



# HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE SUNDAY OF THE ASCENSION

MAY 16, 2021

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.*

# GLORY TO YOU

John Rutter (b. 1945)



Glo-ry to you, Lord God of our fa-ters; you are wor-thy of praise;



glo-ry to you. Glo-ry to you for the ra-di-ance of your



ho-ly name; we will praise you and high-ly ex-alt you for-ev-er.



Glo-ry to you, in the splen-dor of your tem-ple; on the throne of your ma-jes-ty,



glo-ry to you. Glo-ry to you seat-ed be-tween the Che-ru-



bim; we will praise you and high-ly ex-alt you for-ev-er.



Glo-ry to you, be-hold-ing the depths; in the high vault of hea-ven,



glo-ry to you. Glo-ry to you Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly



Spi-rit; we will praise you and high-ly ex-alt you for-ev-er.

# ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

PREACHING – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON  
LITURGISTS – THE REVEREND HENRY GIBSON, REGGIE HOLDER  
CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS  
VERGER – BRIAN BELLENGER

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

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

*Savannah Busby, chimer*

\*PRELUDE AND PROCESSION

**Prologue on Ascension**

*Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND WELCOME

*Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

\*HYMN 312

**Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise**  
*(verses 1, 2 & 4)*

LLANFAIR

*Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne*

\*COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Let us pray:* 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)*

*John Rutter (b. 1945)*

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy name; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.  
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.  
Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

*The Lord be with you. And also with you.*

*Let us pray:* Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

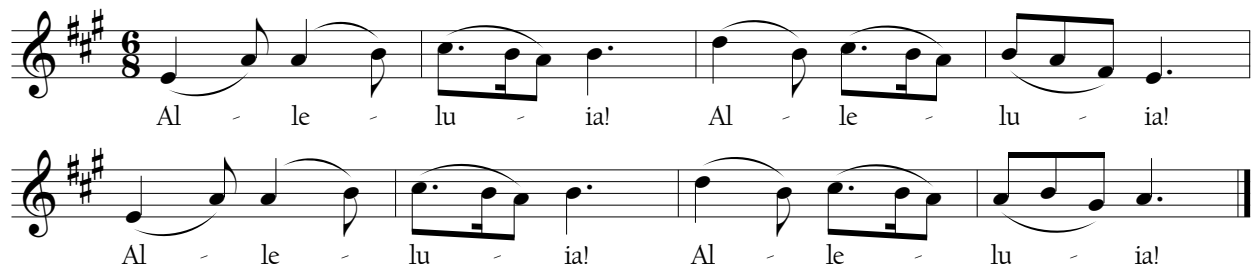
EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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



**\*GOSPEL LESSON**

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

The Lesson

Luke 24:44-53

*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**

The Reverend Henry Gibson

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*Musical Communion Setting A: Elise Eslinger (b. 1943)*

**\*INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

*We are the body of Christ. Around this table, we live out our faith. The communion table is open to all who love God and their neighbor and seek forgiveness and healing in our world.*

**\*THE PEACE**

**GREETINGS AND PARISH NOTICES**

**ANTHEM**

**Sing to the Lord a New Song**

*The Choir*

*People and tongues of ev'ry nation sing to the Lord a new song.  
Bring him a song of jubilation; sing to the Lord a new song.  
All God's creatures, old amen and children, voices raised in hymns of love.  
He crowns the humble with salvation. Sing to the Lord a new song.  
Mountains and hills and all creation sing to the Lord a new song.  
Join in a hymn of adoration. sing to the Lord a new song.  
Praise him! Praise his name, sing, "Alleluia!" Praise him for his mighty deeds.  
This is our song, our supplication: "Sing to the Lord a new song."  
Praise him, shining stars, and praise him highest heavens. Oh, all kings and princes his holy name.  
Angels above make melody to him. Now lift your voice, lift up your heart, and sing!  
Come, Christians all, now raise your voices, sing to the Lord a new song.  
Praise and Thanksgiving be your choices, sing to the Lord a new song.  
Sound the trumpet, play on the lute and harp, dance your dance, and shout for joy.  
Make music now as heav'n rejoices, sing a new song!*

Robert Lau (b. 1943)

Text, Psalms 148, 149, 150, paraphrased

\*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.*

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 Father, now and forever.*

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Jesus Lamb of God  
The Choir

William Mathias (1934-1992)

*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

Please come forward as directed by the ushers to receive Holy Communion and be mindful of social distancing while waiting to receive the sacrament. Holy Communion will be served by intinction; clergy will use utensils to dip the bread into the cup and place in congregants' hands. Pre-packaged elements are available at the chancel rails.

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

COMMUNION MOTET

Who Is He in Yonder Stall

The Choir

Who is he in yonder stall at whose feet the shepherds fall? REFRAIN  
 Lo, at midnight who is he prays in dark Gethsemane? REFRAIN  
 Who is he in Calvary's throes asks for blessings on his foes? REFRAIN  
 Who is he that from the grave comes to heal and help and save? REFRAIN  
 Who is he that from yon throne rules the world of light alone? REFRAIN

REFRAIN:

'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story! 'Tis the Lord, the King of glory;  
 At his feet we humbly fall. Crown him, crown him Lord of all!

Benjamin R. Hanby (1833 - 1867)

Text: Lucy H. King Smith

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*HYMN 327

Crown Him with Many Crowns  
 (verses 1 & 4)

DIADEMATA

Organ Improvisation: T. Tertius Noble

\*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Following the retiring procession, please be seated until the conclusion of the voluntary.

\*RETIRING VOLUNTARY

Agincourt Hymn

John Dunstable (1390-1453)

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Today we say goodbye to our Choral Scholar, SAVANNAH BUSBY. She has held the *United Methodist Women's/Amos Hudson Endowed Scholarship* from Birmingham-Southern College for the last four years. She graduates *summa cum laude* from Southern with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. We thank Savannah for her service and dedication to The Choir and to Highlands United Methodist Church. We wish for her much success and God's speed.

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## OFFERING

You may leave a cash or check offering in the offering plates near the Sanctuary exits as you leave the service today. 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](http://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](mailto:finance@highlandsumc.net).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

For a complete listing of this week's announcements and events, visit [www.highlandsumc.net/calendar](http://www.highlandsumc.net/calendar) or see our Friday morning Happening at Highlands emails. To sign up for email announcements, visit [www.highlandsumc.net](http://www.highlandsumc.net) and scroll to the bottom of the page. For questions about email communications from Highlands, contact Mary Elizabeth Neal at [maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net](mailto:maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net).

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Join us for outdoor worship next Sunday, May 23 at the Children's Fresh Air Farm in Bluff Park. We will celebrate the feast of Pentecost with crafts, music, and worship. All are welcome and invited. A boxed dinner may be pre-ordered for \$10 at [www.highlandsumc.net/vespers](http://www.highlandsumc.net/vespers).



# WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!



## A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

[www.highlandsumc.net/rmn](http://www.highlandsumc.net/rmn)

*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.*

### COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- Seating in the Sanctuary is spaced carefully to maintain social distancing. The pews to be used are identified by a black foam tube on the top of the pew rail. Each pew may contain up to five people from the same household.
- Social distancing and face masks that cover both the mouth and nose are required throughout the building.
- Congregants may enter the Sanctuary through the Prayer Garden or the Greeting Space.
- Greeters will meet congregants at the Sanctuary entrances to take your temperature using a hand-held thermal device. To be admitted, congregants' temperature must be no more than 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit.
- At the close of the service, please be seated until the conclusion of the voluntary. As you exit the Sanctuary, please be mindful of social distancing, especially in narrow hallways. If you are sitting on the Magnolia Avenue side of the sanctuary or have limited mobility, you are encouraged to exit through the Greeting Space. Those who are seated on the 11th Avenue side of the sanctuary are encouraged to exit through the Prayer Garden. The front doors may be used to exit the Sanctuary by those who are sitting in the balcony; however, once you exit, the door will lock behind you.
- All restroom facilities are open. Please be mindful of social distance in restrooms and adjacent corridors.
- The Sanctuary and restrooms will be cleaned thoroughly prior to and after each service.

*If you have questions or concerns regarding in-person worship COVID protocols, please contact church administrator Dick L'Eplattenier at 205-933-8751 or [dick@highlandsumc.net](mailto:dick@highlandsumc.net).*

### 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 by 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.



### 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.*

1045 Twentieth Street South • Birmingham, Alabama 35205  
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