



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – LAETARE SUNDAY

MARCH 10, 2024

10:30 A.M. SERVICE



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.

Laetare Sunday is the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent. The term is derived from the words “Laetare Jerusalem” or “Rejoice, O Jerusalem” from Isaiah 66:10. The church is called to joyful anticipation of the victory to be won. Laetare Sunday is celebrated at the mid-way point in Lent. This Sunday is set aside to encourage and remind the faithful to stay on the journey to seek a deeper relationship with God, being transformed as we navigate our worldly challenges. It is a day to give thanks for the unconditional gift of God’s grace, which is so abundantly poured over us. Christ is with us and God’s face shines on us.

During the season of Lent, the crosses carried in our processions and on the altar are draped in purple, the color of repentance and preparation. The crosses will remain draped from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday, the cloth will change to red, and will remain through Maundy Thursday in preparation for Jesus’s crucifixion. On Good Friday, the crosses will be draped in black, symbolizing Jesus’ earthly death. On Easter Sunday, the crosses will be uncovered or draped in white, in celebration of the resurrection. Lent, Passion, and Easter are the only times the crosses are draped in the liturgical year. This reminds us of the redemptive purpose of Jesus’ suffering (purple), crucifixion (red), death (black), and resurrection (white), which these liturgical seasons commemorate. The rest of the year the cross is uncovered to assure us that Jesus is risen.

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

PREACHING – LESLIE WILLIAMS

LITURGISTS – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON, REGGIE HOLDER

CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS

VERGER – WILSON NASH

***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: Todd Edmondson, Kirk Smith

Serving as Lay Reader: Bess Forrester

Serving as Acolytes: Ann Harper Nash, Robert White, Virginia White

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Kara Cargile, chimer

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

PRELUDE

Prelude on HAMBURG and WERE YOU THERE

Kevin McChesney (b. 1963)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross and Were You There

The Handbell Choir | Kathy Burdette, Director

This piece is from a collection given in memory of Martha Acker, former member and supporter of The Handbell Choir.

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 428

For the Healing of the Nations

CWM RHONDDA

Descant Setting: Charles H. Webb

*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.

*VENITE

Psalm 95: Come, Let Us Sing to God on High

HURSLEY



1. Come, let us sing to God on high, The Rock of our sal - va - tion praise;

2. For God is Lord a - bove all gods, The heights and depths are in his hand;

3. Let us bow down and wor - ship him, who is our ma - ker and our Lord;



Come with thanks - giv - ing to his courts and joy - ful psalms be - fore him raise.

He made the sea and it is his; his hands have mold - ed the dry land.

We are his peo - ple and his sheep; to - day, then, hark - en to his Word.

Confitemini Domino

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures for ever.
²Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
³He gathered them out of the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
⁴Some wandered in desert wastes; they found no way to a city where they might dwell.
⁵They were hungry and thirsty; their spirits languished within them.
⁶Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.
⁷He put their feet on a straight path to go to a city where they might dwell.
 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.

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 2:1-10
 May these words reveal Christ to us. Thanks be to God.

*CANTICLE

A Song of Penitence

KINGSFOLD



1. O___ Lord who rules the heav-en's host, O___ God of A - bra - ham, Lord,
 2. But___ yet your love sur - pass - es all the mea - sure of___ our mind; You,
 3. And___ now, O Lord, I bend my knee and make my sure ap - peal; For



God of Isa - ac, Ja - cob, and of___ all their right eous clan. You
 Lord, are pa - tient, mer - ci - ful, and in - fi - nite - ly kind. You
 I have sinned, Lord, and I know my wick - ed - ness too well. I___



made the heav'ns and formed the earth with all their vast ar - ray, be -
 do not judge as we de - serve, and in your good - ness, Lord, You
 there - fore make this prayer to you: for - give me, Lord, for - give; Let



fore you all___ things quake with fear and trem - ble in___ dis - may.
 of - fer par - don that we may re - pent and be___ re - stored.
 me not per - ish___ in my sin, nor let me die___ but live.

***GOSPEL LESSON**

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

The Lesson

John 3:14-21

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

THE HOMILY

Leslie Williams

***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

Reggie Holder

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray: O God, rich in mercy, you so loved the world that, when we were dead in our sins, you sent your only Son for our deliverance. Lifted up from the earth, he is light and life; exalted upon the cross, he is truth and salvation. Raise us up with Christ that we may walk as children of light. We ask this through Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God, for ever and for ever. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer 895

GREETINGS AND PARISH NOTICES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

from The Crucifixion

The Choir

*God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth,
believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through him might be saved.*

John Stainer (1840-1901)

Text, John 3:16-17

*HYMN 378

Amazing Grace

AMAZING GRACE

Verses 1-3 and 6

Organ Improvisation: Gerre Hancock

*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

ORGAN IMPROVISATION ON A HYMN TUNE

Highlands United Methodist Church is blessed to have one of the most beautiful pipe organs in the Southeast. Our Möller pipe organ is currently being re-leathered and repaired by the R. A. Colby Organ Company and will be out of commission for several months. I want to thank our congregation for raising over \$300,000 to refurbish our beloved instrument. Until the restoration is completed, we will be using an electronic organ as a substitute during our worship services.

Rick Phillips, Choirmaster and Organist



In
remembrance
of me...

LENTEN MIDDAY COMMUNION

Tuesdays at Noon
Lunch to follow in the
Fellowship Hall (\$10)



Highlands United Methodist Church
1045 20th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35205

www.highlandsumc.net/lent



February 20

Reverend Amy DeWitt

Trinity UMC - Homewood



February 27

Reverend Erica Cooper

Baptist Church of the Covenant



March 5

Reverend Mary Henley

Assistant District Superintendent



March 12

Reverend Dr. Tim Kelley

Southside Baptist Church



March 19

Stephen Ingram

Grace United Methodist Church



March 26

Reverend Charles Lee

Retired United Methodist Clergy



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.

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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 card, 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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