



HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor: Randy Harris

Associate Pastor: Debbie Layman

Associate Pastor: Courtney Montoya

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

MAY 11, 2025 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 11, 2025

11:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Rhosymedre (Lovely)

R. Vaughan Williams

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: From every nation, in every language, we cry out:

All: “Salvation belongs to our God, and to the Lamb!”

One: Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving!

All: Honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!

One: Amen!

All: Amen!

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN 231

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

SUO GAN

THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we are prone to think too highly of ourselves.

We forget that it is you who are good, you who are the greatest.

We forget that you call us to do your will, not the other way around.

When we have fallen into arrogance, forgive us.

When we have allowed our good intentions

to stand in the way of your grace, forgive us.

When we have directed attention away from you, forgive us.

Empty us of all things that do not give glory to you,

so we are ready to be filled with your love.

The prayer continues in a time of silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

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.

***JOYFUL RESPONSE**

Festival Alleluia

JAMES CHEPPONIS



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

Isaiah 49:8-13

Page 679

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Revelation 7:9-17

Page 249

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

SERMON

Words of Comfort in a Book of Hope

Debbie Layman

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

***HYMN 295**

Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from *A Declaration of Faith* (PCUSA)

In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation
God has already begun and will surely finish.
We do not know when the final day will come.
In our time we see only broken and scattered signs
that the renewal of all things is under way.

We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering
in the world, the church, or our own lives.
But we see Jesus as Lord.
As he stands at the center of our history,
we are confident he will stand at its end.
He will judge all people and nations.
Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation.
There will be no more tears or pain.
All things will be made new.
The fellowship of human beings with God and each other
will be perfected. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Glenn Otterbacher

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

ANTHEM

Idyll of Praise

Craig Courtney

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world: the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world: O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world: the battle is not done.
Jesus, who died, shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

*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 265 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* DUKE STREET

*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 *Festive Trumpet Tune* David German

Christian worship
and service does
not end at the con-
clusion of the
Service for the
Lord's Day. The
Church is called to
follow its risen
Lord into the
world!

WORSHIP NOTES

We welcome our guest organist today, Beth Martin.

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 MAY 11, please pray for Jim, Lydia and Allison Bass; Rachel Corbett; Ellen Law; Will, Rebecca, Hudson and Lexie Maddux; Bob Musso; Betsy Spencer; Scott, Carol, Sarah and Kelly Templeton; Elizabeth Walker. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

CALENDAR

Sunday May 11

- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 12:15 p.m. Worship Committee, Parlor

Monday May 12

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
- 5:45 p.m. Stewardship Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Faith & Film, The Sherwood

Tuesday May 13

- 9:00 a.m. Salem Presbytery, Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Camel City Coffee
- 1:30 p.m. Moore Food Pantry, Curbside
- 5:45 p.m. Diaconate Meeting, Ardmore Room

- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting, Ardmore Room

Wednesday May 14

- 10:30 p.m. Salemtowne Bible Study
- 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 15

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Ardmore Room
- 5:45 p.m. Community Service Committee, Ardmore Room
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
- 7:30 p.m. Young Adults, Footnote

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 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

Fellowship Lunch, May 18, We hope all of you have signed up and plan to join us for our final fellowship lunch of the season. The meal will be catered by Providence Catering.

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.

Diaper Drive and Toy Collection, Beginning today and continuing through Father's Day, we will receive your gifts of diapers and baby wipes for The Shalom Project and Clemmons Food Pantry. In addition, this year we are collecting specific toys for a "play therapy" room at CareNet. Sign up today with the QR code above.

Meal Preparation for Flourish Program, We are looking for meal providers for about 30 women and children on May 19 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

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,

Continuing through the summer

Parents' Coffee & Conversation, Room 126

Faith & Film, Monday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.

The Sherwood, 3348 Robinhood Road

Join for discussion of this month's timely film, *Conclave*.

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!

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



Summer Worship Hours

Beginning on May 25 and continuing through September 7,
Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m.
each Sunday.