

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT** **8:30 a.m.**

Invitation to Worship Jim England

Lenten Refrain *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 Epistle Lesson  
Philippians 3:4b-11 (Pew Bible page 194 – NT)

Prayer of Confession Perry Dixon

Loving God, who creates new life from the earth's dust,  
**We confess that we sometimes close our minds to new  
beginnings, new ideas and different perspectives.**  
Merciful God, who brings forth rivers in the midst of deserts,  
**We confess that we often close our hearts to  
those who think or look differently than we do.**  
Journeying God, who travels with us through sorrows and grief,  
**We confess that we routinely close our eyes to those  
who suffer in our community and in our world.**  
Compassionate God, forgive us our insulation and disconnection,  
**Open up our lives and let your love do a new thing in us.**

Words of Assurance – The Morning Psalm  
Psalm 126 (Pew Bible page 561 – OT)

Prayer of Praise Lauren Jones Mayfield

The Exchange of Peace

Gathering Our Offerings *Come, Join Us as We Journey*

**Come, join us as we journey beyond what we have known.  
All seeking hearts are welcome. No need to go alone.  
For there are shadowed valleys and mountains, high and steep,  
and many river crossings with currents swift and deep.**

The Gospel Lesson Jim England  
John 12:1-8 (Pew Bible page 104 – NT)

Sermon *An Unexpected Party*

Celebration of Holy Communion

*All bread served is gluten free.*

*Please place your tithes and offerings in the offering plates as you return to your pew.*

Song of Renewal *Come, Join Us as We Journey*

**And oftentimes a stranger will join us as we go,  
someone who knows us better than we ourselves can know,  
who sits with us at supper and prays and breaks the bread  
then vanishing yet calls us to journey on ahead.**

News for the Community Carol Harston

Benediction Jim England

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT** **9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**

Invitation to Worship Jim England

Meditation Charles Callahan

*Prelude on a theme of Gustav Holst*

**CONTRITION AND GRATITUDE**

Opening Words Lauren Jones Mayfield

As people formed by God, we give praise to God.  
**Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,  
Christ among us –  
God is doing a new thing!**

Lenten Refrain *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 Lauren Jones Mayfield

The Epistle Lesson  
Philippians 3:7-14 (Pew Bible page 194 – NT)

Prayer of Confession Renee Purtlebaugh (9:30)  
Carol Harston (11:00)

Loving God, who creates new life from the earth's dust,  
**we confess that we sometimes close our minds to new  
beginnings, new ideas and different perspectives.**  
Merciful God, who brings forth rivers in the midst of deserts,  
**we confess that we often close our hearts to  
those who think or look differently than we do.**  
Journeying God, who travels with us through sorrows and grief,  
**we confess that we routinely close our eyes to those  
who suffer in our community and in our world.**  
Compassionate God, forgive us our insulation and disconnection,  
**open up our lives and let your love do a new thing in us.**

Words of Assurance – The Morning Psalm  
Psalm 126 (Pew Bible page 561 – OT)

Anthem David Schwoebel

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings*

**PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

Words of Praise Renee Purtlebaugh (9:30)  
Carol Harston (11:00)

As people restored by God, we give praise to God.  
**Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,  
Christ among us –  
God is doing a new thing!**

The Hebrew Lesson  
Isaiah 43:16-21 (Pew Bible page 659 – OT)

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

Hymn † AURELIA  
text by Thomas Troeger

*Come, Join Us as We Journey*

**Come, join us as we journey beyond what we have known.  
All seeking hearts are welcome. No need to go alone.  
For there are shadowed valleys and mountains, high and steep,  
and many river crossings with currents swift and deep.**

**We are not in a hurry. We're called to stop and serve  
whatever needs may greet us round every peak and curve.  
We work toward peace through justice, and where the road ascends  
we catch anew the vision of what our God intends.**

**And oftentimes a stranger will join us as we go,  
someone who knows us better than we ourselves can know,  
who sits with us at supper and prays and breaks the bread  
then vanishing yet calls us to journey on ahead.**

Prayer of Praise

**PROCLAMATION AND REFLECTION**

The Gospel Lesson † Jim England  
John 12:1-8 (Pew Bible page 104 – NT)

Sermon *An Unexpected Party*

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table  
Exchange of Peace  
Prayer of Thanksgiving  
The Lord's Prayer  
Words of Institution  
Reception of the Bread and Cup

*All bread served is gluten free.*

*Please place your tithes and offerings in the offering plates as you return to your pew.*

**RESPONSE AND RENEWAL**

Hymn of Response (467) † THAXTED  
*We Are One in Christ*

Mission Moment and Offertory Prayer Beverly Breyette

News for the Community Carol Harston

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

As people pressing on in faith, we give praise to God.  
**Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert,  
Christ among us –  
God is doing a new thing!**

Postlude Austin Echols

*Lenten Reflections*

## Today in Worship

We are grateful for the lay leadership in today's services by Susan Pierce (9:30) and Bill Ockerman (11:00). We ask worshippers to read the lines in **bold** in today's litanies and printed scriptures.

Following worship, deacons will be at each exit to collect contributions to the church's Fellowship Fund, which helps those in need in our community. 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 Cheryl Davis for the Prayer of Confession in today's services. Cheryl is a member of Highland's Worship Ministry Group.

Please express your gratitude to Allison Keenan, Highland member and local artist, who created the original watercolor for our Lenten bulletins and publications.

## Prayers of the People

### New Concerns

**Bob Elliott**, heart surgery recovery

### Ongoing Concerns

**Colleen Clemons**, shoulder surgery recovery

**Kay Gilbert**, surgery recovery

**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

**Betty Unruh**, home, heart and lung issues

**David Wells**, back pain

**Paul Whiteley**, heart surgery recovery

## 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.

Please make plans to attend **this morning's Congregational Conversation**. We need to allow an hour and a half for each session. Therefore, please note our first session will be **9:00-10:30 a.m.** and the second one will be **10:30-12:00 noon**. In some ways, this is our most important conversation as we will be discussing models of leadership which will be a vital part of how we craft our **"Pastoral Profile"** in seeking candidates for becoming our new pastor.

We are now accepting **ballots for Deacon Nominations**. Ballots are available at the end of each pew and on a table outside the sanctuary. Nominations are **due by Sunday, April 21**. Please prayerfully consider who among our members God might be calling to this group of servant leaders!

Highland's annual **Easter Festival for families with children** (birth-5<sup>th</sup> grade) will be held **next Sunday, April 14**, 3:00-5:00 p.m., rain or shine! Cost is \$5/child, \$10 max per family. RSVP to Renee by this Wednesday, April 10.

All are invited to participate in the Families with Children Easter Festival by **donating individually wrapped candy** for Easter eggs. Please do so by placing candy in the bin outside the choir room **by this Wednesday, April 10**.

We will gather in the sanctuary for **"Cloud of Witnesses: Stories from Saints-In-Process"** **this Wednesday, April 10**, in the sanctuary, where three individuals will share their faith journey guided by our facilitator, Bob Cunningham.

**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 next Sunday, April 14.

### **Holy Week Worship Services at Highland**

April 18: Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.

*A meditative evening of communion, hymns, scripture, and hand-washing to remember.*

April 19: Tenebrae Service, 7:00 p.m.

*A gripping service of darkness, commemorating the shadows of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion.*

April 21: Easter Sunday, 8:30, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

*Joy bursts forth in song and celebration, as Love triumphs over hate. He is risen!*

### **Mark Your Calendars**

April 7: Congregational Conversation

April 10: Cloud of Witnesses: Stories from Saints-in-Process

April 11: Table Talk

April 14: Palm Sunday; Highlights Class; Easter Festival

April 18: Maundy Thursday Service

April 19: Tenebrae Service



Then the delight, when your courage is kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

~ For a New Beginning, John O'Donohue  
*To Bless the Space Between Us*

## This Week at Highland

### **Sunday, April 7**

8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:00 a.m. Congregational Conversation (Fellowship Hall)  
9:30 a.m. Worship  
10:30 a.m. Congregational Conversation (Fellowship Hall)  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. Worship Ministry Group (103)  
12:30 p.m. Orchestra rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
2:00 p.m. Adult Handbell rehearsal (200)

### **Monday, April 8**

6:00 p.m. Ministry Council (200)  
6:30 p.m. Anti-Racism Ministry Team (Commons)

### **Tuesday, April 9**

5:30 p.m. Hope for a Brighter Day (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 p.m. Finance Ministry Group (103)  
10:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (Fellowship Hall)

### **Wednesday, April 10**

5:20 p.m. Fellowship Supper (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 p.m. Children's Activities (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) Youth Group (Youth Suite)  
6:15 p.m. Adult Class—Cloud of Witnesses: Stories from Saints-in-Process (Fellowship Hall)  
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)

### **Thursday, April 11**

6:30 p.m. Table Talk (Off-site)  
7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (Fellowship Hall)

### **Friday, April 12**

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Gathering (Fireside)  
4:00 p.m. Wedding rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
7:00 p.m. Friday Church (Sanctuary)  
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Fellowship Hall)

### **Saturday, April 13**

5:00 p.m. Wedding (Sanctuary)



*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

**Kathy Golightly Sanders**  
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

