



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 27, 2026 • TWENTY-SIXTH 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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 11:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A WORD OF WELCOME

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Bearing Fruit That Lasts

Andy Scott

PRELUDE

God of the Movements and Martyrs
Spencer Ayscue and Caroline Mendenhall

David LaMotte

God of the movements and martyrs, God of the powerless child,
God of broken and hopeless and unreconciled,
God of the just and the faithful, God of the night and the day,
God of the whole of creation, in your name we pray.
Many have followed the savior into the face of the storm,
Strengthened by long generations, by love they were formed.
In basements of tall steepled churches, in shadows of fences and walls,
In alleys and hallways of power, they answered your call.

Now it's our turn to do justice, humbly we rise to the day,
Give us the strength and the wisdom to walk in your way.
Gather the loaves and the fishes, share until all have been fed,
Walk in compassion and mercy, by love we'll be led,
Standing in circles surrounding, all holding hands while we pray,
When powers bear down on the helpless, we'll stand in the way.
God of the worn and the wounded, let us be healed by the truth,
When doorways are blocked we will lower our friends through the roof.

God of the circle that holds us, God of the ones pushed away,
We will reach out to our neighbors, in your name we'll say:
No matter your creed or your country, no matter the hue of your skin,
Your age, who you love, or the body your soul was born in,
No matter the places you're broken, no matter the things you have done,
Lay down that weight on the altar, a new day's begun.
You are a child of the maker, you are beloved and known,
Join us in work of the kingdom, we welcome you home.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Hallelujah! Servants of God, praise the name of the Lord.

All: Bless the Lord's name now and always.

One: Praise the Lord's name from east to west.

All: Praise the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF PRAISE

THE CONFESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, you have shown us in Christ
that love looks not to its own interests,
but to the interests of others.

We lament how little we resemble you
in humility, dedication, and love.

We are driven too often by ambition and conceit.

We defend our views, arguing without understanding.

We speak of love, but resist the sacrifices love requires.

Gracious God, forgive us. Reshape us by your Spirit,
that we may will and work for your purpose.

The prayer continues in a time of silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

*JOYFUL RESPONSE

Glory to God

GTG 583

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*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

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 25:1-10 Page 502

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 21:23-32 Page 23

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

SERMON *Saying, and Doing, Yes* Randy Harris

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*HYMN 691 *Lord, When I Came into This Life*

LAND OF REST

*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 Leslie Kamtman

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

Creation Will Be at Peace

Anna Laura Page

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.

The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed,
their young will play together; a little child will lead, a little child will lead.

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
In the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.

The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw.
They will war no more, they will war no more;
a child will lead them all, will lead them all.

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
In the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace,
Creation will be at peace.

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!

*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 741

Guide My Feet

GUIDE MY FEET

*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

Westminster Carillon

Louis Vierne

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Prelude, *God of the Movements and Martyrs*, was composed by David LaMotte for the 85th Anniversary of the North Carolina Council of Churches. Please see the back of the bulletin for details about next Sunday's Fall Forum and Concert, led by LaMotte.

***Bless You!*—Our prayers for one another.** FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27, please pray for Corinne Bass; Matt and Cordelia Hux; Katie Pepper; Sara and Bruce Smith; Rhenda Steele. *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 27

- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery provided), Sanctuary
- 12:30 p.m. Officer Preparation, Ardmore Room
- 4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth, AB 4
- 5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth, AB 5

Monday September 28

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

Tuesday September 29

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation, Camel City Coffee
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Ministry Committee

Wednesday September 30

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Room 100

Thursday October 1

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Ardmore Room
- 6:00 p.m. Congregational Care Committee, Salem 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

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 Prayer Lab:

Middle (4:00 p.m.) and Senior High (5:00 p.m.) we're getting creative with prayer. Join us for a hands-on evening exploring unexpected ways to connect with God. 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!