



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 5, 2020
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: Coke and Kelly Williams

Front Lawn Christmas Tree: The Worship Committee

Sanctuary Advent Wreath: The Hydinger and Arnold families in honor of Jody Stewart and Frank Hix; Joy McPherson & Mark Chambers

Chapel Advent Wreath: Lindsay Dawson & Mary Elizabeth Neal in memory of Paulette Curry

Balcony Wreaths: The Worship Committee; Brian Bellenger in memory of Robert L. Bellenger and in honor of Rick Phillips and The Highlands Choir.

Wreaths in the Chapel: Celia & Jeff Davenport; Carolyn & Jim Delk; Dinah & Joe Hughes; Betsy Mackin; Reina & John McFarlin

Wreaths in the Sanctuary: Anne & Ned Rand in memory of Edward Lewis Rand, Sr. and Christopher Stewart Rand

Wreaths on Exterior Doors: Sara & Phil Amthor; Kathy Burdette; Gayle & Mike Byrne in honor of the marriage of Jody Stewart and Frank Hix; Beth Douthit; Joy McPherson & Mark Chambers; The Hydinger and Arnold families in memory of Jean & Arnold Drennen; Leisha Harris & Vance Holder in memory of Wendell Harris and in memory of Harrel and Jackie Holder; Lynn & Dick L'Eplattenier in memory of Abigail; Scott, Anne Mitchell, and Lillie Corinne Welch in memory of Billie Manning and in memory of Gail Parmley

Poinsettias: Stan Hart in honor of his parents, L.S. and Fay Hart; Kirk & Tate Forrester; Cinda York; Cynthia Brennan in honor of Frances Owens; Tyra Johnson Pirtle in memory of Thomas Neal Johnson; Glenn Mask in memory of Bradford and Margaret Kidd

Garland over High Altar: The laity of Highlands in honor of Reggie Holder's 30th Christmas serving Highlands United Methodist Church

Urns on the Altar Window: Andrea & Goodloe White

Garland in the Chancel: Susan Gray

Processional Cross and Torch Greenery: Beth Douthit; Jim & Suzannet Hoye in honor of our ministers, musicians, and staff; Anne & Ned Rand in honor of the youth of Highlands UMC

Throughout the season of Advent, the Sanctuary and church building will be adorned with garlands, wreaths, poinsettias, and altar flowers. More is added each week, so that as we approach Christmas, we will experience increasing beauty in our worship spaces. We wish to offer special thanks to Glenn Mask for his gifts and talents during the season to bring this beauty to life.

If you have not yet paid for Advent greenery, you may do so by leaving a check in the offering plate today during worship. Please include "Advent greenery" in the memo line.

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

PREACHING – THE REVEREND HENRY GIBSON

LITURGIST – THE REVEREND DEB WELSH

CHILDREN’S MOMENT – REGGIE HOLDER

CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS

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

Serving for Altar Guild: Leslie Davis, Linda Gaffney

Serving as Ushers: ~~Cynthia Brennan, Jim Shannon~~

Serving as Verger: Mary Elizabeth Neal

Serving as Communion Servers: TK

Serving as Acolytes: Sophia Green

Serving as Lay Reader: Victoria Thompson

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Savannah Busby, Chimer

CALL TO WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Improvisation of The First Nowell

Text, UM Hymnal, page 245

C.P.P. Burton (1904-1962)

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 245

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

Organ Improvisation: Gerre Hancock

Descant Setting: Sir David Willcocks

*COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray: 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 forever. Amen.

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LAUDA ANIMA

Descant Setting: Richard Phillips



1. Glo - ry be to God in hea - ven, songs of joy and peace we bring;
2. Lamb of God, who on your shoul - ders bore the load of this world's sin,
3. You, O Son of God, are Ho - ly, You we praise with one ac - cord;



thank - ful hearts and voi - ces rais - ing to cre - a - tion's Lord we sing:
on - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, you have brought us peace with - in:
none in heav'n or earth is like You, on - ly You are Christ the Lord!



Lord, we thank you, Lord, we bless you, glo - ry be to God our King!
Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, now your glo - rious reign be - gins.
with the Fa - ther, and the Spir - it, ev - er wor - shipped and a - dored!

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 (*Sung by The Choir*)

Anglican Chant: Ivor Algernon Atkins (1869-1953)

1. Give the King your justice, O God, * and your righteousness to the King's son;
2. That he may rule your people righteously * and the poor with justice.
3. That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, * and the little hills bring righteousness.
4. He shall defend the needy among the people; * he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
5. He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, * from one generation to another.
6. He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, * like showers that water the earth.
7. In his time shall the righteous flourish; * there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
18. Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, * who alone does wondrous deeds!
19. And blessed be his glorious Name forever! * and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

The Reverend Henry Gibson

Children of all ages are encouraged to participate. Following the Children's Moment, children ages 4 to 2nd grade may attend Children's Church in the Fellowship Hall or return to sit with their family. If this is your child's first time attending Children's Church at Highlands, a parent is asked to accompany their child to meet staff and provide contact information.

*SEQUENCE HYMN 254

We Three Kings

KING OF ORIENT
 Organ Improvisation: Gerre Hancock

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

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

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

HOMILY

The Reverend Henry Gibson

*THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

THE OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Josh Rezek, tenor soloist

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, long ago.
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.

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
Arranged by Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Text, Christina Rossetti

*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS 94

*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.

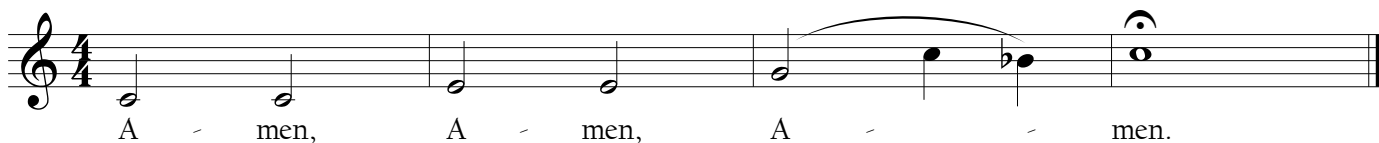
...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

The Choir

*King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.*

French Carol Melody

Text, Liturgy of St. James, 4th Century

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ANTHEM

Good King Wenceslas

*Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephen when the snow lay round about deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night though the frost was cruel when a poor man came in sight gath'ring winter fuel.
"Hither, page, and stand by me. If thou know'st it, telling: yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence underneath the mountain, right against the forest fence by Saint Agnes' fountain."
"Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither. Thou and I will see him dine when we bear him thither.
"Page and monarch forth they went, forth they went together through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.
"Sire, the night is darker now and the wind blows stronger. Fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps good my page, tread thou in them boldly. Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly."
In his master's steps he trod where the snow lay dinted. Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing, ye who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.*

*Melody from Piae Cantiones (1582)
Arranged by Hugh Thomas (1912-2002)*

Text, J. M. Neale

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*HYMN 219

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES
Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne

*THE BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

THE CHORAL BLESSING

The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, To bring peace among brothers, To make music from the heart.*

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Text, Howard Thurman

After the retiring procession concludes, you are invited to be seated in the sanctuary until the conclusion of the voluntary.

*RETIRING VOLUNTARY

Grand Choeur in B Flat Major

Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

*PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS



WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!



A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

www.highlandsumc.net/rmn

- † All children are welcome to participate fully in worship. Families are encouraged to sit toward the front so that your children can see and hear all that takes place during worship. Children's bulletins, books, and crayons are available at the Sanctuary entrances for use during worship. A nursery is provided for ages 4 and younger; an usher will be happy to direct you.
- † Children of all ages are invited to participate in the Children's Moment. Following Children's Moment, children will be dismissed to Children's Choir rehearsal. Children ages 4 – 3rd grade may then attend Children's Church in the Fellowship Hall; older children will return to sit with their families. If this is your child's first time attending Children's Church at Highlands, a parent is asked to accompany their child to meet staff and provide contact information.
- † Please visit the hospitality table in the Greeting Space after worship for a small gift and some information about the Highlands family. Feel free to call or email the church with any questions or pastoral care needs. We would love to have the opportunity to visit with you.
- † If you would like to receive updates from Highlands about our upcoming worship services, study opportunities, and events, text HIGHLANDS to 84576, visit www.highlandsumc.net/email, or contact the church office.
- † Parking for visitors and those with limited mobility is available in the lot located directly behind the church building, just off Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. Parking is free on Sundays at all metered street spaces near the church and at the public parking deck on Magnolia Avenue.
- † 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 – all were to be 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 contact us this week. We welcome the opportunity to visit with you.



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.*

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