



BEHOLD

NOW IS THE MOMENT

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2022

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Chiming of the Hour

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Peace

Elizabeth Howell, Justin Boldt, Clara, Clark and Annie (8:45)
Tanya and Kieran, Quinn, Olivia, Grady, and Sean Cornely;
Rick and Mary Holtmeier (11:15)

Opening Words

Mary Ida Gray

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 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.

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS, BORN TO SET THY PEOPLE FREE

Processional Hymn (83) †

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Prayer of Expectancy

Mary Ida Gray

**FROM OUR FEARS AND SINS RELEASE US;
LET US FIND OUR REST IN THEE**

The Hebrew Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9 (Pew Bible page 627—OT)

Jim England

Prayer of Confession

Renee Purtlebaugh

Holy One, Isaiah suggests that the earth will be as full of knowledge about you as the waters covering the sea,

and yet the earth we know is full of hurt and destruction throughout your holy creation.

Violence and hate and gunfire and rage seem to fill the air we breathe,

and yet we turn away desensitized when it doesn't affect us directly.

You call our spirits toward wisdom, understanding, knowledge and delighting in your way of peace.

Forgive our apathy that allows pain, suffering, inequity and power to reign. Reveal to us ways to join You, so that no one will hurt or destroy in all your holy creation. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Exchange of Peace

May the PEACE of Christ be with you.

Hymn of Assurance (88) †

MERLE'S TUNE

Blest Be the God of Israel

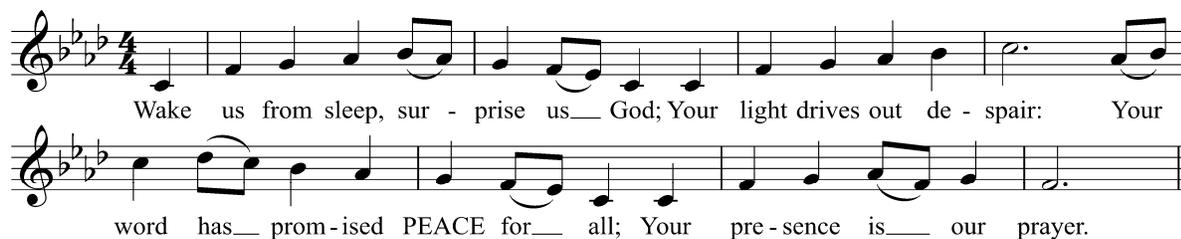
DEAR DESIRE OF EVERY NATION, JOY OF EVERY LONGING HEART

Prayers of the People

Sally Evans

Song of Advent

MORNING SONG
text by Diane Brewer



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.

The Gospel Lesson †

Matthew 3:1-12 (Pew Bible pages 2-3—NT)

Lauren Jones Mayfield

Sermon

Prepare the Way of the Lord

BORN THY PEOPLE TO DELIVER, BORN TO REIGN IN US FOREVER

Hymn of Response †

KINGSFOLD

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord, to help to set the captive free,
make plowshare out of sword, to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
make love and peace our fast, to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human Lord, to live as stewards of the earth,
responding to God's grace. But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream, with righteousness in field and town
to cleanse us and redeem. For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

Offertory Prayer

Robin Ramsay Lee (8:45)
Susan Pierce (11:15)

Offertory

I Will Be a Child of Peace

Elaine Hagenberg

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

Lauren Jones Mayfield

Individuals and families are invited to take a cross to place on the lawn.

Recess to the Front Lawn

Please follow the ministers to the front lawn for the conclusion of the service.

Benediction on the Lawn

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

† *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 processional hymn, *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service —praise, confession, proclamation and response.

Thanks to Jennifer Sumeracki, daughter of Mary Helen and Jim England, for this year's Advent artwork to guide us through this season of beholding together!

We express our appreciation to Bruce Maples, Neil Barton and Matthew Porter for their music in today's service.

Special thanks to Highland's Anti-Racism Team for their preparation and leadership of our cross ritual which marks the pain and hope of God in the form of a memorial on our front lawn for the remainder of the Advent season.

In addition to those previously listed, a Christmas poinsettia was given by Carolyn King in memory of Harold and Stacy Omer.

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

- **Tyler Mayfield, spouse of Lauren Jones Mayfield, will be ordained to the Christian Ministry this afternoon at 2:00 PM at St. Andrew United Church of Christ.** Tyler is a professor at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and a gifted leader, teacher, and preacher among us at Highland. We invite you to join us for his ordination as we continue to bear witness to God's unfolding story in Tyler's life and calling.
- ***Children's Choirs Advent Service (tonight at 6:00)***
Children's voices are a highlight of the season. Join us for an evening of music from Highland's Carol and Chorister Choirs. Childcare provided for infants, toddlers, and twos.
- ***Friday, December 9***
Bag Building at La Casita (5:30–7:30 PM)
Family-friendly event to assemble the gift bags for the La Casita Holiday Partnership. Sign up to participate in the Commons.
- ***Sunday, December 11***
Third Sunday of Advent: Now is the Moment... for Joy (11:15 AM Only)
Join us for one Sunday worship service at 11:15 AM (no 8:45 service) as we light the candle of Joy. *The Carols of Christmas*, our Sanctuary Choir's Advent/Christmas program, features some of the most beloved carols of the Christmas season, accompanied by Louisville Brass and organ. Come and join your voice with Highland's largest and most accomplished choir, our congregation, as we experience anew the Carols of Christmas.
- ***Tuesday, December 13***
La Casita Holiday Partnership (9:00 AM–3:00 PM)
Join us at La Casita as we help staff their Family Resource Day and share donations with the surrounding community. Sign up to volunteer in the Commons.



**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.