you thanks, O Lord.**For those who are actively involved in our community, state, and nation: We give you thanks, O Lord.**For those who work for justice, fair housing, and equal opportunity for all people: We give you thanks, O Lord.**For those who work to make our community a safe and pleasant place to live whether through the ministries of the church, local government, or other agencies: We give you thanks, O Lord.**For those who minister to the sick as medical professionals, as visitors or volunteers: We give you thanks, O Lord.**For those who visit the lonely and the shut-in, and for those who find time to listen to the troubled and distressed:***We give you thanks, O Lord.***For those who serve the hungry, the homeless, and the unemployed in Community Ministries, Project ID, Festival of Three Kings, and other forms of outreach: We give you thanks, O Lord.**For all those whose labor and effort are unseen and unsung, but who carry Christ's ministry in the world:***We give you thanks, O Lord.***Let us thank God for the love we have experienced in Christ Jesus, who motivates and empowers us to serve others in his name.*

O Lord, we recall the words of your Son when he said, "I came not to be served, but to serve." He saw our needs and he ministered to us in love. We thank you for calling us to follow in his foot-steps. We ask you to work through us, and help us always to work for you. Keep our eyes open to the possibilities around us; grant us strength and courage to serve Christ and others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Musical Setting: A Community Mass – Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

*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

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

DISCOVERY WEEKEND ANNOUNCEMENT

Austin Meredith

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

God Is My Strong Salvation

The Choir

*God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear? In darkness and temptation, my light, my help is near:
Though hosts encamp around me, firm in the fight I stand. What terror can confound me, with God at my right hand?
Place on the Lord reliance; my soul with courage wait; his truth be thine affiance, when faint and desolate.
His might thy heart shall strengthen, his love thy joy increase; mercy thy days shall lengthen, the Lord will give thee peace.
God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear? In darkness and temptation, my light, my help is near:
Though hosts encamp against me, firm in the fight I stand. What terror can confound me, with God at my right hand?*

Austin Lovelace (1919-2010)

Text, James Montgomery

*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 power and might, heaven and earth are full of your



glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high-est. Ho - san-na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - 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 ri-sen, 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 God, now and forever.



A - men. A - men. A - men. _____

THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Agnus Dei
The Choir

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Please come forward as directed by the ushers to receive the sacrament. Holy Communion will be served by intinction; clergy will dip the bread into the cup and place in congregants' hands. Congregants are welcome to kneel at the chancel rail for prayer before returning to their seats. **Reflecting our conviction that God's grace is for all people, everyone is invited to the Lord's table.**

COMMUNION HYMN 301

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
The Choir and Congregation

NEAR THE CROSS

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

God of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off, you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gates of glory. May we who share Christ's body, live his risen life; we who drink his cup, bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 178

Hope of the World
Verses 1 and 2

VICAR

*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

ORGAN IMPROVISATION ON A HYMN TUNE



CHURCH-WIDE WINTER RETREAT

Reflection, Recreation, and Renewal

February 17-18, 2024 at Camp Sumatanga

Come join us this Presidents Day weekend for a retreat for the whole church family, including:

- Overnight stay at Camp Sumatanga - dormitory and hotel-style accommodations available.
- Opportunities to learn, create, fellowship, rest, explore nature, and grow together.
- Creative Sunday morning worship
- Something for everyone - families, singles, empty-nesters, and everyone in between!



Cost:

Adults – \$125

Children and Youth – \$60

Children under 2 free

\$350 registration cap per family





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.

OFFERING

Cash or Check Giving:

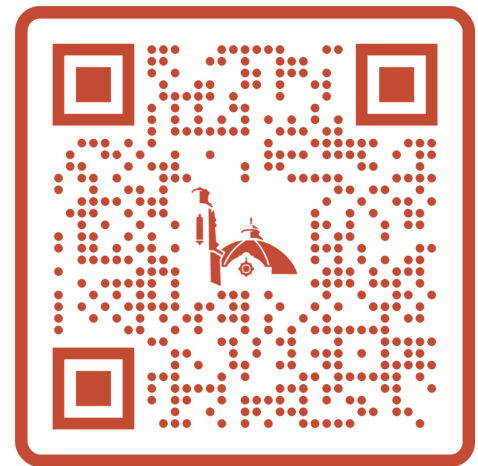
- Giving envelopes are available in the pew racks.
Checks may be made payable to HUMC.

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.



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

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