



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

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 • TWENTY-THIRD 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 el-
ement of the
service, you are
invited to rise
in body or spirit.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Prelude Modale

Jean Langlais

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus promises to be present
wherever his people gather in his name.

All: Christ meets us here.

One: We come not because we have mastered the way of love,

All: but because we are still learning how to live together in grace.

One: We come to listen, to speak truth, to seek peace,
and to begin again.

All: We come trusting the God who gathers and reconciles us.

One: People of God, let us worship the Lord.

All: With gratitude and joy, let us worship God.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN 409

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you call us to live together in love
yet we avoid hard conversations,
hold tightly to old hurts,
and rush to judge others.
Forgive our pride, our fear, and our resentment.
Give us courage to speak truth with love,
humility to listen with grace,
and patience to seek reconciliation.
Draw us closer to you and to one another
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 149

Page 583

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 18:15-20

Page 20

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

SERMON

The Faith We Cannot Practice Alone

Courtney Stevens

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.

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

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.

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

ANTHEM

Feed Us, Jesus

David M. Henkelmann

Feed us, Jesus, we in hunger stand. Feed us, Jesus, from your timeless hand: the
broken bread of life, the love that we all need, O feed us, Jesus, feed us.

Lead us, Jesus, gently day by day. Lead us, Jesus, show us each the way to walk your
different walk, from fears and hungers freed, O lead us, Jesus, lead us.

* 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 COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*HYMN 769

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

(We will sing verses 1, 2, and 3)

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 744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

*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

Fantasia in G Major

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

Our guest liturgist today is Scott Templeton.

Bless You!—Our prayers for one another. FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6, please pray for Ross Broadway and Zac Campbell; Ken and Kay Chalk; Molly Henning; Jean Loftis; Olivier Sevin; Courtney Stevens; John Thomas. *The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)*

Bless Our Neighbors!—Our prayers for our community. FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, please pray for our neighbors who provide healthcare for those in need through the *Community Care Center* and the *Shalom Project*.

CALENDAR

Sunday September 6

9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Lemonade in the Shade, Patio
11:30 a.m. Youth Advisors training, AB 4

Monday September 7

Office Closed Holiday
7:00 p.m. Fellowship & Communications Committee, Ardmore Room

Tuesday September 8

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Camel City Coffee

1:30 p.m. Moore Food Pantry, Curbside
5:45 p.m. Diaconate meeting, Ardmore Room
7:00 p.m. Session meeting, Ardmore Room

Wednesday September 9

10:30 a.m. Caregiver Support Group, Ardmore Room
10:30 a.m. Salemtowne Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Lamentations & Laughter, AB 5
5:30 p.m. Highland Ukuleles, Room 126
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, Room 100

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: 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.

Highland's Rally Day: On September 13, we hope all of you will join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 for a wonderful potluck breakfast. Please bring a dish to share with others. There will be no church school so that everyone can participate in the breakfast. Worship will return to 11:00 a.m. On September 20, Christian Education for all ages will return at 9:30 a.m.

Special Fall Forum, October 4: We are excited to announce that we have author and musician **David Lamotte** leading a Forum in our Sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. Following the Forum, we will enjoy dinner together at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. At 6:30 p.m., all are invited to enjoy a wonderful concert by David. Reservations are required for the meal, but not for the Forum or Concert. Please invite your friends, family and neighbors to this wonderful event!

CROP Walk: Save the date for the annual walk that will take place on October 18. All are encouraged to participate by either walking or by making a monetary donation. Watch for more information coming soon!

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



Service

Moore Food Pantry: Highland and Temple Emmanuel team up to provide a food pantry for the children of Moore Elementary and their families twice a month. For the month of September, we are asking for donations of canned beans (no green beans please).

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

Youth Fall Kick-Off: join us on September 13, 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we begin our new season together.

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!