



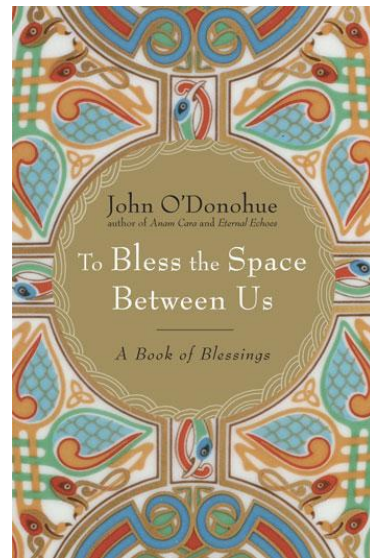
**HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith*

January 5, 2021

Blessings for a New Year

As this year begins, let us “rediscover our power to bless one another,” as John O’Donohue writes in [To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings](#). Let us change the atmosphere by praying reverently for courage and compassion to blossom for those who stand at threshold moments. Threshold moments can be hours, days, or even years when life’s changes demand our courage, attention, and presence. O’Donohue asks us to *bless* these moments—to attune ourselves to whatever is happening, feel the swelling emotions, and courageously trust that something beautiful is emerging.



Threshold moments can be evident to the outsider observer—a pregnant belly, a bandage wrapped around a wound, a new ring, a new name. But most of our threshold moments go undetected to the naked eye—the weariness of mental ruts, silence from a family member, an awareness of impending change.

We face a year filled with historic threshold moments—vaccines, school openings, permission to visit the sick, in-person worship, and countless other moments. These epic milestones will come alongside all of the other mundane and mortal threshold moments that we await every year.

Let us begin this year with Highland’s gentle, strong voices blessing us as we go. As our gift to you, we will email out blessings written by our Highland family every weekday, beginning Monday, January 11, and lasting until Friday, February 12. May their words be balm for your soul as we begin this new year.

“Once you awaken to your soul, you know that you are no longer alone;
nor are you at the mercy of your own frailty and limitation.
Awakening to your soul, you begin to learn another way of being in the world.”
~ John O’Donohue

Want to immerse yourself more in John O’Donohue’s beautiful blessings? Order [To Bless the Space Between Us](#) through [Carmichael’s Bookstore](#) or [Amazon](#). You can also listen to [Krista Tippett’s interview](#) with John, which ended up as one of John’s final interviews before his sudden passing in 2008.

Weekend Services

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Mary Alice Birdwhistell, Proclaimer

Staying Connected Outside These Walls

As we live through these days where we are rarely, if ever, physically connected with each other we make use of technology to bridge some of the gaps that exist between us. Below are some of the ways that you may use to stay connected to the community of Highland Baptist Church:

Worship from the sanctuary on our Facebook page at 7:00 p.m. on Friday nights and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. These streams also appears on our YouTube page.

Bible study via Zoom. Several adult Bible study classes are gathering weekly via Zoom which allows connectivity via computer or phone. If your Bible study class would like to begin meeting this way, email Carol at carol@hbclouisville.org or Walter at walter@hbclouisville.org.

Did You Know...

Did you know that the Young Adults have a podcast? It's called "The Commons @HBC". You are welcome to listen to reviews of the sermon, happenings in Highland's Young Adult world, and conversations between the host, David Bannister and his weekly guests. Click [here](#) to listen.



Highlights from Christmas Eve Gatherings

