



# HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*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

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**MAY 3, 2026 • FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3, 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

*Nun Bitten Wir*

Dietrich Buxtehude

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All: **The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!**

One: Let the peoples praise you, O God.

All: **Let all the peoples praise you.**

### PRAYER OF PRAISE

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

### \*HYMN 245

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

LLANFAIR

Sing stanzas 1-3

## THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, your word offers freedom from sin,  
but we confess that we have not obeyed your word.

We have harbored malice toward our enemies;  
we have been deceitful in our relationships;  
we have been insincere in our commitments;  
through gossip we have slandered our friends.

Forgive us our sins and lead us to genuine repentance.  
Help your children grow into the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

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

### \*JOYFUL RESPONSE

*Festival Alleluia*

JAMES CHEPPONIS

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*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 31:1-5, 15-16

Page 505

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Peter 2:4-10

Page 233

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

SERMON

*Living Stones*

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.

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.

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

The text from to-  
day's anthem comes  
from Micah 6:6-8.

## OUR GIFTS TO GOD

### ANTHEM

*Offertory* John Ness Beck, arr. Craig Courtney

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, Shall I come before him with  
yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten  
thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give him my firstborn for my transgressions, the  
fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal; he has  
shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly  
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly, walk humbly with your God?

### \*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 505

*The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing*

THE FEAST IS READY

### 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 321

*The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

\*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

*Festive Trumpet Tune*

David German

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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**Today's Chancel Flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Rob Clemmer, by his wife Phyllis and daughter Jean Clemmer Fortner.

**We welcome to worship leadership** Grace Gottfried, from our Confirmation Class.

**Today's guest organist** is Beth Martin.

***Bless You!***—Our prayers for one another. **FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3**, please pray for Lauren Bain and David Harris; Kyle, Daphne, Cecilia and Lucy Davis; Ethie Edwards; Bruce and Carol Healy; Dawn, Kenneth, Audrey and Reece Nelson; Mark and Barbara Whitley. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

***Bless Our Neighbors!***—Our prayers for our community. **FOR THE MONTH OF MAY**, please pray for our neighbors who provide mental healthcare and counseling for those in need: CareNet Counseling, Mental Health Association, and Trinity Center.

## CALENDAR

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### Sunday May 3

- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 12:15 p.m. Earth Care Team, Salem Room
- 4:00 p.m. Spring Forum, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Mum's Night Out, Home of Judy & Roberts Bass

### Monday May 4

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. Monday Circle, Ardmore Room
- 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Committee, Salem Room

### Tuesday May 5

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Camel City Coffee
- 10:00 a.m. Tuesday Circle, Salem Room
- 5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee
- 6:00 p.m. Property Committee, Room 127

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

### Wednesday May 6

- 11:00 a.m. Lamentations & Laughter, AB 5
- 6:00 p.m. Fling Meal, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Room 100
- 7:00 p.m. Moore School Food Pantry Film, Ardmore Room

### Thursday May 7

- 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, Salem Room

### Saturday May 9

- 11:00 a.m. Highland Ukuleles, Room 126

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.

**Children, join us in the PrayGround!** This is a friendly space in the balcony for children ages 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](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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**May Congregational Meal, May 17, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall:** We hope you will join us for our monthly catered fellowship luncheon. Mama Zoe Michaels will be catering this meal and are offering two entrée options: marinated chicken strips or a red, white & blue salad platter. Scan the QR code below to sign up!



### **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.

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



## Service

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**Moore Food Pantry:** For the month of May, we are asking for donations of rice. Thank you!

**Hygiene Kit Collection:** Sign up today, using the QR code above, to donate items for hygiene kits in support of neighbors in disasters who are helped by Church World Service.

**Meal Preparation for Flourish:** Are you able to help provide a meal for women and children on Monday, May 11 for Flourish? Contact Debbie, [dlayman@highlandpres.org](mailto:dlayman@highlandpres.org), if able to help.

**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

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### **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-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade children are invited to Room 307 for Worship Education. Parents can pick up following our worship.

## Youth

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**Sign Up for summer trips** now! Senior High Montreat Youth Conference will be June 7-13, and Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference is July 14-17.

## Adults

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### **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!