



Faith is the itch and the ache that turns our faces towards the distant stars even on the cloudiest of nights. Faith is the willingness to stretch out our imaginations and see new birth, new life, new joy — even when we feel withered and dead inside. Faith is the urgency of the homeless for a true and lasting home — a home whose architect and builder is God.

~ Debie Thomas

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 7, 2022
11:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

John Dickson

Prelude

Steve Dunn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Highland Strings

THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE

Call to Worship

Molly Braun

Wondrous Worker of Wonders,
we praise you, not alone for what has been, or for what is, but for what is yet to be,
for you are gracious beyond all telling of it.

**We praise you that out of the turbulence of our lives,
your world is being shaped even now**
out of our slivers of loving
our bits of trusting
our sprigs of hoping
our tears of crying
our smidgens of worshipping
**that out of our songs and our struggles, our griefs and our triumphs,
we are gathered up and saved, for you are gracious beyond all telling of it.**

We praise you,
that you turn us loose to go with you to the edge of now and maybe,
**to welcome the new,
to see brave possibilities,
to accept our limitations,
and yet to begin living to the limit
of passion and compassion**
until, released by joy, we uncurl ourselves toward one another
and toward Your kin-dom coming, for you are gracious beyond all telling of it.
Amen.

Hymn of Praise (45) †

LEONI

The God of Abraham Praise

Prayer of Praise

Molly Braun

Glory to the Creator †

MEINEKE

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Spirit, One.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

IN PROPHET'S WORD GOD SPOKE OF OLD, GOD'S VOICE SPEAKS STILL

Deacon Faith Story

Karen Park

The Hebrew Lesson

Genesis 15:1-6 (Pew Bible page 11—OT)

Jim England

Prayer of Confession

Sally Evans

**Holy God,
You promise us a life full of blessing, but we do not always believe.
You incite us to hope, but we fall back into fear.
You urge us to give freely, but we cling to what we have. Forgive us.
Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts,
and keep us alive to the wonders you work in the world every day.
Amen.**

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

Words of Assurance

Psalm 33:20-22 (Pew Bible page 497—OT)

Hymn (425) †

FOUNDATION

How Firm A Foundation

WHO WAS, AND IS, AND IS TO BE, FOREVER THE SAME

The New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (Pew Bible page 220—NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

Cloud of Witnesses: Inspired by a Faith that Looks Forward

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Renee Purtlebaugh

Invitation to the Table

Exchange of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Reception of the Bread and Cup

Hymn of Reflection

arr. Claude T. Smith

Prelude on An Early American Folk Hymn

Highland Strings

GOD'S LOVE SHALL BE OUR STRENGTH AND STAY WHILE AGES ROLL

Hymn of Response (567) †

SINE NOMINE

For All the Saints

Mission Moment and Offertory Prayer

Tyler Swim

News for the Community

Lauren Jones Mayfield

In response to your decision, **we welcome you! We covenant to be the family of God for you in this place.**

We hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, as we journey in faith together.

Doxology †

TALLIS' CANON

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

Sound the trumpets! We will journey swift of foot and brave of soul.

Let us run the race before us with our God, as those of old!

Postlude

Denis Benard

Variations on "Sine Nomine"

† *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.

Phrases from today's hymn of praise, *The God of Abraham Praise*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation and response.

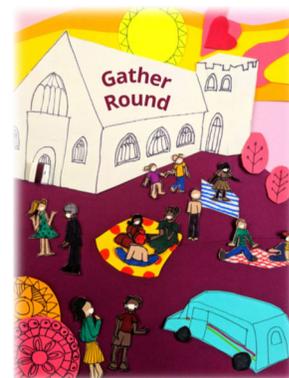
We welcome back our Highland Strings and Bruce Maples as they lead us in worship today.

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

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Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Today, we continue hearing from the 11 candidates who have accepted nominations to serve as deacons at Highland this year.** They will be sharing their faith stories with us in worship each week, and you can read a brief bio about them in the newsletter. **We will vote on this year's deacon candidates at the end of worship today.**
- **Gather Round on August 21:** We hope everyone will join us for our end-of-summer celebration with our church family! **Join us after the 11:15 service for lunch on the lawn (hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers) and fellowship together as a church.** Then, we will resume the 8:45 am worship service on the following Sunday, August 28.
- **Children and Youth:** As we move into the fall season, **we will do a back-to-school blessing for all of those beginning the new school year next Sunday, August 14.** Then, on Gather Round Sunday, August 21, our children and youth will make the move to their new Bible Study classes at 10 am. **We'll honor our rising kindergarten children by welcoming them into worship that day and recognize our new 6th graders entering the youth group.**
- **Eastern Kentucky Flooding Response:** Join us in partnering with Crescent Hill Baptist Church to collect the following items that will go directly to clean-up efforts in Knott County: **water, non-perishable food items, hygiene and cleaning products, dog/cat food, baby wipes, baby food, diapers and formula, towels and washcloths, cleaning supplies (chemical cleaners along with brooms, buckets, mops, etc.),** trash bags. Items can be taken to CHBC Mondays-Fridays, 9 AM - 4 PM.
- **WaterStep:** Please bring your new and gently used shoes to one of the collection boxes in the church lobby or outside the choir room. **This initiative raises money to support clean water access around the globe.** We will collect shoes through Labor Day.



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.

Jerre and Frank Bassett
CUSTODIANS

Mary Alice Birdwhistell
PASTOR

Fred Bogert
MUSIC DIRECTOR TO FRIDAY CHURCH

Molly Braun
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Don Burke
PASTOR EMERITUS

Bill Campbell
DEACON CHAIR

Cheryl Davis
OFFICE MANAGER

John Dickson
INTERIM MINISTER OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Jim England
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Sally Evans
INTERIM MINISTER TO YOUTH

Megan Fuller
CHILDREN AND FAMILY
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Kathleen Gordon
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Lauren Jones Mayfield
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF CARE
AND JUSTICE

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Erin Phelps
INTERIM MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Sharon Sanders
INTERIM ORGANIST AND
MUSIC ASSOCIATE