

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 31, 2021 ■ 10:00 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Renee Purtlebaugh

Prelude

NETTLETON

Come, Thou Fount, of Every Blessing
Troy Burden, Handbells

**LET EVERY HEART WITH PRAISES SING
AND MAKE THIS HOUSE WITH VOICES RING**

Call to Worship – from Psalm 111

Renee Purtlebaugh

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

The works of God's hands are faithful and just; all your precepts are trustworthy.

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it
have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

Hymn

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

God's Holy Ways Are Just and True

God's holy ways are just and true, God's promises are ever new,

O praise God, alleluia! Let every heart with praises sing
and make this house with voices ring:

O praise God, O praise God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Bring back to mind God's grace and love, our needs provided from above;

O praise God, alleluia! God kept his word and Jesus came
to make a people for God's name;

O praise God, O praise God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Tell once again God's deeds of old, the story of our mighty God,

O praise God, alleluia! For all God's glorious works and ways
we shall rejoice through endless days;

O praise God, O praise God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Praise

Ginger Miller

BRING BACK TO MIND GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE

The Hebrew Lesson

Lauren Jones Mayfield

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Sometime a Light Surprises

Sometimes a light surprises a Christian while she sings. It is the Lord who rises with healing in His wings: when comforts are declining, He grants the soul again a season of clear shining, to cheer it after rain. In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue the theme of God's salvation and find it ever new; set free from present sorry, we cheerfully can say, let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may. It can bring with it nothing but He will bear us through: who gives the lilies clothing will clothe His people, too: beneath the spreading heavens no creature but is fed; and He who feeds the ravens will give His children bread. Though vine nor fig tree neither their wanted fruit should bear; though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there; yet, God the same abiding, His praise shall tune my voice; for, while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.

Prayer of Confession

Perry Dixon

Loving God, we confess that in our desire to make a difference, we have followed false prophets. We make prophets out of politicians and political party, because we desire certainty and stability. But, in doing so, we excuse the violence inherent in the state. We worship incrementalism, though Your love is radical beyond our imagination. We criticize the empty gospel of prosperity, while ignoring that our economic system promises the same to so many. Help us to see as You see and to dream as You dream, God of liberation and promise. Help us to love one another, as You love us. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hymn

NETTLETON
text by Ken Medema*Out of Need and Out of Custom*

Out of need and out of custom, we have gathered here again;
to the gathering we are bringing love and laughter, grief and pain.
Some believing, some rejoicing, some afraid, and some in doubt,
come we now our questions voicing, we would search these matters out.

Come we now our masks displaying, fearing that we shall be known,
foolish games forever playing, feeling meanwhile so alone.
Let pretension's power be broken, to be human let us dare;
let the truth in love be spoken, let us now the questing share.

We have heard the glowing stories of the things that God has done,
of the power and the glory, of God's love in Christ the Son.
God of human transformation, for your presence now we pray,
lead us ever on the journey as we gather here today.

**TELL ONCE AGAIN GOD'S DEEDS OF OLD,
THE STORY OF OUR MIGHTY GOD**

The Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:21-28

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

Divine Interruptions

FOR ALL GOD'S GLORIOUS WORKS AND WAYS WE SHALL REJOICE THROUGH ENDLESS DAYS

Hymn

DIX
text, Charles Wesley, 1740

Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light;
Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiance divine; scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display; shining to the perfect day.

Offertory Prayer

Lewis Miller

News for the Community

Renee Purtlebaugh

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

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. Amen.

Benediction

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Postlude

Johann Kuhnau

Postlude in B

Today in Worship

We are grateful for today's prayers in worship being given by Ginger and Lewis Miller. They joined Highland in 2010 and are members of the Nomads Bible Study Class. Ginger serves as a deacon and an usher and makes Highland's gluten-free communion bread each month. Lewis has served as a deacon and is currently on the Anti-Racism Ministry Team, Reparations Task Force, and sings in Sanctuary Choir.

We appreciate Troy Burden for ringing handbells in today's worship. Troy joined Highland in 1996. He attends the SALT Bible study class, serves as deacon, and is a member of the Personnel and Youth Ministry Groups.

We appreciate the musical leadership from the Sanctuary Choir Ensemble in today's worship: Linda Campbell, Cameron Carnes, Nicolas Claussen, Mary Miller Dwyer, Ben Horman, and Hannelore Mehler.

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