



# HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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

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[www.highlandpres.org](http://www.highlandpres.org)

2380 Cloverdale Avenue

Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012

**JUNE 1, 2025 • ASCENSION SUNDAY**

# ASCENSION SUNDAY

JUNE 1, 2025

10:00 a.m.

## THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

### A WORD OF WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*Prelude in Classic Style*

Gordon Young

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 47)

One: Clap your hands, all you peoples.

**All: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**

One: God ascends among shouts of joy.

**All: Sing praise to God, sing praise!**

#### PRAYER OF PRAISE

#### \*HYMN 263

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

CORONATION

## THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, day by day we have failed to believe  
in your presence and in your promised forgiveness.

We have not honored our neighbors  
as heirs of your desired peace.

We have not forgiven others, or ourselves.

Give us wisdom and faith to be your body on earth,  
that we may rejoice in the presence of your saving love,  
to the glory of your ascended Son.

*The prayer continues in a time of silent confession.*

#### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

#### \*JOYFUL RESPONSE

*Festival Alleluia*

JAMES CHEPPONIS

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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.

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**

**FIRST LESSON**

Ephesians 1:15-23

Page 192

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

**SECOND LESSON**

Acts 1:1-11

Page 118

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

**SERMON**

*In the End, the Beginning*

Randy Harris

**THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*The Nicene Creed*

GTG p. 34

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

The Nicene Creed,  
dated to the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Century C.E., is the  
most universally  
affirmed creed in  
the Church.

The grace of God  
calls for a response!

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

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### OUR GIFTS TO GOD *(INCLUDING 5 CENTS A MEAL)*

**ANTHEM**      *Up through Endless Ranks of Angels*      arr. Michael Burkhardt

Up through endless ranks of angels, cries of triumph in his ears,  
to his heavenly throne ascending, having vanquished all their fears.  
Christ looks down upon his faithful, leaving them in happy tears.

Death destroying, proven equal to our need,  
now for us before the Father as our brother intercede;  
flesh that for our world was wounded, living for the wounded plead!

To our lives of wanton wandering, send your Spirit promised guide;  
through our lives of fear and failure, with your power and love abide.  
Welcome us, as you were welcomed, to an endless Eastertide.

Alleluia, alleluia! Oh to breathe the Spirit's grace. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Oh to see the Father's face! Alleluia, alleluia!  
Oh to feel the Son's embrace!

**\*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 COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

#### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

**\*HYMN 250**

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

PROMISE

#### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** *The prayer continues ...*

Holy, Holy, Holy (*sung by all*)

Hymn 552

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. **Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.** *The prayer continues ...*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GTG p. 35

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

\* HYMN 273

*He Is King of Kings*

HE IS KING

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: Life is short, and we do not have too much time  
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.

All: **So let us be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.**

One: Let us go out into the world in peace, have courage,  
hold onto what is good, and return no one evil for evil.

All: **May we strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak,  
help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord,  
and rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

One: May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God,  
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

All: **Amen.**

\*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

*Concerto 1: Presto*

Johann Sebastian Bach

The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion. Gluten- and nut-free bread is available at the station to the right of the Lectern.

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

# WORSHIP NOTES

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**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 Guerri, Elaine Minton, Margo Searls-Begy, Courtney Stevens, and Carol Tash.

***Bless You!*—Our prayers for one another.** FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 1, please pray for Esther Buzzard; Sarah, David, Oliver and Henry Chandler; Carol Eickmeyer; Alison, Jeff, Will and Ben Gardner; Emily, Carter and Rosalie Richey; Mike Serosky; Randall, Claire, Scott and Carson Tuttle. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

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## CALENDAR

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### Sunday June 1

9:00 a.m. Present Word, Room 124

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Lemonade in the Shade, Patio

11:00 a.m. T-Shirt Logo Printing, Patio

11:45 a.m. Worship Committee, Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. Young Adults Cook-Out, Home of Spencer and Megan Ayscue

2:00 p.m. Adult Christian Education Committee, Parlor

5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee

6:00 p.m. Property Committee, Room 127

6:30 p.m. Children's Ministry Committee

### Wednesday June 4

11:00 a.m. Lamentations & Laughter, AB

5:30 p.m. Highland Ukuleles, Room 126

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Room 100

### Monday June 2

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor

### Tuesday June 3

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

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](http://www.highlandpres.org), for changes or cancellations.

# WELCOME TO HIGHLAND

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**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](http://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

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## Churchwide

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**Lemonade in the Shade:** During the summer, following worship all are invited for fellowship and refreshing lemonade on the Narthex Patio. This is a wonderful, informal way to meet other Highlanders and greet visitors.

**Night Out at the Ballpark:** Sign up now to reserve your ticket(s) for Highland's annual trip to the ballpark on Thursday, June 12 to watch the Winston-Salem Dash baseball game. Tickets are \$12, and it will be a fun night for all ages. We hope you will join us and bring a friend!

### **Highland Presence at Pride Festival:**

Highland will have a table at the Winston-Salem Pride Festival on Saturday, June 14. Sign up with the QR code to make your Pride t-shirt today or June 8. (Bring your own light-colored, cotton shirt!)

**ArtRageous, June 16–18:** We have a variety of class offerings and fun tours (offered at different times and dates) for you to choose from. Sign-Ups are now open, space is limited, so we encourage you to reserve your spot(s) soon!

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



## Service

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**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 June, we are asking for donations of cereal and tuna.

**Diaper Drive and Toy Collection,** Now until 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.



## Children

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### **Sunday Morning Childcare, 9:45 a.m.**

During worship, children up to age five are welcome in Room 112 located on the first floor near the Chapel. 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.



## Youth

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Join us this summer as we kick off our Quest for the Best French Fries on June 8 at Five Guys! Each stop, we'll taste, rate, and debate who's really got the best fries in town. Open to all youth—friends welcome!



## Adults

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### **Sunday Church School Summer Offering**

9:00 a.m., *The Present Word*, Room 124

### **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.

