

Invitation to Worship Lauren Jones Mayfield

Advent Meditation *What Child is This?*  
Sanctuary Handbells

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Peace Lisa, Ethan, and Elliot Estes

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

**“Prepare the way of the Lord.”**

A choir sings in the silence,

**“Come Emmanuel.”**

Every valley shall be filled.

**every heart shall be made whole,**

for peace is stronger than turmoil,

**and love is louder than hate.**

As we light our second Advent candle,

**we pray for the holy peace of God.**

**Come now, O Child of Mary.**

**Come now, O Prince of Peace.**

Advent Hymn (85) *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming*

Prayer of Expectancy Perry Dixon

The Exchange of Peace *May the PEACE of Christ be with you.*

Gathering Our Offerings (88) *Blest Be the God of Israel*  
Stanzas One and Three

The Prophecy Lauren Jones Mayfield  
Isaiah 11:1-10 (Pew Bible pages 627-628 – OT)

Song of Prophecy *Wake Us From Sleep*

Wake us from sleep, sur - prise us\_\_ God; Your light drives out de - spair: Your  
word has\_\_ prom-ised PEACE for\_\_ all; Your pre - sence is\_\_ our prayer.

Sermon Lauren Jones Mayfield  
*The Darkness of Advent Waiting*

Song of Renewal (256) *We Are People of God's Peace*

News for the Community Renee Purtlebaugh

A Time of Remembrance for Victims of Violence in Our Community  
*Individuals and families are invited to take a cross to place on the lawn.*

Recess to the Front Lawn  
*Please follow the ministers out to the front lawn for the conclusion of the service.*

Benediction on the Lawn

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Meditation Brenda Austin  
*What Child Is This?*  
Sanctuary Handbells

### RING THE BELLS AND SOUND THE TRUMPETS, LET YOUR MUSIC FILL THE EARTH

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Peace Mary Ida and Larry Gray (9:30)  
Bojangles Blanchard, Dominique James,  
and Josiah Blanchard-James(11:00)

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

**“Prepare the way of the Lord.”**

A choir sings in the silence,

**“Come Emmanuel.”**

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for peace is stronger than turmoil,

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**Come now, O Child of Mary.**

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Processional Hymn (85) † PLEADING SAVIOR  
*Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming*

Prayer of Expectancy Leslie Townsend

### SET ALL SELFISH WAYS BEHIND YOU. PURGE YOUR HEARTS OF SINFUL GREED

The Gospel Lesson † Jim England  
Matthew 3:1-12 (Pew Bible pages 2-3 – NT)

Prayer of Confession Renee Purtlebaugh (9:30)  
Perry Dixon (11:00)

**O Holy One, we confess that instead of trusting You, we fear that our needs will not be fulfilled. We are captives to fear. We fear our insignificance, and so we slight, ignore, or deprive others. Lacking faith in Your power to redeem, we become calloused and cynical. The news cycle paralyses us when it should mobilize us. We see ourselves as winners, not losers, right, not wrong, wise, not foolish, leaving others to be wrong, lost, and evil. Have mercy on us. Call us back to our true selves and to the respect and loving care of all creation. Amen.**

Anthem Elaine Hagenberg  
*I Will Be a Child of Peace*

Words of Assurance  
Psalm 72:1-7 from *The Inclusive Psalter*

The Exchange of Peace  
*May the PEACE of Christ be with you.*

Hymn (88) † MERLE'S TUNE

*Blest Be the God of Israel*

Prayers of the People Carol Harston  
God who redeems our past and reveals our future,  
**free us with your whole presence this hour.**

### MEND THE WAYS WHERE PEACE IS BROKEN GIVE YOURSELVES TO TRUE SHALOM

The Prophecy † Lauren Jones Mayfield  
Isaiah 11:1-10 (Pew Bible pages 627-628 – OT)

Song of Prophecy † MORNING SONG

*Wake Us from Sleep*

Wake us from sleep, sur - prise us\_\_ God; Your light drives out de - spair: Your  
word has\_\_ prom-ised PEACE for\_\_ all; Your pre - sence is\_\_ our prayer.

Sermon Lauren Jones Mayfield  
*The Darkness of Advent Waiting*

### HOPE FOR PEACE IS NOW AT HAND

Hymn (256) TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM  
*We Are People of God's Peace*

Offertory Prayer

Offertory Charles Callahan  
*Elegy based on JERUSALEM*

News for the Community Renee Purtlebaugh

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.**

A Time of Remembrance for Victims of Violence in Our Community  
*Individuals and families are invited to take a cross to place on the lawn.*

Recess to the Front Lawn  
*Please follow the ministers out to the front lawn for the conclusion of the service.*

Benediction on the Lawn

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

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

## Today in Worship

We are grateful for the lay leadership in today's services by members of Highland's Anti-Racism Ministry Team: Missy Smith (9:30) and Margaret Pennington (11:00). Phrases from our processional hymn, *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service—praise, confession, proclamation and response.

We are grateful to Leslie Townsend from Highland's Worship Ministry Group for her collaboration with Rev. Lauren Jones Mayfield in planning today's worship services. Please express your gratitude for the original artwork created for our Advent bulletins by Allison Keenan, Highland member and Art Specialist with Shelby County Schools.

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. Children's Worship pauses during the Advent season and returns Sunday, January 12.

## Prayers of the People

### New Concerns

**Margie Besaw**, surgery recovery  
**Mary Rita McDevitt**, hospital, pneumonia, fluid on lungs, AFib  
**Penny Mosier**, surgery recovery

### Ongoing Concerns

**Ainsley Braun**, recovering from fracture  
**Nicole Farnsley**, recovering from fracture  
**James Hikes**, heart issues  
**Reece Little**, new medication for leukemia  
**Joe Powell**, Valhalla rehab, surgery recovery  
**Janet Tharpe**, infection recovery

## This Week at Highland

**Sunday, December 8**  
 8:30 a.m. Worship  
 9:00 a.m. Community Gathering  
 9:30 a.m. Worship  
 Bible Study  
 10:30 a.m. Community Gathering  
 11:00 a.m. Worship  
 Bible Study  
 4:30 p.m. Chorister Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary/2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Children's Department)  
 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Advent Service (Sanctuary)

**Tuesday, December 10**  
 5:30 p.m. Hope for a Brighter Day (Fellowship Hall)  
 6:00 p.m. Finance Ministry Group (103)  
 7:30 p.m. Faithful Giving Ministry Group  
 10:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (Fellowship Hall)

**Wednesday, December 11**  
 No Evening Activities/Supper  
 6:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Thursday, December 12**  
 6:30 p.m. Table Talk (Off-site)  
 7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (Fellowship Hall)

**Friday, December 13**  
 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Gathering (Fireside)  
 7:00 p.m. Friday Church (Sanctuary)  
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Fellowship Hall)

**Saturday, December 14**  
 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra rehearsal (Sanctuary/Commons)  
 9:00 a.m. Delivery of Christmas Baskets

## 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.

Today, we observe **Peace Sunday**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, where we mark the pain and hope of God by placing white crosses on Highland's front lawn in memory of Louisville residents killed in an act of violence. Crosses will create a sad memorial on our lawn during this holiday season but signify our hope that God calls the church to work actively against violence in its many forms. Worshipers in each service will be invited to remember on this day.

We gather tonight for our **Children's Choir Advent Program** at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by a Milk and Cookies Reception in Fellowship Hall. Join us!

### Advent Reminders

- Alternative Gift Cards are on sale this month in the Commons to support Habitat for Humanity, La Casita Community Center, and the Louisville Community Bail Fund.
- Highland's Orchestra invites everyone to an evening of Christmas Music, next Sunday, December 15, 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.

**2020 offering envelope boxes** are set out alphabetically in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Commons. Please pick up yours today!

### Mark Your Calendars

December 8: Crosses on the Lawn (AM); Children's Choir Advent Program (PM)  
 December 11: No Evening Activities/Supper  
 December 12: Table Talk  
 December 14: Delivery of Christmas Baskets  
 December 15: No 8:30 a.m. Worship Service; Christmas Orchestra Concert  
 December 18: No Evening Activities/Supper  
 December 24: Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 6:00



*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

**Kathy Golightly Sanders**  
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

**Carol Harston**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR  
FAITH FORMATION AND  
CONGREGATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

**Bill Martin**  
DEACON CHAIR

**Lauren Jones Mayfield**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO  
YOUNG ADULTS AND MISSION

**Walter McWhorter**  
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

**Renee Purtlebaugh**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN  
AND THEIR FAMILIES



O praise the tide of grace  
 that laps at every shore  
 with visions of a world at peace,  
 no longer bled by war:  
 We praise you Christ!  
 Your cross has made us one!

~ Thomas H. Troeger, 1984

# HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### DECEMBER 8, 2019