



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 3, 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 is to remind 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 HOLY COMMUNION

PREACHING – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON
LITURGISTS – 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: Nancy Hill, Donna Sibley
Serving as Ushers: Todd Edmondson, Kirk Smith
Serving as Lay Reader: Allison Solomon
Serving as Acolytes: Lucy Edmondson, Sedgie Edmondson, Mack Forrester
Serving as Communion Stewards: Karen Holton, Craig Taylor

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Kara Cargile, chimer

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on O welt, ich muss dich Lassen
O Food to Pilgrim's Given

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 159

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER
Descant Setting: Richard Proulx

*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.

*KYRIE (*Sung by The Choir*)

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray: Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:18-25
May these words reveal Christ to us. Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL LESSON

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

The Lesson

John 2:13-22

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

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881

THE APOSTLES' CREED

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leslie Williams

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Musical Setting: Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

*INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION & PEACE

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 of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. And also with you.

GREETING AND PARISH NOTICES

Reggie Holder

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lord of the Dance

The Choir

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth.*

REFRAIN: *Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

*I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John. They came with me and the dance went on. REFRAIN*

*I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame; the holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high, and they left me there on the cross to die. REFRAIN*

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black. It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the Dance, and I still go on. REFRAIN*

*They cut me down and I leapt up high; I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me. I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. REFRAIN*

*19th Century Shaker Tune Adapted by Sydney Carter (1963)
Arranged by Hal Hopson (b. 1933)*

Text, Sydney Carter

*DOXOLOGY 95

OLD 100TH

*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.

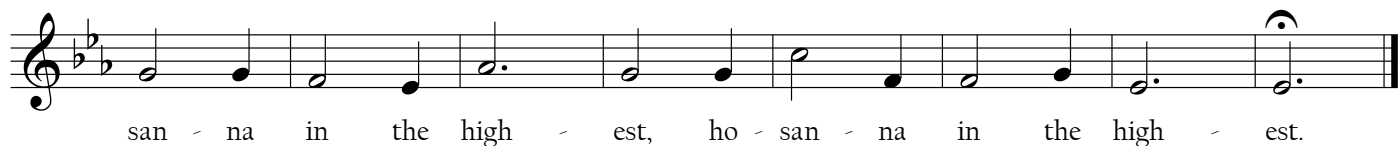
...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. _____ might. _____



Heav - en and earth are full, _____ full _____ of _____ your glo - ry. Ho -
Bless - ed is he who comes, _____ in the name of the Lord. _____



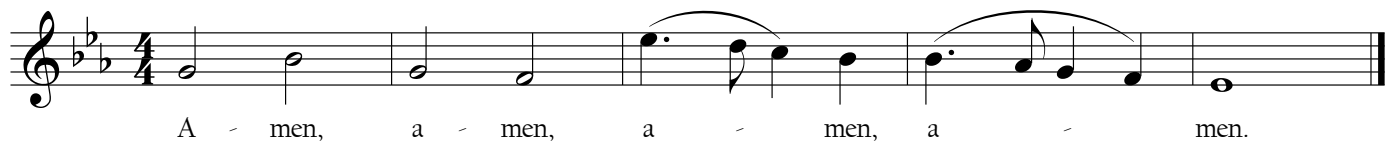
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

...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 ris - en, 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 Father, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Agnus Dei The Choir

Franz Schubert

*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

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

COMMUNION HYMN 375

There Is A Balm in Gilead

BALM IN GILEAD

The Choir and Congregation

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 77

How Great Thou Art

HOW GREAT THOU ART

Verses 1 and 4

*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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