

# Highland Park United Methodist Church



## THE COMMUNITY IN WORSHIP First Sunday after Christmas December 29, 2013

PRESERVICE MUSIC .....Piano Duets  
Medley of Carols

### A TIME FOR GATHERING AND FELLOWSHIP

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE  
(Please register your attendance on the pad located at the end of the pew.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE..... Piano Duet  
*Go! Tell It on the Mountain* — Spiritual

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

### A TIME FOR ADORATION

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we celebrate the last Sunday of the year.  
**Yet it is not an ending but another beginning.**  
We celebrate the birth of Jesus.  
**His birth marked another new beginning.**  
We celebrate God's love in our midst.  
**Christ offers us a new beginning each day.**  
As we celebrate, let us be about the work of Christ.  
**For Christ is counting on us to continue what he started.**

\*HYMN OF CHRISTMAS..... UMH 246  
*Joy to the World*

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH..... UMH 883  
A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

\*THE GLORIA PATRI ..... UMH 70  
*Glory Be to the Father*

CHILDREN'S SERMON  
(Congregation sings *This Little Light of Mine* as children return to their seats)

### A TIME FOR CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, as we pause today to reflect on this past year, we do so by seeing your grace in many ways and in many places. We see where we failed you and where you never failed us. We see the times that we did not act according to your will, and when our own self interest was more important to us. We thank you for new beginnings and the chance to start over. Thank you for this past year and for what is to come. Forgive us for what we missed and open our eyes to the possibilities before us. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### A TIME FOR PRAYER

A PERIOD OF SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### A TIME FOR PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION..... UMH 242  
*Love Came Down At Christmas*

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES  
Matthew 25:31-46  
Revelation 21:1-6

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON .....Rev. Jim Jones  
*"Sacred Doing"*

### A TIME FOR GIVING OF OURSELVES

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY.....Organ/Piano Duet  
*The First Noel* — English Carol

\*DOXOLOGY..... UMH 94  
*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God, in this season of love and giving, we can never out-give you. Like the child who came to save us, we seek to grow in wisdom and in your favor. Guide us in the offering of our resources of time and talent and wealth. Help us to grow in faith as those who reflect a glimpse of your extravagant generosity. Lead us into the New Year as those who seek for every step, every word, every action to be pleasing in your sight and bring glory to you and to your Son. In that glorious name, we pray. Amen.**

### A TIME FOR GOD'S PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

\*HYMN OF CELEBRATION ..... UMH 251  
*Go Tell It On The Mountain*

\*GREET ONE ANOTHER IN CHRISTIAN PEACE

### A TIME FOR BEING SENT FORTH

\*SENDING FORTH

Today we are reminded that God needs us  
**Not because God isn't powerful but because God chose us.**  
May we go about our days with the knowledge that what we do in the name of Christ is sacred.  
**For God has blessed us with love and called us to be disciples of Jesus.**  
Go forth from here knowing that you can make a difference in our world.  
**Jesus is counting on us to be his hands and feet, to be his voice in this world.**

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION..... UMH 376  
*Dona Nobis Pacem*

We invite you to be seated for the postlude.

POSTLUDE..... Organ/Piano Duet  
*Joy to the World*  
tune: ANTIOCH by George F. Handel

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

\*indicates congregation standing

### PERSONS LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHER — Rev. Jim Jones  
ORGANIST — Claudia Mornhinweg  
PIANIST — Gayla Foster  
ACOLYTES — Jacob Stine and Ciara Mitchell  
GREETERS — Merrie and Richard Roach

Liturgical Resources:

• [www.worshipdesignstudio.com](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com)

## WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests. We are glad you came. Please sign the register in the pew to let us know you attended. We look forward to having you worship with us again soon.

## *This Week at Highland Park*

### TODAY — December 29

10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

### TUESDAY — December 30

- Last day for 2012 financial contributions to the church per IRS regulations if you want those credited to your 2012 giving statements for tax purposes. Please make sure all donations are dropped at the church office before noon or postmarked appropriately.

### WEDNESDAY — January 1

- New Year's Day
- Church Office Closed

### THURSDAY — January 2

7:00 a.m. Grape Jelly Gang  
12:00 p.m. Stillwater Noon Lions Club

### SATURDAY — January 4

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Advent De-Decoration

### NEXT SUNDAY — January 5

- Communion Sunday  
8:00 a.m. United Methodist Men  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNALS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE USHERS STAND
- CHILDREN'S BULLETINS (AGES 3-6 AND 7-12) ARE AVAILABLE
- INDIVIDUAL LISTENING DEVICES FOR HEARING ASSISTANCE ARE AVAILABLE

# Words on Worship

Today is the **First Sunday after Christmas**. The liturgical color remains **white** until the second Sunday of the new year. We've looked through the kaleidoscope of the sacred and have experienced time, people, places, others and ourselves as God's holy love incarnate in the world. Because of the experience of God's love, we are called to offer our very selves in service to spreading this Good News. On this Sunday before the turn of the New Year, we end our series by dedicating ourselves to sacred acts of mercy and justice.



### Highland Park United Methodist Church

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## Thoughts for the Day

*What does love look like? It has the hands to help others.  
It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy.  
It has eyes to see misery and want.  
It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of humanity.  
That is what love looks like.*

- Saint Augustine

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours,  
no hands but yours,  
no feet but yours,*

*Yours are the eyes through which to look out  
Christ's compassion to the world  
Yours are the feet with which to go about doing good;  
Yours are the hands with which to bless now.*

- Teresa of Avila

*"We have hands; we can stand on them if we want to.  
That's our privilege.*

*That's the joy of a mortal body.*

*And that's why God needs us.*

*Because God loves to feel things through our hands."*

- Elizabeth Gilbert, Eat, Pray, Love

*"Where the spirit does not work with the hand there is no art"*

- Leonardo da Vinci

*"Flowers leave some of their fragrance in the hand  
that bestows them"*

- Chinese Proverb

*May all that is Holy, Just and Compassionate  
bless the work of our hands:*

*hands that will touch life and nurture creativity;*

*hands that will hold pain and embrace passion;*

*hands that will nurture growth and clench in righteous anger;*

*hands that will wipe away tears and clap in celebration;*

*hands that are wrinkled and scarred from doing justice;*

*hands that will reach out and be drawn in;*

*hands that hold the promise of a future filled with hope.*

*May God bless all the work of our hands,*

*so that in all our sacred doing*

*our hands become the hands of Love. So be it! Amen!*

*"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

Revelations 21: 1-6a

*"Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink."*

Matthew 25: 31-46