



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

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 • TWENTY-FIFTH 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.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 11:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

MOMENT FOR MISSION

El Buen Pastor

Pastor Jorge Vazquez

PRELUDE

Creator of Light

Jehan Alain

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

All: God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: Let us live in a way that is worthy of the gospel,

All: standing firm in the Spirit, side by side.

One: Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of abundant goodness, hear our prayer.

We confess that we want your grace for ourselves,
but too often wish punishment or exclusion on others.

We judge the efforts and motives of others,
while ignoring our own faults.

Forgive us when we let jealousy overtake us.

Forgive our pettiness when you are generous to others.

Forgive us, we pray, when we feel slighted by you.

Help us to be more merciful toward one another,
we pray in the name of Christ Jesus 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

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Page 861

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 20:1-16

Page 21

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

SERMON

The Trouble with Grace

Randy Harris

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

***HYMN 724**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ANGEL'S STORY

***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

ANTHEM

Steal Away

arr. Patrick Dupré Quigley

Dr. Caryn Greco, soprano

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus!
Steal away, steal away home; I ain't got long to stay here.
My Lord, he calls me; he calls me by the thunder.
The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain't got long to stay here.
Green trees are bending; and sinners stand a trembling.
The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain't got long to stay here.

*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 grace of God
calls for a response!

Our giving is
offered in a spirit of
gratitude for
God's blessings.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

* HYMN 267

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

MADRID

*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

Litanies

Jehan Alain

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

Today's Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Carolyn Johnson, by her family, Jon, Joyce, Rich, Richmond, Madeline and John.

***Bless You!*—Our prayers for one another.** FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20, please pray for Carolyn and Michael Birk; Michael Eberle; Pam and Fred Kahl; Emily, Jim and Libby Sartin; Doug Turner. *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 20

- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 1:15 p.m. Earth Care Team, Salem Room
- 4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth, AB 4
- 5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth, AB 5

Monday September 21

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

Tuesday September 22

- 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 September 23

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Fling Meal, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Room 100
- 7:00 p.m. Fling Program, *Storytelling*, Ardmore Room

Thursday September 24

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Ardmore Room
- 4:00 p.m. Membership Committee, Ardmore Room
- 7:30 p.m. Young Adults, Winston Salem Public House

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

Mid-Week Fling Meal, September 23, 6:00 p.m.: Join us as we share a wonderful meal catered by The Olive Tree, followed by a community storytelling program in the Ardmore Room led by Courtney Stevens. *Reservations for Fling are required.*

Special Fall Forum, October 4: We are excited to host author and musician David Lamotte as he leads a Forum in our Sanctuary at 4:00. Dinner will take place at 5:30, and the evening culminates with a concert at 6:30. *Reservations are required for the meal, but not for the Forum or Concert.*

CROP Walk: The annual walk takes place on October 18. All are encouraged to participate by either walking or by making a monetary donation.

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



Service

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

Moore Food Pantry: 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, 9:30 a.m., Faith Formation for Children: Classes for children, 3 years old through 4th Grade, are located on

the third floor of the Education Building.

Sunday Mornings, 11:00 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 Fellowship Challenge Night:

Middle (4:00 p.m.) and Senior High (5:00 p.m.) youth are invited for a night of fun competition and challenge. We'll also share dinner together during the overlap between groups.

Young Adults

Thursday Nights are back! Gather at 7:30 p.m. at Winston Salem Public House to discuss David Lamotte's TEDx talk "Why Heroes Don't Change the World."

Adults

Sunday Church School Offerings 9:30 a.m.:

The Present Word, Room 124

Lectionary Café, Salem Room

Parents' Coffee & Conversation, Room 126

You Are Changing the World, Whether You Like

It Or Not, Ardmore Room

Little Steps, Big Faith, Highland's Chapel

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!