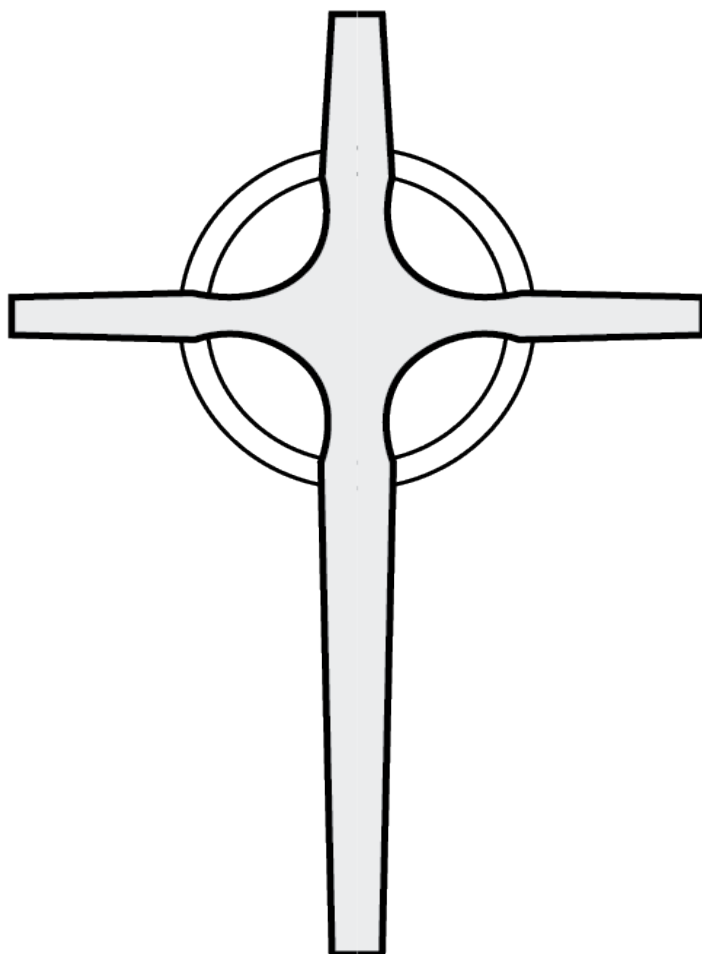
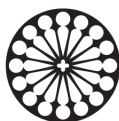


FULLY ALIVE WITH THE PASSION OF CHRIST



July 19, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost



**South Highland
Presbyterian Church**

ALL ARE WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST!

2035 Highland Avenue South • Birmingham, Alabama 35205
www.southhighland.org • (205) 933-0790

Preparing for Worship

Throughout Scripture, the imagery of children reveals something startling about the kingdom of God: the more we grow in child-like dependence on our heavenly Father, the more we become mature disciples. In our Gospel reading today, Jesus says, “unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3). And in our sermon text, Psalm 131, the Psalmist depicts the soul who trusts in Jesus as a little child who is at rest in his mother’s arms.

Perhaps this is backward logic to us: shouldn’t our goal be to become more and more independent and self-sufficient? Our instinct in the rest of life as well as discipleship is that growing into maturity means being less needy, not more.

And yet, we expect our children to need help, guidance, and nourishment—that’s not a problem! So too is our heavenly Father unsurprised that we need him: in fact, he created us that way. We are dependent creatures, not the all-powerful Creator. And the more we become acquainted with our needs, the greater the opportunity to receive God’s loving care.

As we worship today, notice every time we refer to God as our heavenly Father, and ourselves as his children. Rest in the truth that God delights when we bring our needs to him. As our middle hymn reminds us, in God’s house, we are “no more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.” May you be at home today in the house of the Lord!

CELEBRATION FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*To all who are weary and need rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who fail and desire strength; to all who sin and need a Savior—
this church opens wide her doors with a welcome from Jesus Christ, the friend of sinners.*

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE: "Nimrod" from *Enigma Variations* Edward Elgar
Kenny Lewis, Organ

WELCOME Rev. Cort Gatliff

*CALL TO WORSHIP **please stand if able* Psalm 103:13-18

As a father has compassion on his children,
 so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
for he knows how we are formed,
 he remembers that we are dust.
The life of mortals is like grass,
 they flourish like a flower of the field;
the wind blows over it and it is gone,
 and its place remembers it no more.
But from everlasting to everlasting
 the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
 and his righteousness with their children's children—
with those who keep his covenant
 and remember to obey his precepts.

*HYMN: #478 (blue)

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" LAUDA ANIMA
Entrance of the Word and Light

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

*CALL TO CONFESSION Psalm 103:8-9

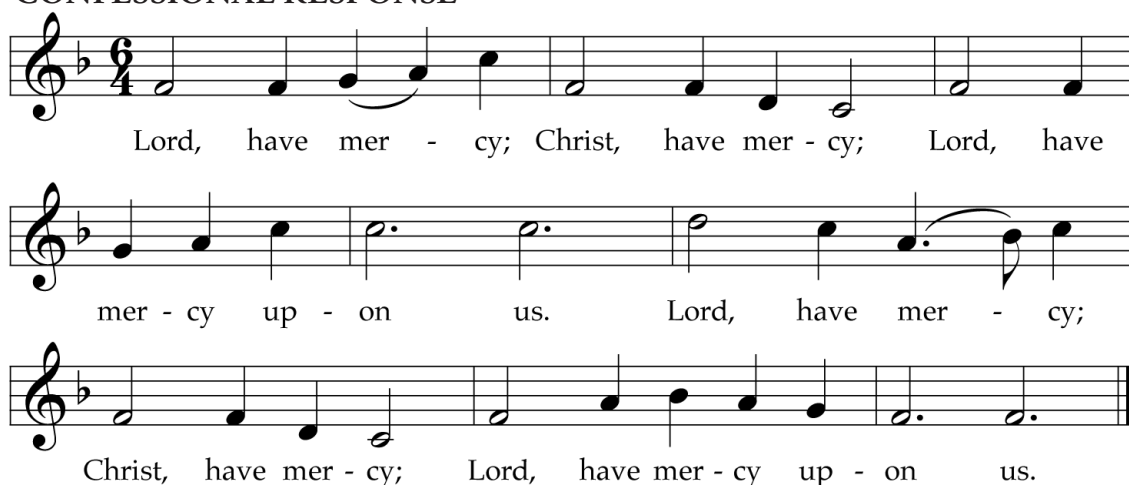
The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
 slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,
 nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
 or repay us according to our iniquities.

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you made us in your image,
with a mind to know you,
a heart to love you,
and a will to serve you.
But our knowledge is imperfect,
our love inconstant,
our obedience incomplete.
Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness.
In your tender love, forgive us
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

*CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have
mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy;
Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*DECLARATION OF GRACE & FORGIVENESS

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:1-11

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths shall show forth your praise.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Gloria Patri"

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

***PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Ann Roth

*Following the Children's Moment, first graders and younger are invited to attend Enrichment.
Parents, please walk your children to the Children's Hall. Second grade and older return to their parents;
please have a Children's Worship Bag for this time.*

OFFERING OURSELVES, OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Anthem: "Hear My Cry, O God" César Franck
Heather Batey, soloist

*Hear my cry, O God, attend unto my prayer,
From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee,
When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the Rock,
that is higher than I, that is higher than I.*

*For Thou hast been a shelter for me and a strong tower
A strong tower from the enemy.*

*When I cry unto God, then shall my enemies turn back
This I know for God is for me
In God will I praise His word, In God I have put my trust
In God will I praise His word*

*Let my mouth be filled with praise and with Thy honor all the day.
Amen.*

***DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION OLD HUNDREDTH**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

RECEIVING HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Lee Cleveland

**GOSPEL READING Matthew 18:1-5
NT pg. 23**

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

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

SERMON

“A Psalm of Descent” Emily Knight

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #172 (blue)

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” RESIGNATION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Heidelberg Catechism

Question #26

What do you believe when you say, “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?”

That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father for the sake of Christ his Son.

I trust God so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this vale of tears.

He is able to do this because he is almighty God; he desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN: #181 (blue)

“Come Sing to God” ELLACOMBE

Recession of the Word and Light

*BENEDICTION



WELCOME

Getting Connected at SHPC | To find out more about who we are and how you can become part of our church community, contact Pastor Cort Gatliff at cgatliff@southhighland.org.

The Flowers in the Sanctuary Today are given by Janine and Don Hagan for the glory of God and in loving memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julian B. Culvern and Dr. and Mrs. Hyatt Hagan.

Events and Happenings:

- **Feed My Sheep Next Sunday** | We'll be collecting donated items next Sunday for SHPC's Feed My Sheep food pantry, which helps our neighbors in need with bags of groceries. This month, with the pantry well-stocked with food items, our team is asking for donations of toilet tissue. Please pick up an extra package on your shopping trip this week and bring it next Sunday. Thank you!
- **CDC Take-Home Dinners** | You have until the end of August to participate in the South Highland Child Development Center's fundraiser in partnership with Urban Cookhouse in Homewood. Order a take-home meal for Thursday and the CDC will receive \$15 for each meal purchased. Visit bit.ly/cdc-take-home, place your order next week, then pick up and enjoy your meal and support our fantastic Child Development Center.
- **New Member Discovery Class** | People interested in becoming a member of SHPC should plan to attend our next Discovering South Highland class on Sunday, July 26 at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor. You'll learn about our church's history, leadership, ministries, missions, and much more. The class will continue over lunch following the 10:00 worship service. RSVP to Emily Knight (eknight@southhighland.org); also let her know if you will need childcare.
- **A New Home** | We're excited to share that some of our Saturday Showers friends have been able to rent subsidized apartments. Now the task is to make them comfortable. You can help this transition tremendously by donating basic furniture and furnishings to help them get started. To learn more, please contact Nancy VanCleve at nancyvancleve@gmail.com. Thank you for your faithful support of our Saturday Showers ministry!

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Cort Gatliff
Senior Pastor

Rev. Abby Gatliff
Associate Pastor

Emily Knight
Asst. Minister for Discipleship

Ann Roth
Director of Children's Ministry

Kenny Lewis
*Director of Music Ministries,
Organist*

David Yancey
Pastoral Resident

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT

Dina Glass
Executive Director of Administration & Finance

Alison Walker
Director, South Highland Center

Jeannie Jones
Administrative Assistant to the Congregation

Allison Williams
Director, Child Development Center

John Heiser
Communication Coordinator

Eric Carey
Food Service Director

Joseph Riley and Edward Colbert
Sextons