



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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www.highlandpres.org

2380 Cloverdale Avenue

Winston-Salem, NC 27103-2012

JULY 26, 2026 • SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 26, 2026

10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Prelude in B-Flat Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us rejoice in the God of all creation!

All: **God's steadfast love surrounds us from
generation to generation.**

One: Come, lift your hearts to God who guides, sustains, and blesses.

All: **We will sing of God's goodness and proclaim God's glory.**

One: Let all the people praise the Lord!

All: **Let us worship God.**

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

You know us fully and love us completely.

We confess that we do not always trust your goodness.

We grasp for what we fear we may not receive,

treat your blessings as though there we not enough,
and allow fear to shape the ways we treat one another.

Forgive us when we hide the truth

and seek our own good without regard for our neighbors.

Restore what our fear and striving have broken.

Free us from fear and teach us to live with
honesty, generosity, and trust.

The prayer continues in a time of silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

***JOYFUL RESPONSE**

Glory to God

GTG 583



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.

THE WORD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Page 166

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 27:1-23

Page 23

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

SERMON

Scarce Blessings

Courtney Stevens

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

***HYMN 693**

Though I May Speak

GIFT OF LOVE

***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.

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.

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

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

ANTHEM

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Paul E. Koch

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his
excellent Word. What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who
for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, I will still give
the aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my
righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not
overflow; for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy
deepest distress.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to
his foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no
never, no never forsake. No, never forsake!

*DOXOLOGY

GTG 608

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

* HYMN 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS

*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.

*POSTLUDE

Because He Lives

arr. John F. Wilson

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 Rev. Joe Blankinship assisting as liturgist in our worship leadership this morning.

A Gift of Music and Ministry: We are grateful for a generous gift from anonymous donors that enabled Highland to acquire two exceptional instruments: a fully restored Steinway AIII, featured in today's prelude and postlude, and a Boston GP-178 grand piano for the choir room. Highland's other pianos will continue their ministry in new locations. The Vogel will move to the chapel, while the Yamaha, given by the Rogers family in memory of Peggy Rogers and used in countless worship services, will continue to bless our congregation in the Fellowship Hall. A dedicatory recital featuring the Steinway is being planned, with details to come. We give thanks to our donors and to the Piano Committee members: Miriam Davie, Bruce Patterson, and Susan Bates for their expertise, vision, and many hours of dedicated work.

Bless You!—Our prayers for one another. **FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 19**, please pray for TR and Susan Bowers; Phyllis Clemmer; Becky Davis; Marc, Wendy, Elizabeth, Hunter and Alison Eppley; Anna Thorup. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

Bless Our Neighbors!—Our prayers for our community. **FOR THE MONTH OF JULY**, please pray for our neighbors who provide support and care for older adults through *Senior Services* and *The Shepherd Center*.

CALENDAR

Sunday July 26

- 9:00 a.m. Present Word, Room 124
- 9:00 a.m. Deeper Dive, Room 126
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Lemonade in the Shade, Patio
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Lunch, The Loop

Monday July 27

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor

Tuesday July 28

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Camel City Coffee
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Salem Room

- 1:30 p.m. Moore Food Pantry, Curbside

Wednesday July 29

- 10:30 a.m. Caregiver Support Group, Ardmore Room
- 11:00 a.m. Lamentations & Laughter, AB 5
- 5:30 p.m. Highland Ukuleles, Room 126

Thursday July 30

- 5:30 p.m. Youth & Young Adults Committee, AB 4

Saturday August 1

- 1:00 p.m. Young Adults Cook-Out, Home of Patrick and Grace Chao

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. Highland has a safe and engaging Nursery for our youngest children (ages 0-5 years) on the first floor of the Education Building. We have a professional child care provider along with several volunteer Highland members who have all been trained with our Child and Youth Protection Policy. Age-appropriate toys, books and activities keep your child engaged as parents and grandparents attend the worship service. If you need help locating the Nursery, please ask a Greeter.

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

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

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



Service

Collection boxes for all the following Drives can be found in the Gallery Hallway. Thank you!

Moore Food Pantry: For the month of July, we are asking for donations of cereal.

Moore Food Pantry School Supply Drive: Through August 2, we will be collecting school supplies for children of Moore Elementary. We are asking for donations of backpacks, composition books, colored pencils, pencils, erasers (pencil top and rectangular), colored two pocket folders, washable markers, glue sticks, crayons, hand sanitizer, scissors, headphones, and pencil pouches or pencil boxes.

Forsyth Prison Ministry: Highland has a partnership with Forsyth Prison Ministry, and they need help stocking their hygiene closet. Now through August 2, we are collecting full sized bars of soap, full sized stick deodorant, travel size toothpaste and travel size shampoo.

The Earth Care Committee is collecting used sneakers for GotSneakers. Learn more about this wonderful recycling program by visiting their website www.gotsneakers.com.

Children

Sunday Mornings, 10:00 a.m. 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.

Youth

Quest for the Best: Pizza continues today, July 26, at noon, at The Loop.

Adults

Summer Sunday Church School Offerings:
9:00 a.m. *The Present Word*, Room 124
9:00 a.m. Deeper Dive: A Summer Series of Faith-Shaping Video Podcasts, Room 126

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!

Faith & Film, Monday, August 10:

Join us at the Sherwood Restaurant at 7:00 p.m. as we discuss *Project Hail Mary* (2026).