



While loneliness engenders despair and ever more isolation, togetherness raises optimism and creativity. When people feel they belong to one another, their lives are stronger, richer, and more joyful.

*~ Dr. Vivek H. Murthy,
Surgeon General of the United States*

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 20, 2023
8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.

**FAITHFUL ROCK OF GENERATIONS,
YOU WHOM PARENTS' PARENTS PRAISED**

Prelude

arr. Howard Helvey

Fantasy on HOLY MANNA

Opening Words

Bill Campbell (8:45)
Paxton Vaughn (11:15)

We lift up our souls to you, Holy God.
We trust the Lord with our past, present, and future.
Teach us, Lord, that we may know your ways.
***Guide our every move, Holy One,
that we may walk in your paths of love and mercy.***
Let us worship the One who leads us in what is right.
Together, let us worship God!

Hymn †

HOLY MANNA

We Thank You for Our People

***God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:
here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.***

***Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure; lessons learned and secrets told,
hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old.
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.***

***Still we must confess before you, sometimes, Savior, we have failed;
though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed.
Tempers racing, devil chasing, hearts estranged by ice or flame
you transform by ways forgiving. Grace amazing! Grace, your name!***

***By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,
eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,
welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.***

Prayer of Praise †

Bill Campbell (8:45)
Paxton Vaughn (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.***

**STILL WE MUST CONFESS BEFORE YOU,
SOMETIMES, SAVIOR, WE HAVE FAILED**

The Hebrew Lesson

Renee Purtlebaugh

Psalm 25:1-10 (Pew Bible page 492—OT)

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

Choral Anthem

Elaine Hagenberg

You Do Not Walk Alone

May you see God's light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone,
may you always remember when the shadows fall you do not walk alone.

Prayer of Confession

Justin Sizemore

God of connections, you have shown us how to be in relationship with one another and how we should care for one another.

But we have forgotten our connection to one another; we have forgotten our connection to you.

There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try.

There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help.

Silence.

Forgive us, God who comes near to us. Lead us, in humility, to reconnect with those around us and with you, O Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Exchange of Peace †

Renee Purtlebaugh

Hymn (48) †

FAITHFULNESS

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

YOU TRANSFORM BY WAYS FORGIVING. GRACE, AMAZING! GRACE YOUR NAME

The Gospel Lesson †

Lauren Jones Mayfield

Matthew 26:40-46 (Pew Bible page 30—NT)

Children grades K-2 may be dismissed for Children's Worship.

Sermon

Re / Connect: The Loneliness Epidemic

WELCOMING AS SISTER, BROTHER, ALL YOUR CHILDREN ON THE EARTH

Hymn of Response (650) †

JOYFUL SINGING

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

Deacon Testimony (11:15)

Sam Potter

Offertory Prayer

Rick Finklea (8:45)
Sam Potter (11:15)

Offertory

J. Krebs

From God I Will Not Stray

News for the Community

Justin Sizemore

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.

For the ministries that shape the life of our community, ***thanks be to God.***

Doxology †

OLD 100TH

***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 †

Lauren Jones Mayfield

Postlude

G. F. Handel

Presto

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 response, *God, We Thank You for Our People*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service—praise, confession, proclamation and response.

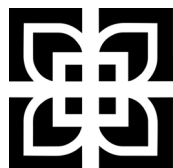
Our thanks to Kathy Collier for sharing her musical gifts with us today.

Listening Assist Devices are available. Please see our sound technician or an usher for assistance. Large print hymn sheets are also available upon request for visually impaired persons. An usher can provide a copy for you.

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Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **Wednesday Night activities have returned!** This year we are using The TP Experience to provide us a delicious meal each week. Prices are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children with a family max of \$35. **Please sign up online or call the church office (451-3735) by noon each Friday!** Children's choirs and youth activities begin at 6:00, and adult programming begins 6:15. The Sanctuary choir rehearses at 7:15 PM. **There's space for everyone to re-connect with Highland on Wednesday nights. Join us!**
- ***From Disconnection to Reconnection:*** Join us on Wednesday evenings beginning August 23 through September 20 at 6:15 pm as we explore together how loneliness, togetherness, and the power of human connection relate to our personal lives and to the collective life of our community of faith. Led by the ministry staff, Vivek H. Murthy's book, *Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World* will guide our conversation if you'd like to read along. However, reading the book is not required.
- **In worship at Highland, we aim to sing music with a theology that reflects an expansive and inclusive God.** Occasionally, our printed music may use language that limits God. When we are unable to re-print a more inclusive text, we encourage you to use language that better fits your image of God. Our ministers and choir will often replace "He/Him" with "God" or "Love" (1 syllable) and "Father" with "Parent," "Holy," or "Divine" (2 syllables). We would love to hear what creative language for God you might use in worship, too.
- **Looking Ahead:**
 - Today: Party with Your Pastors at the Mayfields' home from 4:00-5:30 PM
 - August 27: Deacon Ordination/Installation Service at 6:00 PM
 - September 4: Labor Day, church offices closed
 - September 9: Louisville Pride Festival
 - September 10: Quarterly Church Conference on Zoom at 4:00 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.

David Bannister
MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Troy Burden
DEACON CHAIR

Kathleen Gordon
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Renee Purtlebaugh
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Jerre and Frank Bassett
CUSTODIANS

Don Burke
PASTOR EMERITUS

Paul Henderson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC
AND WORSHIP

Sharon Sanders
INTERIM ORGANIST
AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

Mary Alice Birdwhistell
PASTOR

Cheryl Davis
OFFICE MANAGER

Lauren Jones Mayfield
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CARE
AND JUSTICE

Justin Sizemore
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS

Fred Bogert
MUSIC DIRECTOR
TO FRIDAY CHURCH

Megan Fuller
CHILDREN AND FAMILY
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Walter McWhorter
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR