

Invitation to Worship Jim England

Lenten Refrain PLEADING SAVIOR

*As We Journey Through This Season*

**As we journey through this season, pilgrims through a thirsty land,  
quench us with your living presence; guide us with your loving hand.  
Wand'ring people, here we gather, called to rest along our way.  
God who blesses earth with spring-time, grant us Sabbath joy this day!**

The Hebrew Lesson Perry Dixon  
Isaiah 55:1-9 (Pew Bible pages 671-672 – OT)

Prayer of Confession Lauren Jones Mayfield

All loving, compassionate God, have mercy on us,  
who are so caught up in the rush of daily lives,  
we forget it is not our reputation at stake, but Yours.

**You call us in the night, part the waters,  
and send pillars of cloud and smoke to guide us.**

We are preoccupied with getting things right, getting ahead,  
and proving to others we are just as good,  
worthy and competent as we imagine them to be.

**We forget we are not the One upon whom all life depends.**

**We take credit, and oppress those we presume to measure  
against our own success. Forgive us.**

O God, the author of all life, who sets stars in the midnight sky  
and the seas with phosphorescence, we return to You.

**Teach us to lean, to listen, to love, and to give thanks.**

Words of Assurance  
Isaiah 55:10-13 (Pew Bible page 672 – OT)

The Exchange of Peace Carol Harston

Prayer of Praise

Gathering Our Offerings *O God, You Are My God Alone*  
Please sing Stanza One from the far right panel of today's bulletin.

The Gospel Lesson Jim England  
Luke 13:1-9 (Pew Bible page 74 – NT)

Sermon *Suffering, Repenting, Fertilizing*

Song of Renewal *O God, You Are My God Alone*  
Please sing Stanza Two from the far right panel of today's bulletin.

News for the Community Renee Purtlebaugh

Benediction Jim England

Invitation to Worship Jim England

Meditation arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*  
Children's Handbell Choir

CONTRITION AND GRATITUDE

The Hebrew Lesson Lauren Jones Mayfield  
Isaiah 55:1-9 (Pew Bible pages 671-672 – OT)

Prayer of Confession

All loving, compassionate God, have mercy on us,  
who are so caught up in the rush of daily lives,  
we forget it is not our reputation at stake, but Yours.

**You call us in the night, part the waters,  
and send pillars of cloud and smoke to guide us.**

We are preoccupied with getting things right, getting ahead,  
and proving to others we are just as good,  
worthy and competent as we imagine them to be.

**We forget we are not the One upon whom all life depends.**

**We take credit, and oppress those we presume to measure  
against our own success. Forgive us.**

*Choir: Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy on us.*

You, O God, could ruin us, could put us in our places.  
Instead, You forgive again and again.

**While we chase crazy schedules and illusions of importance,  
You wait patiently. You hold our hands, as we cross  
the busy intersections of our lives.**

O God, the author of all life, who sets stars in the midnight sky  
and the seas with phosphorescence, we return to You.

**Teach us to lean, to listen, to love, and to give thanks. Amen.**

Children's Anthem Allen Pote

*A Prayer for Mercy*  
Chorister Choir Ensemble

Words of Assurance  
Isaiah 55:10-13 (Pew Bible page 672 – OT)

Lenten Refrain PLEADING SAVIOR

*As We Journey Through This Season*

**As we journey through this season, pilgrims through a thirsty land,  
quench us with your living presence; guide us with your loving hand.  
Wand'ring people, here we gather, called to rest along our way.  
God who blesses earth with spring-time, grant us Sabbath joy this day!**

Prayer for the Journey Renee Purtlebaugh

The Exchange of Peace

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

The Morning Psalm  
Psalm 63:1-8 (Pew Bible page 516 – OT)

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

Hymn of Praise † KINGSFOLD

*O God, You Are My God Alone*

**O God, you are my God alone, whom eagerly I seek,  
though longing fills my soul with thirst and leaves my body weak.  
Just like a dry and barren land awaits a freshening shower,  
I long within your house to see your glory and your power.**

**Your faithful love surpasses life, evoking all my praise.  
Through every day, to bless your name, my hands in joy I'll raise.  
My deepest needs you satisfy as with a sumptuous feast.  
So, on my lips and in my heart, your praise has never ceased.**

Prayer of Praise

PROCLAMATION AND REFLECTION

The Gospel Lesson † Jim England  
Luke 13:1-9 (Pew Bible page 74 – NT)

*Children grades K-2 may be dismissed for Children's Worship in the 11:00 service.*

Sermon *Suffering, Repenting, Fertilizing*

RENEWAL AND RESPONSE

Hymn of Response † SHADES MOUNTAIN

*The Tree of Life*



1. There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom, whose leaves hold  
Trebles: 2. Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!" There on its  
Bass: 3. Thorns not his own are tan - gled in its fo - liage; our greed has  
Choir: 4. See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come; hear what the  
5. This is my end - ing, this my res - ur - rec - tion; in - to your  
6. All heav'n is sing - ing, "Thanks to Christ whose Pas - sion of - fers in



forth the heal - ing of the na - tions: Tree of all knowl - edge,  
branch - es see the scars of suf - fring; see where the ten - drils  
starved it, our de - spite has choked it. Yet, look! it lives! its  
Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry! Give me your sick - ness,  
hands, Lord, I com - mit my spir - it. This have I searched for;  
mer - cy heal - ing, strength, and par - don. Peo - ples and na - tions,



Tree of all com - pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
of our hu - man self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
grief has not de - stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
give me all your sor - row, I will give bless - ing."  
now I can pos - sess it. This ground is ho - ly.  
take it, take it free - ly!" A - men! My Mas - ter!

Mission Moment and Offertory Prayer Marilyn Sanders (9:30)  
Roy Fuller (11:00)

Offertory Robert Buckley Farlee  
*Voluntary on SHADES MOUNTAIN*

News for the Community Renee Purtlebaugh

Doxology † WONDROUS LOVE

**To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing!  
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM,"  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!**

Benediction Jim England

## Today in Worship

We are grateful for the lay leadership in today's services by Jan Forren (9:30) and Bojangles Blanchard (11:00). We ask worshipers to read the lines in **bold** in today's litanies and printed scriptures. In today's worship services, we appreciate the musical leadership of Linda Campbell, Ashley Sumner, Sharon Sanders, and the Children's Handbell Choir, Rick Finklea, director.

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.

Please express your gratitude to Leslie Townsend for the Prayer of Confession in today's services. Leslie is a member of Highland's Worship Ministry Group. Allison Keenan, Highland member and local artist, created the original art for our Lenten bulletins and publications. Please express your gratitude to Allison for sharing her gifts to enrich our Lenten journey.

## Prayers of the People

### New Concerns

**Jim Hawkins**, BE, flu and pneumonia

### Ongoing Concerns

**Colleen Clemons**, shoulder surgery recovery  
**Kelsey and Robert Kahne**, pregnancy loss  
**Kathy McFall**, health, recovery  
**Nancy Miller**, rehab, recovery from a fall

### Ongoing Concerns (continued)

**Bill Mosier**, tests  
**Lisa Shaffer**, back pain  
**Howard Teel**, hip surgery recovery  
**Burke Tinsley**, surgery recovery  
**Betty Unruh**, home, heart and lung issues  
**David Wells**, back pain  
**Paul Whiteley**, heart surgery recovery

## This Week at Highland

### **Sunday, March 24**

8:30 a.m. Worship  
 9:00 a.m. Community Gathering  
 9:30 a.m. Worship  
 Bible Study  
 Highlights Class (Commons)  
 10:30 a.m. Community Gathering  
 11:00 a.m. Worship  
 Bible Study  
 12:15 p.m. Personnel Ministry Group (Pastor's Study)

### **Monday, March 25**

2:00 p.m. HBC Bookends (103)  
 6:30 p.m. Immigration Ministry Team (Commons)

### **Tuesday, March 26**

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

### **Wednesday, March 27**

5:20 p.m. Fellowship Supper (Fellowship Hall)  
 6:00 p.m. Called Business Meeting (Fellowship Hall)  
 Children's Activities (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
 Youth Group (Youth Suite)  
 6:15 p.m. Adult Class—Lenten Courage (Fellowship Hall)  
 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)

### **Thursday, March 28**

7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (Fellowship Hall)

### **Friday, March 29**

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Gathering (Fellowship Hall)  
 6:30 p.m. Friday Church Fifth Friday Fellowship Supper (1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lobby)  
 7:00 p.m. Friday Church (Sanctuary)  
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Fellowship Hall)

### **Saturday, March 30**

11:15 a.m. Cream of the Crop Trip (Off-site)

## 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 to learn about the ministries of Highland Baptist Church.

New visitors and prospective members are encouraged to attend Highland's **Highlights Classes, March 24, 31, and April 14**, in the Commons, during the 9:30 Bible study hour. This class offers an in-depth look at the church so that all may be invited to participate in our congregational life, shared discipleship, and church's mission in the world.

There will be a **Called Business Meeting this Wednesday, March 27**, at 6:00 p.m., to discuss and vote on increasing the number of deacons from twenty-seven to thirty. The decision reflects a desire for the deacons to grow in their pastoral care for the congregation and to ensure coverage for all worship services. Each deacon class will go from nine deacons to ten.

Join us on **Friday, March 29**, at 6:30 p.m., for Friday Church **Fifth Friday Fellowship Dinner**. There will be spaghetti followed by music and an inspirational message. If you would like help, we could use salad, bread, and desserts. Anything would be appreciated. For more information, contact Debbie Lemmon.

All in the church are invited to participate in the Families with Children Easter Festival by **donating individually wrapped candy** for Easter eggs. Please place candy in the bin outside the choir room **by April 10**. Thank you for your support!

**Easter Lilies** to adorn our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday are **now available for purchase!** They are \$15 each and can be made in memory, honor, or appreciation of a loved one. Pick up an order form on the table outside the Sanctuary and drop it off in the offering plate or in the church office no later than Sunday, April 14.

On the fourth Tuesday of each month, Highland's Immigration Ministry Team takes two 8-quart pots of soup to the **La Casita Center**. For many immigrant families served by La Casita, it is the only meal they will have that day. To ensure this ministry continues, the Immigration team needs your help. We are asking for families, Bible study classes, and other groups at Highland to **volunteer for at least one pot of soup** in 2019. To participate, contact Jane Parker or Michael French. The Immigration Ministry Team will provide the pots and will deliver the soup to La Casita. We even have recipes!

### **Adult Wednesday Classes Through March 27**

*Lenten Courage* taught by Dr. Frank Tupper  
*Lenten Group for Parents with Young Children*

### **Mark Your Calendars**

March 24: Highlights Class  
 March 29: Friday Church Fifth Friday Fellowship Supper  
 March 31: Highlights Class  
 April 3: No Wednesday Evening Supper/Activities  
 April 7: Congregational Conversation during the 9:30 and 11:00 Bible study hours  
 April 11: Table Talk  
 April 14: Palm Sunday; Highlights Class; Easter Festival



*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.

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Deb Ackerson</b><br>FINANCIAL SECRETARY            | <b>Kathy Collier</b><br>MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP                                      | <b>Lauren Jones Mayfield</b><br>ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUNG ADULTS AND MISSION |
| <b>Jerre Bassett</b><br>FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN           | <b>Perry Dixon</b><br>ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES                         | <b>Walter McWhorter</b><br>OPERATIONS DIRECTOR                               |
| <b>Frank Bassett</b><br>PART-TIME CUSTODIAN           | <b>Andria Eadens</b><br>PUBLICATIONS/MEMBERSHIP/OFFICE MANAGER                             | <b>Renee Purtlebaugh</b><br>ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES  |
| <b>Lauren Blackwell</b><br>ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR | <b>Austin Echols</b><br>ORGANIST/MUSIC ASSOCIATE   | <b>Kim Shippey</b><br>DEACON CHAIR   |
| <b>Fred Bogert</b><br>MUSIC DIRECTOR TO FRIDAY CHURCH | <b>Jim England</b><br>INTERIM PROCLAIMER   | <b>Kathery Golightly Sanders</b><br>MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR                   |
| <b>Don Burke</b><br>PASTOR EMERITUS                   | <b>Carol Harston</b><br>ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION AND CONGREGATIONAL ENGAGEMENT |  |



You do not have to be good.  
 You do not have to walk on your knees  
 for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.  
 You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
 love what it loves.  
 Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine ...

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
 the world offers itself to your imagination,  
 calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting  
 over and over announcing your place  
 in the family of things.

from *Dream Work*, ~ Mary Oliver



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH  
 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
 MARCH 24, 2019