

JOY
is a defiant act
of resistance
against the forces
of despair.

~ Willie James Jennings



Awaken to Joy!

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Handbell Prelude

BESANÇON
arr. Jason W. Krug

People, Look East

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST AND SING TODAY

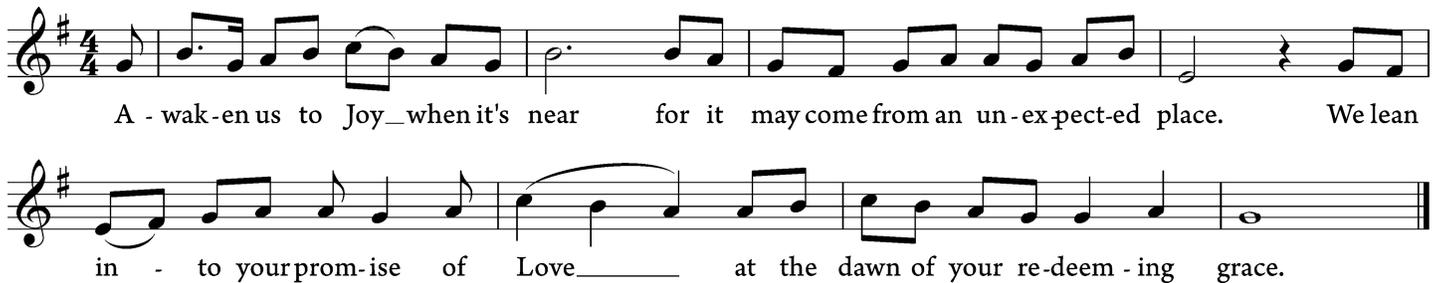
The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Love

Lisa, Ethan, and Elliot Estes (8:45)
Kasen Meek (11:15)

Advent Refrain

Diane Brewer and Austin Echols

Awaken Us to Joy



A - wak - en us to Joy when it's near for it may come from an un - ex - pect - ed place. We lean
in - to your prom - ise of Love at the dawn of your re - deem - ing grace.

A Reading from the Prophet Micah †

Perry Dixon

Micah 5:2-5a (Pew Bible pages 849-850 – OT)

As the Word became flesh and dwelled among them
may Your Word dwell within us, oh God. O come, O come, Emmanuel. Amen.

Hymn (90) †

BESANÇON

People, Look East

Prayer of Expectancy

Bill Ockerman

The Baptism of Emily Edwards † (11:15)

Lauren Jones Mayfield

Call to the Water
Statements of Faith
Baptism in the name of the **Creator, Son, and Spirit, One.**
Choral Response

MERLE'S TUNE

By Water and the Spirit

**By water and the Spirit baptized in Christ, we rise
to walk new paths unfolding before our opened eyes.
We journey from this moment, faith's pilgrimage embrace.
By Spirit and by water we feel and sense God's grace.**

LOVE, THE GUEST IS ON THE WAY

The Gospel Lesson †

Luke 1:39-45 (Pew Bible page 56 – NT)

Renee Purtlebaugh

Solo

text, Rebekah Pringle
music, Dan Forrest

A Cradle Carol
Richard Ryan, Baritone

Prayer of Confession

Renee Purtlebaugh

God, our Savior, we ask for your mercy. We hear Mary's song, but still seek security in pride, power, and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in our world. We turn away from all who wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Make us messengers of your peace. As we wait for you this Advent, turn our apathy into acts of love and service, in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Exchange of Peace

May the LOVE of Christ be with you.

Anthem

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

arr. Wilberg

Prayers of the People

Perry Dixon

LOVE, THE ROSE IS ON THE WAY

The Canticle of Mary †

Luke 1:46b-55 (Pew Bible page 56 – NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Hymn (94) †

Tell Out, My Soul

WOODLANDS

Sermon

Justice and Joy: God Has Lifted Up the Lowly

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

LOVE, THE LORD IS ON THE WAY

Hymn of Response (127) †

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Mission Moment

Karen Thomas Smith

Offertory Prayer

Steve Brown

Handbell Offertory

What Child is This

GREENSLEEVES, arr. Jason W. Krug

News for the Community

Perry Dixon

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.**

Benediction

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Postlude

Andrew Moore

VENI EMMANUEL

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

Today in Worship

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 for the original artwork created for our Advent bulletins by Jim Hawkins, Highland member.

Phrases from today's hymn, *People, Look East*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation and response.

Listening Assist Devices are available. Please see our sound technician or an usher for assistance.

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Awaken to Joy — 2021 Advent Season at Highland Baptist Church

December 24 Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 p.m.

We gather to sing carols of Christmas, light candles and hear the reading of the Christmas story as we wonder at the coming of the Christ Child. (*Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers, and twos.*)

December 24 Lessons and Carols, 6:00 p.m.

The centuries-old English tradition of Lessons and Carols tells the Christmas story through scripture, carols, and the music by the Sanctuary Choir. A candlelight ending sends you on your way to mark the birth of Jesus, the Christ. (*Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.*) **This service will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.**

December 26 Online Worship Only, 10:00 a.m.

December 31 No Friday Church service

January 2 Bible Study at 10:00 a.m., Worship in-person and online at 11:15 a.m. (no 8:45 a.m. service)

News for the Community of Faith

Highland Family, we continue to be grateful for your generous giving throughout the year! Each gift helps to further our mission to join together in the work of God, creating a world where justice and Love are abundant. As of this week, our income for 2021 is **\$981,629**. We still need **\$145,158** to meet our 2021 budget by the end of the year. If you are considering an end-of-year gift, please note the office will be closed December 24-28. We will be open from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on December 29-30 and 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on December 31. If you are mailing an end-of-year gift, it must be postmarked by December 31. As always, you can also give online at <https://hbclouisville.org/give/donate/>

If you ordered a Highland t-shirt this fall, they are now available for pick up in the Commons. They are in two baskets, arranged in alphabetical order by last name. If something is wrong with your order, please contact Alan Spade at thespadehouse@gmail.com. We can't wait to see you rocking your new Highland gear! Thanks again to Alan and Paige Harlow for their help with this special project!

We are looking forward to having a **church-wide book study together in early 2022 on the book *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity* by Robert P. Jones.** In late January and February, you will have the opportunity to sign up for a small group (meetings offered at various times, locations, and days of the week) to engage in conversation about the book with a small group of people from across the Highland family. More information on book groups will be available after the holidays.



**HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH**
*A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith*

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.