

Invitation to Worship Jim England

Prelude arr. Noel Rawsthorne
VENI EMMANUEL

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD

The Prophecy Renee Purtlebaugh
Zephaniah 3:14-20 (Pew Bible page 862 – OT)
Heaven and earth will pass away
but the word of the Lord stands forever.
Thanks be to God.

Advent Refrain A. Echols
Nothing Is Impossible for God

No-thing is im-pos-si-ble for God, but when and where we least ex-pect it, look a-
mong the straw and stars: The Mes-si-ah is com-ing.

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Joy Miriam and Bob Elliott (9:30)
Jackie, Nathan, Owen, and Wes Marrs (11:00)
As we light our third Advent candle,
we pray for hope, peace, and joy.
Come now, O child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Joy.

Hymn (83) † HYFRYDOL
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Prayer of Expectancy Jim Shelton

WHEN AND WHERE WE LEAST EXPECT

Anthem Elaine Hagenberg
O Come, Emmanuel
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely
exile here until the Son of God appear. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by Thine Advent here, and drive away the shades of night, and pierce
the clouds and bring us light! Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to Thee
O Israel. O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind; bid
envy, strife, and quarrels cease, and fill the world with Heaven’s peace. O rejoice!
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

LOOK AMONG THE STRAW AND STARS

Prayer of Confession Carol Harston
**We gather together as people who long to lean into joy and yet we are
afraid to do so. Too often, we trust the certainty of fear and what might**

**go wrong more than we trust the possibility that You might lift our spirit
and surprise our souls. We fail to draw water with joy from the well of
salvation, fearing that Your promises of sustenance for the journey and
our thirst being quenched will not actually come to be. And we do not
dare to sit in a place of joy too long, feeling guilty because of the chaos
and suffering of those around us, rather than embodying joy as we work
with You that all might experience an abundance of justice and love.
O God who is great in our midst, forgive our fear and our trust in it. Infuse
us with joy that disempowers fear and instead nurtures our trust in Your
promise to us, the Christ child, who comes as a promise of abiding joy
for all. Amen.**

Anthem Ola Gjeilo
Spotless Rose

A Spotless Rose is growing, sprung from a tender root, of ancient seers’ foreshowing,
of Jesse promised fruit; Its fairest bud unfolds to light amid the cold, cold winter,
and in the dark midnight. The Rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said, is from
its sweet root springing in Mary, purest Maid; through God’s great love and might
the Blessed Babe she bare us in a cold, cold winter’s night.

Words of Assurance – from Isaiah 12 Carol Harston (9:30)
Perry Dixon (11:00)

We will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is our strength.
With joy we will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And we will say in that day:
**Give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name,
make know God’s deeds among the nations;
proclaim that God’s name is exalted.**
Sing praises to the Lord.
**Shout aloud and sing for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

The Exchange of Peace
Hymn (148) GREENSLEEVES
What Child Is This

Prayers of the People Renee Purtlebaugh
Anthem Will Todd

My Lord Has Come
Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels; no place for them but
a stable. My Lord has come. Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in
heaven; no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. His love will hold me,
His love will cherish me. Love will cradle me. Lead me to see him, sages and
shepherds and angels; no place but a stable. My Lord has come.

The Epistle Lesson
Philippians 4:4-7 (Pew Bible page 195 – NT)
When and where we least expect it, **JOY is coming.**

Anthem Paul W. Lohman
What Child

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping? Whom angels
greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ
the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste to bring him laud, the
babe, the son of Mary! Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are
feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. So
bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own him. The King
of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

THE MESSIAH IS COMING

Gospel Lesson † Jim England
Luke 3:7-18 (Pew Bible page 59 – NT)

Sermon Jim England
What Then Shall We Do?

Hymn (124) † THE FIRST NOEL
The First Noel

Mission Moment Missy Smith (9:30)
Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons (11:00)

Offertory Prayer

Choral Offertory Trad. Irish Carol
arr. Howard Helvey
Wexford Carol

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind what our good
God for us has done in sending His beloved Son. With Mary holy we should pray, to
God with love this Christmas Day; in Bethlehem upon that morn, there was blessed
Messiah born. Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding
sheep; to whom God’s angel did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.
“Prepare and go,” the angels said, “ To Bethlehem, be not afraid. For there you’ll
find, this happy morn, a princely Babe, sweet Jesus, born.” With thankful heart and
joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find, and as God’s angel had foretold,
they did our Saviour Christ behold. Within a manger He was laid and by His side
a virgin maid, attending on the Lord of Life, who came on earth to end all strife.

News for the Community Carol Harston (9:30)
Perry Dixon (11:00)

Doxology † VENI EMMANUEL
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Benediction Jim England

Advent Refrain A. Echols
Nothing Is Impossible for God

Postlude YORKSHIRE
arr. Noel Rawsthorne
Christians, Awake!

† For those who are able, we invite you to stand.

Today in Worship

We ask worshipers to read the lines in **bold** in today's litanies and printed scriptures.

Highland's deacons (wearing identification name tags) are available at various locations for prayer, questions or information. Deacons are lay ministers of the church who have been called to a ministry of service.

Listening Assist Devices are available. Please see our sound technician or an usher for assistance.

Please express your gratitude for the original artwork created for our Advent bulletins by Lou Ann Iler, Highland member and Private Art Instructor in Louisville.

We are grateful to Highland's Sanctuary Choir and String Ensemble, Bruce Maples, director, for their gifts of music in the Advent Season.

Prayers of the People

New Concerns

George Ann Gash, surgery recovery
Richard Ryan, surgery recovery

Ongoing Concerns

Dorothy Borrmann
Bret Brummett, home, rehab
Rose Hawkins, ankle surgery recovery
Michelle Kanatzar, surgery recovery
Reece Little, stage 4 metastatic cancer
Jim McBee, chemo

Ongoing Concerns (continued)

Kathy McFall, health, recovery
Georgianna Miller
Bill Mosier, tests
Carole Pardue, surgery recovery
Betty Unruh, home, pancreatitis

Those Serving in Missions and Justice

Greg Clark, doctoral research in Jordan
Sarah and David Halter, home assignment from Tanzania

Notes and News for the Community of Faith

Welcome to Highland! If you are visiting with us, we are honored that you are here. Please find a minister or deacon for more information about the ministries of Highland Baptist Church.

Highland's Orchestra invites everyone to an evening of **Holidays, Holy Days, tonight at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Sanctuary. A Christmas delight for all ages. Please join us!

Highland offers two **Christmas Eve Services** for your family and friends to attend. The **candlelight service at 4:00 p.m.** includes singing Christmas carols and reading the Christmas story from Luke's gospel. Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers, and twos for this service. The **Service of Lessons and Carols at 6:00 p.m.** is based on a centuries-old English tradition telling the Christmas story through the reading of scriptures, singing of carols, and gifts of music by the Sanctuary Choir. A beautiful candlelight ending will send you on your way as we mark the birth of Jesus. Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers for this service.

All are invited and encouraged to consider year-end financial gifts to the work of Love through Highland. All gifts must be postmarked by December 31 to be counted in your **2018 giving**. To inquire about your giving year-to-date, contact Deb Ackerson, Financial Secretary, in the church office.

We invite you to join us for **one worship service on Sunday, December 30, at 10:00 a.m.** There will be no Bible Study or Worship Care. Childcare will not be provided for this service.

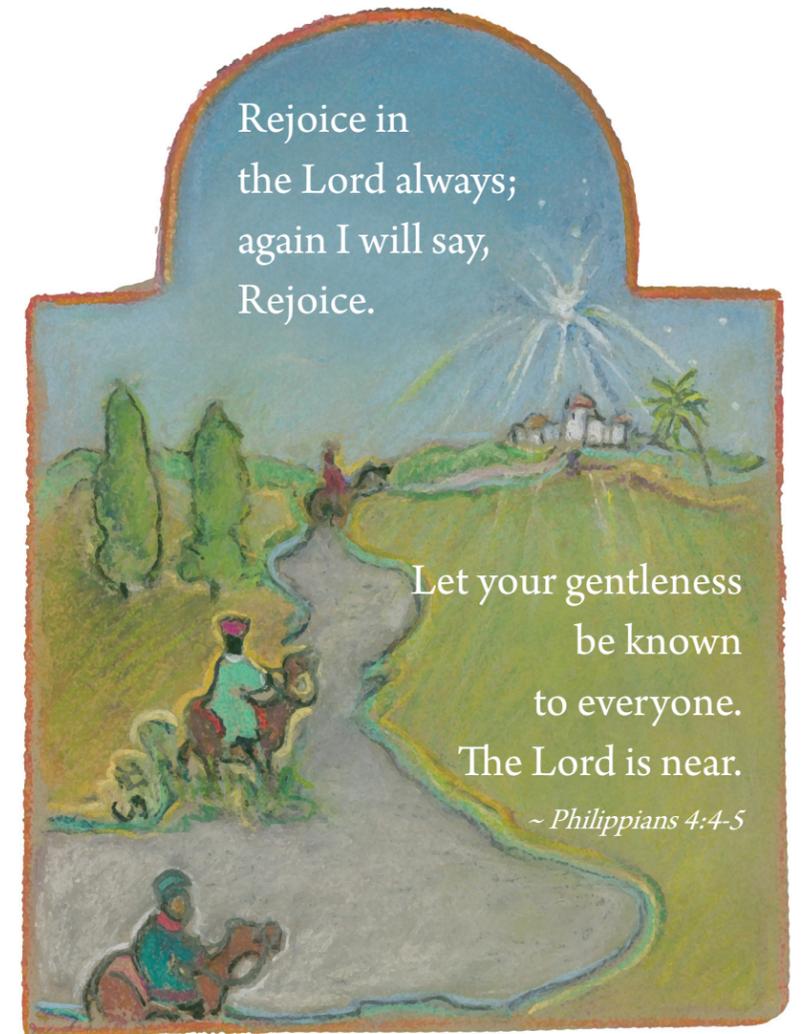
Advent Reminders

- Alternative Gift Cards are on sale this month in the Commons to support Habitat for Humanity and the Louisville Community Bail Fund.
- Children's Worship will not meet December 2 through January 6.

2019 offering envelope boxes are set out alphabetically in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Commons. Please pick up yours today!

Mark Your Calendars

December 16: No 8:30 a.m. Worship Service; Christmas Orchestra Concert (PM)
December 19: No Evening Activities/Supper
December 22: Youth Winter Lock-In
December 24: Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 6:00
December 24-25: Church Offices Closed
December 26: No Evening Activities/Supper
December 30: One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
January 1: Church Offices Closed
January 2: No Evening Activities/Supper
January 3: Theology on Tap
January 21: Church Offices Closed



Rejoice in
the Lord always;
again I will say,
Rejoice.

Let your gentleness
be known
to everyone.
The Lord is near.

~ *Philippians 4:4-5*



Our Mission... God's Love compels us to cultivate a safe, welcoming community of faith where all are challenged to discover, grow, and serve, as together we boldly live out the worship that is our very lives.

Our Vision... We dream of being an engaging, vibrant Christian church, where transformed people are joining the work of God, creating a world where justice and Love are abundant.

Deb Ackerson
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Jerre Bassett
FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN

Frank Bassett
PART-TIME CUSTODIAN

Lauren Blackwell
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Fred Bogert
MUSIC DIRECTOR TO
FRIDAY CHURCH

Don Burke
PASTOR EMERITUS

Linda Campbell
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Kathy Collier
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Perry Dixon
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Andria Eadens
PUBLICATIONS/MEMBERSHIP/
OFFICE MANAGER

Austin Echols
ORGANIST/MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Jim England
INTERIM PROCLAIMER

Carol Harston
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR
FAITH FORMATION AND
CONGREGATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Lauren Jones Mayfield
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO
YOUNG ADULTS AND MISSION

Walter McWhorter
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Kim Shippey
DEACON CHAIR

Becki Streif
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

This Week at Highland

Sunday, December 16

9:30 a.m. Worship
Bible Study 1
10:30 a.m. Community Gathering
11:00 a.m. Worship
Bible Study 2
5:30 p.m. Global Partnerships Ministry Team (103)
7:00 p.m. *Holidays, Holy Days* Christmas Orchestra Concert (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 17

5:30 p.m. Young Adult Ministry Group (Fireside)
6:00 p.m. Youth Ministry Group (Youth Suite)
6:30 p.m. Deacon Christmas Party (Off-site)

Tuesday, December 18

5:30 p.m. Hope for a Brighter Day (Fellowship Hall)
10:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, December 19

No Evening Activities/Supper

Thursday, December 20

7:00 p.m. Environmental Action Ministry Team (103)
Alcoholics Anonymous (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, December 21

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Gathering (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 p.m. Friday Church (Sanctuary)
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Fellowship Hall)

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 16, 2018