



# HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

MAY 28, 2023

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

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*Today we celebrate Pentecost, often known as the birthday of the Church. The name Pentecost comes from the Greek for fiftieth day. Its origins relate to the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which commemorates God's giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. Pentecost marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples in Jerusalem fifty days after Easter.*



### 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 MIKAH HUDSON

LITURGIST – 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:* Linda Gaffney, Marion Lagman • *Serving as Ushers:* Danny Jones, Scott Williams

*Serving as Acolytes:* Eleanor Hudson, Sophia Green

*Serving as Lay Reader:* ~~Warren Laird~~ • *Serving as Communion Stewards:* Leisha Harris, Vance Holder

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

*Kara Cargile, Chimer*

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

PRELUDE

**Tocatta in C Major**  
BWV 564

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

*And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.*

**\*HYMN 648**

**God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian**  
Verses 1, 2, and 4

HYFRYDOL

*Organ Improvisation: T. Tertius Noble*

**\*COLLECT FOR PURITY**

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

*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** (*Sung by The Choir*)

*William Mathias*

*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.*

*God of grace, you sent the promised gift of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the women, upon Mary the mother of Jesus and upon his brothers. Fill your church with power, kindle flaming hearts within us, and cause us to proclaim your mighty works in every tongue, that all may call on you and be saved; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Choir

*Benedic, anima mea*

<sup>24</sup>Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

<sup>25</sup>O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>28</sup>All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

<sup>29</sup>You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

<sup>30</sup>You hide your face, and they are terrified; you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.

<sup>31</sup>You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

<sup>32</sup>May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in all his works.

<sup>33</sup>He looks at the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>34</sup>I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.

<sup>35b</sup>I will rejoice in the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. 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)

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 7:37-39

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: William Mathias (1934-1992)

\*INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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**

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

**GREETINGS AND PARISH NOTICES**

Leslie Williams

**OFFERTORY 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 (1926-2020)

*Text, Book of Common Prayer*

**\*DOXOLOGY 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.  
Heaven 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 ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!



## MY NEIGHBOR'S FAITH

Sundays at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall

*A summer Sunday school series inviting guest presenters to share stories of their faith formation.*

*All are welcome and invited!*

Upcoming Guest Speakers:

~~JUNE 12~~ Garrett Harper, *Executive Director of Urban Ministries*

~~JUNE 19~~ Daniel Coleman, *President of Birmingham-Southern College*

~~JUNE 26~~ John Archibald, *Author and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist*

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## HYMN SING SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday, July 2 for a Hymn Sing! The singing of hymns is one our oldest Methodist traditions, as we collectively lift our hearts and voices for the worship of God. We will sing our favorite songs of the faith, both old and new. Make plans to join us for worship and to stay for our after-church cook out!



# WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!



## ALL ARE WELCOME

A Reconciling Congregation with the Reconciling Ministries Network – [rmnetwork.org](http://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.*

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### 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](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).*
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