

God
can always
be depended upon
but never
anticipated precisely.
Again and again,
surprise has proved
to be God's
other name.

~ John Claypool



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 9, 2023

8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

Chiming of the Hour

The Easter Gospel

Steve Brown and Lauren Jones Mayfield

Mark 16:1-7 (Pew Bible page 53 – NT)

Congregational Response

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Festival Introit for Easter Day

Hopson/Shütz

Processional Hymn (194) †

EASTER HYMN, arr. Hansen/Rutter

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Neil Barton, trumpet

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

Kathey Golightly Sanders

Resurrecting God,

We welcome your glad surprise this Easter morning!

We praise you with whole hearts and defiant Halleluiahs.

Beyond our comprehension, beyond our wildest imagination

You surprise us with defiant Love that always finds a way.

You shock us with expansive Grace that truly knows no bounds.

You startle us with stubborn Hope that never lets us go.

Together, we repeat our glad shouts of Easter joy again and again:

Love's redeeming work is done! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Death and despair, injustice and defeat do not and will not get the final word,
because God always surprises!

Alelluia! Alelluia! Amen.

LOVE'S REDEEMING WORK IS DONE

The Baptism of Kim Clark † (11:15)

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Call to the Water

Statements of Faith

Baptism in the name of ***the Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.***

Baptismal Response (449) †

BUNESSAN

Baptized in Water

***Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
one with His rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.***

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.

Prayer of Confession

Renee Purtlebaugh

God of the stirring waters, already our memory is fading. God of the glorious trumpet sound, already our minds have drifted away from its clarion call. God of resurrection promise, already we question if such a return to life is possible. God of deep joy, already the demands of daily living threaten to shut out Your hope. Forgive us. Oh, how we long to be surprised by You and for the power of Your surprise to sustain us long after the moment has passed. May it be so on this Easter Day! Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Exchange of Peace †

Hymn of Assurance (204) †

PUER NOBIS

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

CHRIST HAS OPENED PARADISE

The Gospel Lesson †

Abigail Berrios, Ainsley Braun, Paul Henderson (8:45)
Abigail Berrios, Ainsley Braun, Madeline Cox (11:15)

John 20:1-18 (Pew Bible pages 112-113 – NT)

Anthem

Dan Forrest

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

Sermon

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

God Always Surprises

SING, YE HEAVENS, AND EARTH REPLY

Hymn of Response †

HYMN TO JOY

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

*Christ has risen while earth slumbers; Christ has risen where hope dies,
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.*

*Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!*

*Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.*

*Christ has risen and forever lived to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.*

Offertory Prayer †

Kelly Young

Offertory

David Johnson

Trumpet Tune in C Major

Response

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 †

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below, O praise God, Alleluia!
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Benediction †

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Postlude

Robert Lau

Alleluias

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, *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service — praise, confession, proclamation and response.

Tamara Scantland Adams, Highland member and local artist, created the original art for our Easter bulletin. Please express your gratitude to Tamara for sharing her gifts to enrich this day.

Thanks to Neil Barton for sharing his musical gifts on the trumpet today and to Cathy Ryan for sharing her musical gifts on the piano.

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Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Special Called Business Meeting**—We will have a business meeting on Wednesday, April 12 at 6:10 PM to vote on the ordination of Erin Phelps. Erin has already received affirmation for ordination from the Deacon body of Highland. Her ordination council (Mary Alice Birdwhistell, Jim England, Joey Eubank, Roz Hines, Elizabeth Howell, Tyler Mayfield, and Matthew Neal) will bring the motion that the church move forward with her ordination. Pending church vote, we will ordain Erin on Sunday, April 23 at 4:00 PM.
- **Join us on Wednesday, April 12 to hear from Rev. Karen Thomas Smith.** She serves as the president of the Protestant Church in Morocco and co-president of Al Mowafaqa (Ecumenical Institute of Theology in Rabat). She will lead us in a conversation titled "Living Resurrection in Morocco: A Parish Update."
- **Deacon Nomination Process Begins**—Each year, our church nominates members to serve as Deacons at Highland. **Our Deacons are not an "administrative board," but rather servant leaders who invest themselves in the life of the church and care for our community.** The deacon body is a blend of new and long-time Highland Baptist Church members, young, seasoned, and diverse. You are invited to nominate up to 9 people to serve as Deacons in the coming year. More information can be found in next week's newsletter. **The deadline for nominations is Sunday, April 30.**
- **Are you looking for a way to connect or re-connect at Highland? Bible Study classes are a great "next step" to engage with us as the family of God in this place!** Classes for all different ages and life journeys meet Sundays from 10:00-11:00 AM. Information about all of our adult class offerings is available in The Commons, and for more info, contact one of our ministers. We would love to help you get connected with a space to get to know others and to be known within our community of faith!



**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.

David Bannister
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Troy Burden
DEACON CHAIR

Kathleen Gordon
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Erin Phelps
PASTORAL EDUCATION INTERN

Jerre and Frank Bassett
CUSTODIANS

Don Burke
PASTOR EMERITUS

Paul Henderson
MINISTER OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Mary Alice Birdwhistell
PASTOR

Cheryl Davis
OFFICE MANAGER

Lauren Jones Mayfield
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CARE
AND JUSTICE

Sharon Sanders
INTERIM ORGANIST
AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Fred Bogert
MUSIC DIRECTOR
TO FRIDAY CHURCH

Megan Fuller
CHILDREN AND FAMILY
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Justin Sizemore
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS