



HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor: Randy Harris

Associate Pastor: Debbie Layman

Associate Pastor: Courtney Stevens

Pastor Emeritus: Steve McCutchan

Director of Christian Education: Heather Ferguson

Director of Music: Chris Gilliam

Organist: Susan Bates

(336) 724-6303

www.highlandpres.org

2380 Cloverdale Avenue

Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012

APRIL 27, 2025 • SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 27, 2025

11:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

MOMENT FOR MISSION *Earth Care Sunday* Earth Care Team

PRELUDE *Sonata for Clarinet: Movement 2* Sandy Simmons

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Say among the nations, God reigns.

All: Let the heavens be glad and earth rejoice!

One: God is coming to transform the world.

All: God will redeem the world with righteousness and truth.

One: Let us worship and praise God.

All: We will offer God our gratitude for all that God has done.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN 248 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

HYMN TO JOY

THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of promise and purpose,

You set before us a dream of your new heaven and earth,

and we recognize that it calls for transformation.

But we confess that we don't want transformation:

we want easy fixes.

We want the change but not to do the changing.

Forgive us, O God, for asking

for change but not being willing to do the work.

Forgive us for accepting the status quo

and for our roles in holding it up.

Forgive our ways of thinking and acting to avoid transformation.

Create in us hearts made new by your mercy and love,

and move us to work toward your vision

of a new heaven and earth.

The prayer continues in a time of silent confession.

As we light candles
on the Retable,
place the Bible at
the Lectern, pour
water in the
Baptismal Font,
and set the
Communion Table,
we are reminded of
the presence of
Christ in Word
and Sacrament.

(*) When this
symbol precedes an
element of the
service, you are
invited to rise
in body or spirit.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

*JOYFUL RESPONSE

Festival Alleluia

JAMES CHEPPONIS



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The good news of God’s forgiving love calls for our response of praise, and for words of peace and welcome to one another.

*A TIME OF SHARING GOD’S PEACE

*RESPONSE 301

All Are Welcome

TWO OAKS

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Our song of “welcome” affirms our belief that the risen Christ breaks down the walls by which we may otherwise be separated.

THE WORD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 104:24-34

Page 555

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 20:19-31

Page 114

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Celebrating Earthiness

Debbie Layman

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*HYMN 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Declaration of Faith* (PCUSA)

God made us to care for other created things.

God made human beings along with all the other creatures
and charged them to care for the earth and all that lives on it.

We acknowledge we share in the interdependence
that binds together all God's creation.

Yet God gives us power to rule and tame,
to order and reshape the world.

We hold the earth in trust for future generations of living things.

The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul, and destroy the earth.

The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce
in ways that make earth's goodness available to all people
and reflect God's love for all creatures.

The Lord bids us use our technical skills for
beauty, order, health, and peace. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Forrest Truitt

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Sandy Simmons

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Hymn 245, stanza 4

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!

Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!

Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!

Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The grace of God
calls for a response!

Our giving is offered
in a spirit of
gratitude for God's
blessings.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

* HYMN 249

Because You Live, O Christ

VRUECHTEN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE (Hymn 750) *Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil* GOODNESS IS STRONGER

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.

*POSTLUDE

Prelude in G Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

Christian worship
and service does
not end at the con-
clusion of the
Service for the
Lord's Day. The
mission of the
church remains the
same not only in
this Easter season,
but in every season:
we go forth to love
and serve our risen
Lord, and to love
our neighbors as
ourselves.

WORSHIP NOTES

Our special guest musicians this morning are Tineke van der Meulen, clarinet, and Sandy Simmons, cello. Tineke is visiting from Amsterdam and is a friend of Sandy Simmons.

Our worship banners, crafted from hand-cut paper, follow the Gospel readings from the lectionary for the Easter season, guiding us through the moments and days after the tomb is found empty. These stories remind us that we, too, are bearers of the Gospel, revealing Christ's presence through our own everyday acts of grace and love. Artists include members of the Arts and Worship group: Jamie Blankinship, Clara Bryant-Prosterman, Ralph Burroughs, Lola Culler, Wendy Guerry, Elaine Minton, Margo Searls-Begy, Courtney Stevens, and Carol Tash.

***Bless You!*—Our prayers for one another.** **FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 27**, please pray for Leslie Craig; John and Zan Davis; Adam, Lauren, Claire and Cora Eberle; Bill and Libby Graves; Jan Morgan; Jane Sobie; Jeff and Nicole Sodko; Phil and Anne Wilson; Powell and Trudy Winstead. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

CALENDAR

Sunday April 27

- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Middle School Youth, Surge
- 4:00 p.m. Dolorosa Grief Gathering, Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth, Home of Mark Queens and Harry Hall
- 6:00 p.m. *Join or Die* Screening, Ardmore Room

Monday April 28

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. Women's Circle, Ardmore Room
- 7:00 p.m. Poverty Book Group, Salem Room

Tuesday April 29

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Camel City Coffee

- 5:45 p.m. Listening to Black Voices Group

Wednesday April 30

- 11:00 a.m. Lamentations & Laughter, AB
- 5:30 p.m. Highland Ukuleles, Room 126
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Room 100

Thursday May 1

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Ardmore Room
- 6:00 p.m. Congregational Care Committee, Salem Room
- 7:00 p.m. Global Service Committee, Ardmore Room

Saturday May 3

- 3:00 p.m. Wedding of Courtney Stevens and David Montoya, Sanctuary (*All are invited!*)

For more information about the events in this calendar, please pick up a copy of *Highlights*, the church newsletter, in the Narthex or Gallery Hall.
Check www.highlandpres.org, for changes or cancellations.

WELCOME TO HIGHLAND

We extend a warm welcome to all who come to this sanctuary today. May you find in this place and among the people gathered here grace and peace from the living Christ who has promised to be present with us. To learn more about Highland, scan the QR code with your phone.



If you are visiting with us today, please include your contact information on the Visitor Card that you can find in the pew rack. You may place the card in the offering plate when it is passed. If you are a college or graduate school student, add your school name to the card as well.

Large-print Bibles, bulletins, and hearing aids are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

A Loop Assisted Hearing System is in place in Highland's Sanctuary. You can access this service by switching your hearing aid's T-coil to "On" and adjusting the volume control if needed; you may also request a headset from an usher.

Childcare is available during the worship service. Children up to age five are welcome in Room 112 located on the first floor near the Chapel. During worship we also offer a room for Children & Parents, Room 216, which is a friendly childcare space near the Sanctuary where parents can tend to the needs of their child.

We offer online ways to give in addition to our traditional giving in the offering plate. To give via smart phone, you may text the word *highland* to 73256 or scan the QR code. We are thankful for your generous sharing!



We are a Matthew 25 Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to engage actively in the world around us, helping our faith come alive. As a Matthew 25 congregation we pledge to work on *building congregational vitality*, *dismantling structural racism*, and *eradicating systemic poverty*. Learn more at pcusa.org/matthew25.

We are now an Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)! We pledge in our *worship* and discipleship to celebrate God's grace and glory in creation. Our *education* strives to encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation. We seek to manage, maintain, and upgrade our *facilities* to respect and cherish all creation, and our *outreach* will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.



LIFE AT HIGHLAND



Churchwide

Earth Care Sunday is today!

We celebrate Earth Care Sunday with seeds to sow. Join us on the patio as we lift up the wonder of God's earth!

Join or Die Screening, Come watch the film with a group today at 6:00 p.m. in the Ardmore Room, and join in the discussion on Sunday, May 4 at 4:00 p.m.

Courtney and David's Wedding, Saturday, May 3, 3:00 p.m. All are invited to share in this celebration!

New Member Class, May 4, Let Debbie or Randy know if you are interested in a class for new members May 4 at 2:00 p.m.

To sign up for meals, service work, and more, scan this QR code.



Service

Moore School Food Pantry, Highland and Temple Emmanuel support Moore Elementary by providing a food pantry for students and their families. For the month of May, we are asking for donations of rice.

Hygiene Kit Collection, We are collecting items for hygiene kits to help replenish Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Church World Service. Sign up with the QR code.

Meal Preparation for Flourish Program, We are looking for meal providers for about 30 women and children on May 12 for Flourish, a program of Shalom Project. Contact Debbie, dlayman@highlandpres.org, if interested.



Children

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m.

Children ages 2 through 4th grade are invited to *God's Good Neighborhood*, the third floor of our Education Building, for exciting new faith formation experiences and choir.

Youth

Youth will celebrate the end of the youth year this afternoon. Middlers will gather for an afternoon at Surge, and senior highs will gather for dinner celebrating our senior graduates at the home of Mark Queen and Harry Hall.

Sign Up for summer trips now! Senior High Montreat Youth Conference will be June 8-14, and Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference is July 15-18.



Adults

Church School Offerings

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m.

Created in Love, Ardmore Room

Lectionary Café, Salem Room

The Present Word, Room 124

Parents' Coffee & Conversation, Room 126

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

Camel City Coffee, 110 Oakwood Drive

Join us for drop-in conversation with friends and Highland staff. All are welcome!

Dolorosa Grief Gathering, Today at 4:00 p.m. share your grief stories in the Chapel.

Scan this QR code for more information in our current *Highlights* newsletter.

