



NOW IS THE MOMENT

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2022

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Sally Evans

Chiming of the Hour

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Love

Greg Aguilon and Perry Ledford (8:45)
Jim and Rose Hawkins (11:15)

Opening Words

Sally Evans

Isaiah spoke to the people of Israel
with a light of hope.

Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth to a girl called Mary
with a light of joy.

Mary went to a place called Bethlehem, to a stable called a nursery,
with a light of love.

As we light our fourth Advent candle, we rejoice with Mary, for Love has become flesh.
Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Love.

HIS NAME IS CALLED EMMANUEL

Processional Hymn (119) †

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

His Name Is Called Emmanuel

Prayer of Expectancy

Diane Brewer

BORN IN OUR DARKNESS, HE IS LIGHT

Anthem

Mack Wilberg

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

The Hebrew Lesson

Jim England

Isaiah 7:10-16 (Pew Bible page 623—OT)

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.

Prayer of Confession

Lauren Jones Mayfield

Holy One, as Jesus prepares to come and be among us, we have been too busy with holiday bustle. We cry out to you, "God with us," only to quickly abandon your comfort and justice. We confess that we have not loved you, or our neighbor, with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength. Forgive us. Save us. Come and be with us, still, as we await the coming of your divine love. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Lauren Jones Mayfield

Psalm 80:1-7 (Pew Bible pages 529-530—OT)

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

Hymn of Assurance †

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Choir sings stanza one and refrain

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

From the hall of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

BORN IN OUR WEAKNESS, HE IS MIGHT

The Gospel Lesson †

Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible page 1—NT)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Sermon

Now is the Moment . . . for the Extraordinary

GOD IS WITH US, ALLELUIA

Hymn of Response (114) †

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

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

*Everyone is invited forward to receive bread and cup. All bread served is gluten friendly.
Deacons will receive tithes and offerings in the offering plates as you return to your pew.*

Offertory Prayer

Kelly Garrett

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

Hector Berlioz

Rustic Serenade to the Virgin Mary

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, *His Name is Called Emmanuel*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service—praise, confession, proclamation and response.

We express gratitude to Emily Stewart for her musical leadership in today's service.

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

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

Alternative Christmas Cards

These cards are an opportunity to share resources while also giving gifts to loved ones. Today is the last day to purchase cards in the Commons. The cards are \$10 each and support one of three organizations: Sweet Evening Breeze, Mattingly Edge, or our new Highland Baptist Church designated fund for reparations.

End-of-Year-Giving

As of December 13, we anticipate needing \$251,000 to meet our end-of-year ministry expenses at Highland. While that number may be overwhelming to read, we trust that our goal is entirely within reach. At Highland, we are at our best when we gather our gifts together for the work of Love! Please note that gifts must be received by Highland or postmarked by December 31st in order to count toward your 2022 giving record. You can give online at <https://hbclouisville.org/give/donate/>, or you can drop by the church office. The office will be open from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM December 19-22, (closed December 23 and 26) and open again from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, December 27-30. Thank you for your abundant and generous giving to our shared work of Love this Christmas season!

Highland's Holiday Schedule

- **Friday, December 23: Service of Carols at Friday Church (7:00 PM)**
Join us for a special service as we sing favorite Christmas carols, hear a reflection on the Christmas story, and close with candlelight.
 - **Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services (4:00 and 6:00 PM)**
We hope you and your loved ones will join us for one of our Christmas Eve Services on Saturday. There will be a family-friendly service at 4:00 PM and a traditional service of Lessons and Carols with the sanctuary choir at 6:00 PM. Childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers, and twos at 4:00 PM and infants through Pre-K at 6:00 PM.
 - **Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day Worship Online (10:00 AM)**
There will be no in-person activities as we celebrate this holy day with family and loved ones.
 - **Sunday, January 1: New Year's Message from Staff Online (10:00 AM)**
There will be no in-person activities on Friday or Sunday of this holiday weekend.
 - **Wednesday, January 11**
Wednesday evening meals and activities resume for the new year.
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**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.