



# HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

MAY 23, 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.*



# ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

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

\*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 honor of the marriage of Joyce Yijun Xiao and James Andrew Sparks.*

## PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

\*PRELUDE AND PROCESSION                      *Chorale Prelude on DOWN AMPNEY*                      Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)  
*Come Down, O Love Divine*  
*(Text, UMH 474)*

## CALL TO WORSHIP AND WELCOME

\*HYMN 547    **O Church of God, United**    ELLACOMBE  
*(verses 1 & 3)*    *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 (*Sung by The Choir*)    William Mathias (1934-1992)

*Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father,  
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
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.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### \*COLLECT FOR PENTECOST

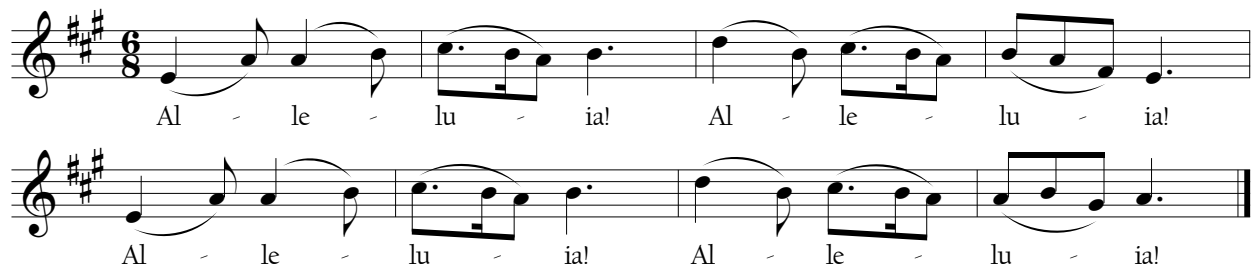
*The Lord be with you. And also with you.  
Let us pray: Faithful God, you fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending your Holy Spirit and opening the way of eternal life to all the human race. Keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:1-21  
*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 John. Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

The Lesson

John 16:4b-15

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

**THE HOMILY**

The Reverend Henry Gibson

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*Musical Communion Setting: William Mathias (1934-1992)*

**\*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**

**Call to the Paraclete**

*The Choir*

*O God, Holy Ghost, sanctifier of the faithful, visit this congregation with thy love and favor;  
 Enlighten their minds more and more with the light of the everlasting gospel;  
 Graft in their hearts, love of the truth; increase in them true religion;  
 Nourish them with all goodness; and of thy mercy keep them in the same,  
 O blessed Spirit, whom with the Father and the Son, we worship and glorify,  
 One God, world without end. Amen.*

*Betty Louise Lumby (b. 1926)*

*Text, Book of Common Prayer*

**\*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS 94**

LAST UNSERFREUEN WITH ALLELUIAS

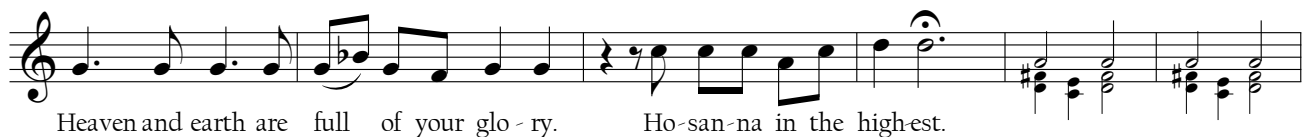
## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*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:*



*...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.*



*...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.*



## THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

### THE FRACTION ANTHEM

### Jesus Lamb of God

*William Mathias (1934-1992)*

*The Choir*

*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 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

**Come, Holy Spirit**

*The Choir*

*Veni, creator Spiritus, mentes tuorum visita, imple superna gratia, quae tu creasti, pectora.*

*Translation: Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come from thy bright heavenly throne; come, take possession of our souls, and make them all thine own.*

*Come, Holy Spirit, eternal God, proceeding from above, both from the Father and the Son. O God of peace and love. Visit our hearts, come to our minds, and heavenly grace inspire. That truth and godliness we may pursue with full desire.*

*You are the very Comforter, in grief and all distress. The heavenly gift of God most high, no tongue can it express. And in the gifts so manifold, the Church of Christ will stand. To faithful hearts you give the law, the love from God's own hand*

*Christopher Tye (1505-1572)*

*Text, Traditional*

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 400

**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

*(verses 1 & 3)*

NEETLETON

*Organ Improvisation: Samuel Metzger*

\*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

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

\*RETIRING VOLUNTARY

**Exeunt Omens**

*Richard Lloyd (b. 1933)*

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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Join us for outdoor worship today from 4 to 6 p.m. 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. Our youth group will welcome our rising sixth graders and our summer youth intern, Sutton Smith, so all are encouraged to attend!





# 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.*

1045 Twentieth Street South • Birmingham, Alabama 35205  
(205) 933-8751 • [www.highlandsumc.net](http://www.highlandsumc.net)