



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

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2380 Cloverdale Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012

MAY 17, 2026 • ASCENSION SUNDAY

ASCENSION SUNDAY

MAY 17, 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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Project Hope

Beth Ann Chambers

PRELUDE

Ascended Triumph

J.S. Bach and Michael Burkhardt

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Clap your hands and sing to the Lord.

All: **God has gone up with a shout of joy!**

One: Jesus Christ has risen from the dead.

All: **Now he will reign in glory forever.**

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

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

THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, while Jesus was with us on earth,
we dismissed him as a heavenly dreamer.

Now that he reigns in heaven
we forget that he is Lord of all the earth.

Forgive us, we pray, and reshape our lives,
that we may be a sign of Christ's love
and be a means of your blessing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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!

*A TIME OF SHARING GOD'S PEACE

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

*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

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 47 Page 518

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 1:1-11 Page 118

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

SERMON *God's Hidden Reign* Randy Harris

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*HYMN 485 *We Know That Christ Is Raised* ENGELBERG

THE SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMANDS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* GTG p.35

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Confirmation is a
joyful milestone in
the lifelong journey
of faith. In the Pres-
byterian Church
(USA), confirma-
tion is a time for
our youth to con-
sider promises
made at their bap-
tism and consider
their response to
God's grace at work
in their lives.

As the family of
faith we continue
to affirm our bap-
tismal promises to
support and nur-
ture them in their
journey of faith.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER

WELCOME

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 *I'm Gonna Sing 'Til the Spirit Moves in my Heart* Moses Hogan

I'm gonna sing 'til the Spirit moves in my heart.

I'm gonna sing 'til Jesus comes.

Oh my Jesus, 'til he comes.

It was grace that brought me, oh yea my Lord.

It was grace that taught me, it was grace that kept me,

And it's grace that will lead me home. Hallelu.

I'm gonna pray 'til the Spirit moves in my heart.

I'm gonna pray 'til Jesus comes.

Can't you feel the Spirit movin'? Can't you feel it movin'?

I'm gonna shout 'til the spirit moves in my heart.

I'm gonna shout 'til Jesus comes.

I'm gonna sing 'til my Jesus comes.

*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 of-
fered in a spirit of
gratitude for God's
blessings.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

* HYMN 263

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

CORONATION

*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

Fantasia on "Come, Holy Spirit, Lord God"

J.S. Bach

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!

Summer Worship Schedule: Beginning next Sunday, May 24 and running through Labor Day weekend, worship will be at 10:00 a.m. The Present Word Sunday School Class continues throughout the summer, meeting at 9:00 a.m. More information about a summer elective class is coming soon!

WORSHIP NOTES

We celebrate our 2026 Confirmation Class today: Parker Bragg, Robert Davis, Grace Gottfried, and Victoria Patton.

This morning our 3rd and 4th graders will receive a personalized Bible from Highland. This is a reminder for all of us that Holy Scriptures are at the center of our lives. Those receiving Bibles today are Lydia Bass, Oliver Chandler, Cora Eberle, and Max Switzer.

We welcome our guest organist, Reid Gilliam, to worship today.

***Bless You!*—Our prayers for one another.** FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17, please pray for Chad Archer, Brittany Puckett, Maxwell, Banks and Penelope Archer; Jerry and Leslie Greene; Henry, Julie and Christina Heidtmann; Terry and Sarah Mixon; Stephan Reavis and Eddie Draughn; Dillon Robertson; Cathy Shaffner. *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

Sunday May 17

- 9:15 a.m. Confirmands and Session Breakfast, Gathering Place
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Congregational Lunch, Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Hygiene Kit Packing, Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Worship Committee, Sanctuary

Monday May 18

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Matthew 25 Book Group, Salem Room

Tuesday May 19

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Camel City Coffee
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Christian Education Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Listening to Black Voices Group

Wednesday May 20

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 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 May 21

- 5:45 p.m. Community Service Committee, 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 four 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.

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

Highland Is Going Canoeing! Join us on May 30 for a Highland-family adventure with The Dan River Company. Ages 10 and up are welcome. Please only sign up if you know for certain that you will participate. Sign up online through a weekly email or by scanning our QR code below.

Highland's Annual Night Out at the Dash! June 3, 6:30 p.m.: We hope all of you will sign up to join us for this evening of great fellowship and possibly exciting baseball. Reserve your (\$12) tickets now.

ArtRaegous Signups are coming soon! We have a full and fun set of offerings once again! Please mark the dates on your calendar: June 22–25.

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



Service

Moore Food Pantry: For the month of May we are asking for donations of rice. Thanks!

Diaper Drive Through Father's Day! Our annual diaper drive, benefitting Shalom Project and Clemmons Food Pantry, runs now through June 21. We accept opened and unopened packages as well as adult diapers and baby wipes.

Children

Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m., through Today 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

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.

Young Adults

Thursday Gathering May 28 7:00 p.m. at Fiddlin' Fish. Join us for the final Thursday gathering until the fall season.

Summer Cookout May 30 1:00 p.m. at the home of Grace and Patrick. Bring a dish to share.

Adults

Sunday Church School Offerings through Today:

- 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. All are welcome!