

The good news is as epic as it gets,
with universal theological implications,
and yet the Bible tells it
from the perspective
of fishermen and farmers,
pregnant ladies and squirmy kids.
This story about the nature of God
and God's relationship to humanity
smells like mud and manger hay
and tastes like salt and wine.
It is concerned,
not simply with questions of eternity,
but with paying taxes and filling bellies.
It is the biggest story and
the smallest story all at once.

~ Rachel Held Evans, *Inspired: Slaying Giants,
Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 22, 2023
8:45 and 11:15 A.M.

Invitation to Worship

Lauren Jones Mayfield

Prelude

Richard Proulx

Land of Rest

COME, GREAT GOD OF ALL THE AGES

Call to Worship

Marilyn Whisler (8:45)

Becky Hines (11:15)

We gather and listen for a word that reveals who you are.

We long for a word that guides and shapes who we are in this very moment.

We have heard it said that following you will lead us

from familiar shores toward less predictable paths.

We claim your invitation to reframe what it means to follow you

when curiosity and courage compel us to step toward the mystery.

As we worship, may your vision become our own.

Processional Hymn (5) †

DUKE STREET

Come, Great God of All the Ages

Prayer of Praise

Marilyn Whisler (8:45)

Becky Hines (11:15)

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.

MAKE YOUR EARTHLY MISSION KNOWN

Anthem

Rosephanye Powell

The Word Was God

The Morning Psalm

Justin Sizemore

Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (Pew Bible pages 493—OT)

Prayer of Confession

Renee Purtlebaugh

Holy One, you are our strength, and yet we fear. You are our refuge, and yet we seek shelter elsewhere. You reveal yourself to us, and yet we look away. While all of these instincts are part of the beauty of our human-ness, forgive us when our fear bubbles up enough to overcome our trust in you. When you invite us to follow you, remind us that you have also created us with the capacity for courage and curiosity and wonder. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Exchange of Peace

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

Hymn of Assurance †

LAND OF REST

O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench?

O carpenter, why leave the bench where wood yields to your art,
and take instead, to try your skill, the stony human heart?

O carpenter, why leave the tools to carry out your plans,
and go instead to do God's work with empty, open hands?

O carpenter, why leave the world of table, bed, and house,
to face the empire's carpentry, to lift a Roman cross?

O carpenter, why leave repairs with wood and clamp and glue,
and rise from death to seek instead to make the whole world new?

O carpenter, who else could do the work that you have done?
What can we do but sing your praise, O Savior, Mary's son!

COME, CHRIST JESUS, FLESH AND SPIRIT

The Gospel Lesson †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Matthew 4:12-23 (Pew Bible pages 3-4—NT)

Children grades K-2 may be dismissed for Children's Worship (11:15)

Sermon

You Have Heard it Said... "Follow Me and I Will Make You Fishers of People"

TUNE OUR EARS TO HEAR YOUR CALL

Hymn of Response (478) †

W ZLOBIE LEZY

God Is Calling Through the Whisper

Offertory Prayer

Robert Davis (8:45)
Larry Davis (11:15)

Offertory

F.A. Guilmant

Adagio

News for the Community

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

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.

Celebrating Walter McWhorter's 5th Anniversary at Highland Baptist Church

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

Joseph Martin

Land of Rest

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, Great God of All the Ages*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation and response.

We thank Cameron Carnes for his musical leadership in today's service.

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 celebrate Walter McWhorter's 5th Anniversary on staff at Highland!** There is not a single area within the life of the church that isn't touched by Walter's thoughtful and intentional ministry. Whether he is overseeing our weekly livestreams, working with community groups who use the facility, leading our ongoing HVAC renovation project, updating our website, caring for our aging building, or offering a kind and welcoming presence in the office, everything Walter does at Highland is done with a gentle spirit, a servant's heart, and great love for his community of faith. Walter, we thank God for you today and offer our wholehearted gratitude for your beautiful and faithful ministry among us! The flowers on the chancel today are also given in honor of Walter, with gratitude, from the Prodigals Bible Study Class.
- **The Search Committee for the Minister of Music and Worship** is excited to share that we have arrived on a final candidate to recommend to the church! We will share more about the candidate in the days ahead, but for now, please save the date for a Call Weekend January 27-29, including the following events:
 - Friday, January 27:** Deacons and Ministry Council Q&A 5:30-6:45 PM; Friday Church, Candidate Introduction, and Vote 7:00 PM
 - Saturday, January 28:** Music Ministry Q&A 9:00-10:30 AM; Brunch 10:30-11:30 AM; Church-Wide Q&A 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
 - Sunday, January 29:** Worship, Candidate Faith Story, and Vote: 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM; Meet and Greet: 9:45-10:15 AM
- **Lauren Jones Mayfield will continue our Wednesday evening class this week (January 25, February 1, and 8)** on Hillary McBride's book *The Wisdom of Your Body: Finding Healing, Wholeness, and Connection through Embodied Living*.
- **Looking Ahead:**
 - Sunday, Feb. 5: Quarterly Church Conference on Zoom at 4:00 PM
 - Sunday, Feb. 19: Guest Proclaimer: Angela Williams Gorrell, Author of *The Gravity of Joy*
 - Wednesday, Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday Service, 6:15 PM



**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

Troy Burden
DEACON CHAIR

Don Burke
PASTOR EMERITUS

Cheryl Davis
OFFICE MANAGER

John Dickson
INTERIM MINISTER OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Megan Fuller
CHILDREN AND FAMILY
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Kathleen Gordon
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Lauren Jones Mayfield
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CARE
AND JUSTICE

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Erin Phelps
PASTORAL EDUCATION INTERN

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Sharon Sanders
INTERIM ORGANIST
AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Justin Sizemore
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS