



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

Music Associate: Haley Chapman

(336) 724-6303

www.highlandpres.org

2380 Cloverdale Avenue

Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012

APRIL 26, 2026 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2026

11:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

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.

PRELUDE

Easter Carol

Gerald Finzi

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

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

*HYMN 233

The Day of Resurrection!

LANCASHIRE

SPECIAL MUSIC

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Handbell Choir

Larry Sue

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 we do not want 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.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

*JOYFUL RESPONSE

Festival Alleluia

JAMES CHEPPONIS



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

Psalms 104:24-34

Page 555

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 10:1-10

Page 103

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

SERMON

Recognizing the Creator

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

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

Fairest Lord Jesus

Derek Hakes

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb
of spring. Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling,
starry host. Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer, than all the angels
heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

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!

The grace of God calls for a response! Our giving is offered in a spirit of gratitude for God's blessings.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

* HYMN 249

Because You Live, O Christ

VRUECHTEN

*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.

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!

*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

Be Not Afraid

arr. Sandy Simmons

WORSHIP NOTES

We welcome to worship leadership today our guest musicians Sandy Simmons, cello and Tineke van der Meulen, clarinet.

Today's Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Earth Day, by Highland's Earth Care Team. The arrangement includes a variety of native plants.

Bless You!—Our prayers for one another. FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 26, please pray for Kevin and Miriam Davie; Katie and Nathan Harris; Will and Robyn McElwee, Reese, Evie and Tucker Holland, Ani, Catie and Hank McElwee; Edmond and Margaret Pendrich; Elizabeth, Charlie, and Caroline Skinner. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

Bless Our Neighbors!—Our prayers for our community. FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, please pray for our neighbors who provide justice for those in need: Family Services and The Children's Law Center.

CALENDAR

Sunday April 26

- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Spring Stroll, Tanglewood (meet in dog park parking lot)
- 4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Fellowship, AB3
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Fellowship, Home of Sam Michel

Monday April 27

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee, Ardmore Room
- 7:00 p.m. Poverty Book Group, Salem Room

Tuesday April 28

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Camel City Coffee
- 1:30 p.m. Moore Food Pantry, Curbside

Wednesday April 29

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

Thursday April 30

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Ardmore Room

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.

Children, join us in the PrayGround! This is a friendly space in the balcony for children age 5 and up to worship while enjoying quiet and engaging activities such as puzzles, storybooks, and coloring sheets. All are welcome!

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

Spring Stroll, Today, April 26, 3:00 p.m.:

Join us at Tanglewood this afternoon for a lovely spring stroll! Following the stroll, we will meet up at Quatra Coffee in Clemmons to continue our time together.

New Photo Directories Coming!

Schedule your appointment now. Sessions begin on May 7. Each household will also receive a free 8x10 picture as well as a new directory.



Fling Meal and Moore School Food Pantry

Film, Wednesday, May 6: Reserve your meal today and plan to learn about our pantry too! The meal begins at 6:00 p.m. and the film will begin at 7:00 p.m.

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



Service

Moore Food Pantry: For the month of April, we are asking for donations of canned fruit. Thank you!

Hygiene Kits Collection: We are accepting donations to provide for Hygiene Kits that will be used by the Church World Service program and disbursed to those in need. Our goal is to provide 250 Hygiene Kits to CWS to restock their warehouses and prepare for upcoming tornado and fire seasons.

Diaper Drive Begins May 10: Our annual diaper drive, benefitting Shalom Project and Clemmons Food Pantry, will run from May 10 through June 21. We accept opened and unopened packages as well as adult diapers and wipes.



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.

Worship & Wonder

Following the *Time for Young Disciples*, K-2nd Grade children are invited to Room 307 for Worship Education. Parents can pick up following our worship.

Youth

Youth will celebrate the end of the youth year this afternoon. Middlers will gather at the church at 4:00 p.m. and senior highs will gather at 6:00 p.m. for dinner celebrating our senior graduates at the home of Sam Michel.



Adults

Sunday Church School Offerings:

- 9:30 a.m. *The Present Word*, Room 124
- 9:30 a.m. *The Lectionary Cafe*, Salem Room
- 9:30 a.m. *Parents Conversation and Coffee*, Room 126
- 9:30 a.m. *Walking Home Well: End of Life Questions, Conversations, and Preparations*, Highland's Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. *Envisioning a World Without Christian Nationalism*, Ardmore Room

Coffee & Conversation,

Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.

Camel City Coffee, 110 Oakwood Drive
Join us for drop-in conversation with friends and Highland staff. We are back to our warm-weather location at Camel City. All are welcome!