



# HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

### SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

MAY 2, 2021

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.*



# ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

PREACHING – VICTORIA THOMPSON

LITURGISTS – THE REVEREND HENRY GIBSON, THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON

CHILDREN’S MOMENT – MARY ELIZABETH NEAL

CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS

VERGER – BRIAN BELLENGER

ACOLYTES – VIRGINIA HUNT, HANNAH WHEELER, LYDIA WHEELER

LAY READER – REESE ALEXANDER

PRAYERS – SAM JONES

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

*The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Neal Stevens Williams by Nancy Zakon.*

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

*Savannah Busby, chimer*

\*PRELUDE AND PROCESSION

**Offertory in B Flat Major**  
*from Twelve Pieces for Organ*

*Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND WELCOME

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

\*HYMN 384

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**  
verses 1 & 4

HYFRYDOL

*Organ Improvisation: Gere Hancock*

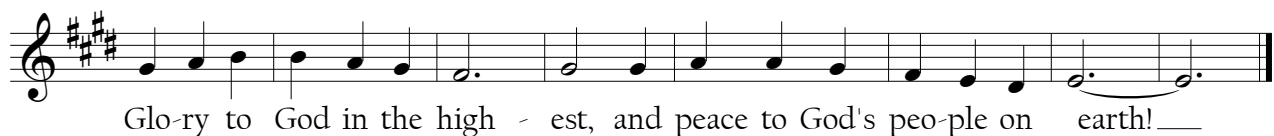
\*COLLECT FOR PURITY

*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.*

\*GLORY TO GOD

*David Haas (b. 1957)*

*Refrain*



*Verses (Sung by The Choir)*

*Lord God, heavenly king, Almighty God and Father. We worship you. We give you thanks. We praise you for your glory.*

**Refrain.**

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father. Lord God, Lamb of God. You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father. Receive our prayer.*

**Refrain.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## COLLECT FOR THE DAY

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

*Let us pray: Loving and eternal God, through the resurrection of your Son, help us to face the future with courage and assurance, knowing that nothing in life or death can ever part us from your love for us in Jesus Christ our Savior; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 4:7-21

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## \*GOSPEL LESSON

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

The Lesson

John 15:1-8

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

## THE HOMILY

Victoria Thompson

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881

THE APOSTLES' CREED

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sam Jones

## HYMN 191

Jesus Loves Me, verse 1

JESUS LOVES ME

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Mary Elizabeth Neal

## 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

*The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. And also with you.*

GREETINGS AND PARISH NOTICES

ANTHEM

I Sat Down Under His Shadow

The Choir

*I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.*

*He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.*

Sir Edward C. Bairstow (1871-1946)

Text, Song of Solomon 2:3b-4

\*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS 94

LAST UNS ERFREUEN WITH ALLELUIAS

\*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 ANTHEM

#### My God, I Love Thee *The Choir*

*My God, I love thee; not because I hope for heav'n thereby, nor yet because if I love not, I must forever die.  
Thou, O my Jesus, thou didst me upon the cross embrace; for me didst bear the nails and spear and manifold disgrace.  
Then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love thee well? Not for the sake of winning heav'n, nor of escaping hell;  
Not with the hope of gaining aught, nor seeking a reward, but as thyself hast loved me, O everlasting Lord!  
So would I love thee, dearest Lord, and in thy praise will sing; because thou art my loving God and my eternal King!*

*Music from Est's Whole Booke of Psalmes (1592)  
Harmony from Hymns Ancient and Modern (1861)*

*Latin, 17th Century  
English translation by Edward Caswall*

#### 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 III

#### How Can We Name a Love, verses 1 & 4

*TERRA BEATA  
Organ Improvisation: Franklin Sheppard*

#### \*THE UMYF BENEDICTION

**May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you  
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.**

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

#### \*RETIRING VOLUNTARY

#### Postlude in C Major *from Twelve Pieces for Organ*

*Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)*

#### PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

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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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# WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!



## A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

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

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### 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.*

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(205) 933-8751 • [www.highlandsumc.net](http://www.highlandsumc.net)