



Always be sure that you struggle with Christian methods and Christian weapons. Never succumb to the temptation of becoming bitter. As you press on for justice, be sure to move with dignity and discipline, using only the weapon of love. Let no man pull you so low as to hate him. Always avoid violence.

If you succumb to the temptation of using violence in your struggle, unborn generations will be the recipients of a long and desolate night of bitterness, and your chief legacy to the future will be an endless reign of meaningless chaos.

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
*The Most Durable Power (1956)*

**HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**  
**8:45 AND 11:15 A.M.**

Invitation to Worship

Justin Sizemore

## MY LIFE FLOWS ON IN ENDLESS SONG

Chiming of the Hour

Rick Finklea

Children's Handbell Choir (11:15)  
Rick Finklea, director

Prelude

G. Frescobaldi

*Aria*

Opening Words

Joey Eubank (8:45)  
Tracy Holladay (11:15)

Guide us, O God. Guide us in the way of Love.

***We are here to walk the path of Love and justice.***

Lead us onward, O God.

***Accompany us on the journey of life. We are your children, anxious and worried.***

We gather to give you thanks and praise even amid stress.

***We gather to settle our minds and stir our spirits. Prepare us for the work to which you call us.***

Hymn (33) †

CWM RHONDDA

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Prayer of Praise †

Joey Eubank (8:45)  
Tracy Holladay (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.***

## NO STORM CAN SHAKE MY INMOST CALM

The Hebrew Lesson

Paul Henderson

Exodus 14:5-14 (Pew Bible pages 59-60—OT)

Choral Anthem

arr. Kevin Memley

*Be Thou My Vision*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy Presence my light. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise. Thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, Great One of heaven, my treasure Thou art. Great One of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart what ever befall. Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Prayer of Confession

Lauren Jones Mayfield

We cry out to you, Holy One, scared, lost, and overwhelmed.

***"Be our vision," we boldly sing. Yet, when faced with the challenge of changing course, revising our direction, or taking a new turn, we resist your guidance.***

We root ourselves in the way things have always been.

***We prefer the comforts of the status quo. Forgive our privilege. Forgive our scarcity.***

***Forgive our tendencies to be set in our ways.***

Silence.

You are the God of marvelous wonders, whose mercies never cease.

***We are your people. Inspire us to loose the chains of injustice. Mobilize us to actions that secure freedom and equity. Amen.***

Words of Assurance Lauren Jones Mayfield

Exchange of Peace † Paul Henderson

## I HEAR THE SWEET THOUGH FAR-OFF HYMN

Hymn (592) † ENDLESS SONG

*How Can I Keep from Singing*

The Epistle Lesson Lewis Brogdon

Romans 12:9-21 (Pew Bible page 158—NT)  
*Children grades K-2 may be dismissed for Children's Worship. (11:15)*

Sermon

*The Frustrating Work of Change*

## HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

Hymn of Response (278) † BEACH SPRING

*We Are Travelers on a Journey*

Offertory Prayer Procter Eubank (8:45)  
Larry Davis (11:15)

Offertory Joseph Martin

*Be Thou My Vision*

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 David Lasky

*Trumpet Tune on BEACH SPRING*

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

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.

## 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, *How Can I Keep from Singing*, will guide us toward images that embody segments of our worship service—praise, confession, proclamation and response.

We welcome to the pulpit Dr. Lewis Brogdon who serves as the Associate Professor of Preaching and Black Church Studies, and Executive Director of the Institute for Black Church Studies at the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. He has served in numerous positions in undergraduate and graduate institutions like Simmons College of Kentucky and Louisville Seminary as a professor and administrator. Brogdon is the author of several books such as *A Companion to Philemon* (Cascade 2018), *The Spirituality of Black Preaching* (Seymour Press 2016), *The New Pentecostal Message?* (Cascade 2015), *Dying to Lead: The Disturbing Trend of Clergy Suicide* (Seymour Press 2015), and *No Longer a Slave but a Brother* (Scholars Press 2013).

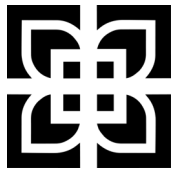
Listening Assist Devices are available. Please see our sound technician or an usher for assistance. Large print hymn sheets are also available upon request for visually impaired persons. An usher can provide a copy for you.

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## Notes and News for the Community of Faith

- **On Thursday, October 19, the Cream of the Crop will sponsor a day retreat for those of retirement age and above** at a beautiful indoor space at the Parkland's at Floyd's Fork from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The conversation will center on the topic of Living Healthy, Happy, and Hopeful in this stage of life, and the cost is \$50 per person. **One more chance to register today! Please sign up in the Commons after either service.**
- **Looking Ahead**
  - September 27: Morocco Partnership update with Roy Fuller at 6:15 PM
  - October 4: No Wednesday evening activities (JCPS Fall Break) *except Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 6:30 PM*
  - October 11: Cloud of Witnesses at 6:15 PM
  - October 13-15: Unstructured Women's Retreat at Loretto (contact Ginger Miller)  
Young Adult Fall Retreat, Red River Gorge
  - October 18: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" series with Tyler Mayfield begins at 6:15 PM
  - October 19: Cream of the Crop day retreat at the Parklands of Floyd's Fork, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM
  - November 10-12: Youth Fall Retreat, Aldersgate



**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

**Don Burke**  
PASTOR EMERITUS

**Paul Henderson**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC  
AND WORSHIP

**Sharon Sanders**  
INTERIM ORGANIST  
AND MUSIC ASSOCIATE

**Jerre and Frank Bassett**  
CUSTODIANS

**Cheryl Davis**  
OFFICE MANAGER

**Lauren Jones Mayfield**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CARE  
AND JUSTICE

**Justin Sizemore**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH  
AND YOUNG ADULTS

**Mary Alice Birdwhistell**  
PASTOR

**Megan Fuller**  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY  
MINISTRY ASSISTANT

**Walter McWhorter**  
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

**Tyler Swim**  
DEACON CHAIR

**Fred Bogert**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
TO FRIDAY CHURCH

**Kathleen Gordon**  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**Renee Purtlebaugh**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO CHILDREN  
AND THEIR FAMILIES