



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 17, 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.

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 – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON

LITURGIST – REGGIE HOLDER

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: Nancy Hill, Donna Sibley

Serving as Ushers: Todd Edmondson, Kirk Smith

Serving as Lay Reader: Karen Holton

Serving as Acolytes: Camille Baxley, Polly Dawson

Flowers on the altar celebrate Anam Cara, and honor both the John O'Donohue study group and the Education for Ministry study group.

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Kara Cargile, chimer

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on HERZLIBSTER JESU

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Opus 122

Ah, Holy Jesus | Text UMH 289

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 168

At the Name of Jesus

KING'S WESTON

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

*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.



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.

PSALTER

Psalm 51:1-12
The Gentlemen of The Choir

Plainsong: Tone IV

Miserere mei, Deus

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

⁵And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

¹⁰Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹²Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.

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.

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

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



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 12:20-33

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

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 883

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYERS

Reggie Holder

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray: Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and save the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer 895

GREETINGS AND PARISH NOTICES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God

The Choir

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.*

Carl Mueller (1892-1982)

Text, Psalm 51: 10-13

*DOXOLOGY 95

OLD 100TH

*HYMN 451

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne

*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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