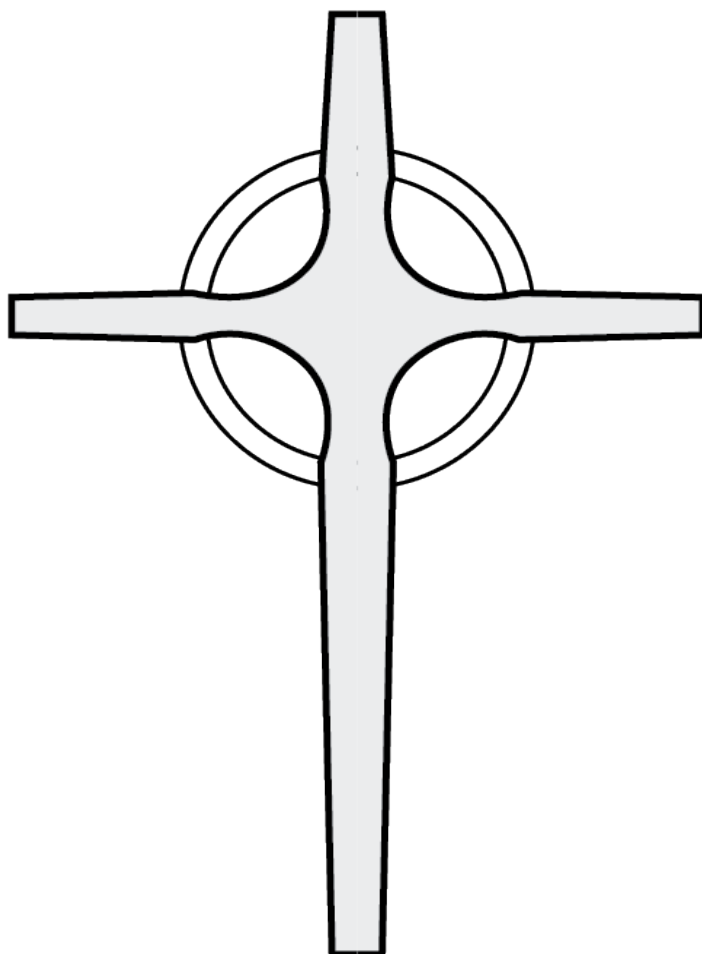
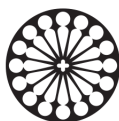


FULLY ALIVE WITH THE PASSION OF CHRIST



August 9, 2026 | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Eleventh 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

This morning we begin a new sermon series through the book of Genesis. Over the coming weeks, our worship will focus on the creation narratives found in the opening chapters of Scripture. These familiar verses proclaim a God of infinite power and perfect love who creates all things *ex nihilo*—out of nothing—and declares his creation good.

One of the great theological controversies of the fourth century centered on the identity of Jesus Christ. Was the Son, Jesus, a created being, or had he eternally existed with God the Father? In response to this question, the Christian poet and theologian Aurelius Prudentius Clemens wrote the hymn “Of the Father’s Love Begotten.” Though we often associate it with Christmas, it is really a hymn for all seasons about the eternal Son of God. It reminds us that the child born in Bethlehem is the eternal Word through whom all things were made.

As we begin our journey through Genesis, this hymn helps us hear the opening words of Scripture in light of the whole biblical story. The Creator we encounter in Genesis is the same God who took on flesh for our salvation. As Paul writes in Colossians 1:16, in Jesus “all things in heaven and on earth were created...all things have been created through him and for him.”

Turning our attention to the beginning of all things, may we be drawn into the worship of the eternal Christ—our Creator, Redeemer, and King—to whom belong “honor, glory, and dominion...evermore and evermore!”

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: "Gavotte" G.F. Handel

Kenny Lewis, Organ

WELCOME Rev. Abby Gatliff

***CALL TO WORSHIP** **please stand if able* Psalm 95:1-7

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

***HYMN:** #267 (blue)

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" ROYAL OAK

Entrance of the Word and Light

***PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION**

***CALL TO CONFESSION** Colossians 3:9-10

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

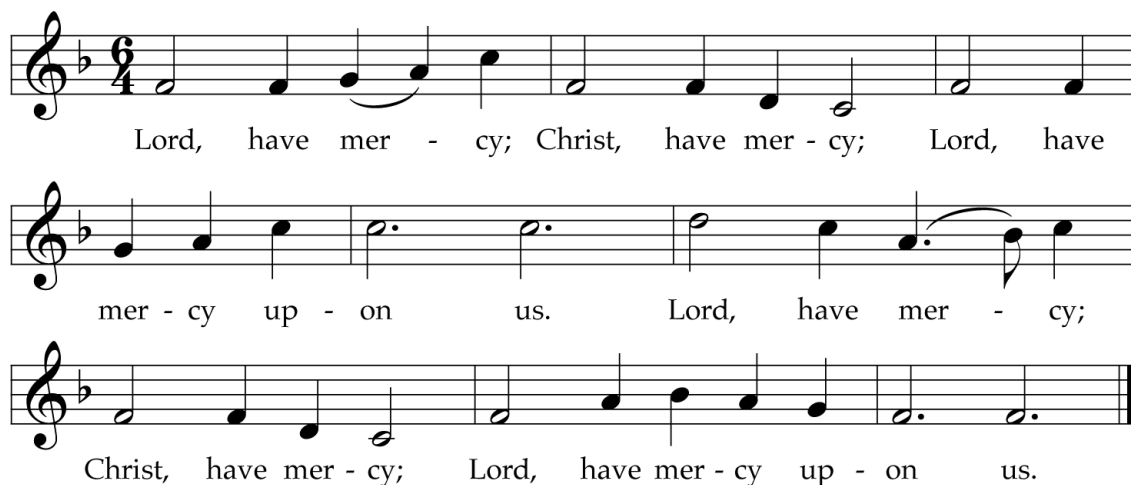
Wondrous God,
who sets suns and moons above us,
mountains and valleys beneath us,
and friends and strangers among us:
How often we have tried to hide from your presence,
how seldom we have looked for your creating face
and your fashioning hand.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Wondrous God,
who took upon yourself flesh of our flesh
in Jesus our brother,
and being found in human form
made the ultimate disclosure of yourself
in the face of Jesus Christ:
How often we have forgotten you,
how seldom have we really loved and followed you.
Christ, have mercy upon us.

Wondrous God,
who pours out freely the Holy Spirit:
How often have we ignored your promptings,
how seldom have we asked for your help
or accepted your gifts.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*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** Colossians 3:3-4

You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

*Following the Blessing of the Backpacks at 11:00, 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

Solo (8:30): “Will You Come and Follow Me” John Bell

Turner Shaw, soloist

Anthem (11:00): “With a Voice of Singing” Martin Shaw

Chancel Choir

*With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia!
O be joyful in God, all ye lands.*

O sing praises to the honor of His name, make His praise to be glorious.

With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

***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 Kirsten Heiser (8:30)
Garland Stansell (11:00)

NEW TESTAMENT READING John 1:1-5
NT pg. 111

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 1:1-2 (KJV)

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

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

SERMON

“In the Beginning” Rev. Cort Gatliff

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #309 (blue)

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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: #293 (blue)

“This Is My Father’s World” TERRA BEATA

Recession of the Word and Light

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “Prelude” to *Te Deum* Marc-Antoine Charpentier

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 for the glory of God by Garland and Anne Stansell in honor of Linda Stansell, and in memory of Thurman Stansell and Bill and Doris Ferguson.

Events and Happenings:

- **CDC Take-Home Dinners** | You have until the end of the month 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.
- **Youth Highland Happenings** | Junior and Senior High youth will kick off the fall season with weekly Youth Highland Wednesdays beginning on **August 19**, continuing through December 9. Come join us for fellowship and dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Suite followed by games and worship. Then on **Saturday, August 29**, we’ll carpool to Desoto Falls in Mentone for a cool day swimming in the cool water. Families are invited, lunch will be provided. Get more info from David Yancey (dyancey@southhighland.org).
- **CDC Board Opportunities** | The South Highland Child Development Center is seeking members to serve on its Board of Directors, especially people with experience in Human Resources and related areas. If you can share your professional skills to make an impact on children and families, please contact board president Mary Martin McGill at marymartin.mcgill@gmail.com.

- **Quiche for a Cause** | Treat yourself and your family to a savory and delicious Bacon and Havarti Quiche, and support a wonderful cause! The SHPC Casserole Posse is taking orders for these yummy pies, perfect for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, and ready to pair with a salad or fresh fruit for an easy meal. Price is just \$18 each so be sure to stock up! Proceeds will benefit the South Highland Center Adult Day Care. Ordering deadline is Friday, August 14 at bit.ly/SHPC-quiche.
- **Five Points South Summer Sampler** | Come step out in our neighborhood on Saturday, August 22 for a special event in Brother Bryan Park. REV Birmingham is sponsoring the event alongside restaurants and entertainment venues in the area to highlight ongoing investments and improvements made by the city and the REV/CAP team. Come out from 5:00-9:00 p.m. for live music, small bites, cool drinks and more.
- **“Earwitness” Death Row Event** | In conjunction with Greater Birmingham Ministries, SHPC will host a special event on Monday, August 31 in Davis Family Hall. *Toforest Johnson: An Innocent Man on Death Row* is the subject of an eight-part podcast hosted by Birmingham-based documentarian Beth Shelburne, who also co-produced the Oscar-nominated documentary *The Alabama Solution* about our state’s prisons. Ms. Shelburne will appear along with Johnson’s daughter, Akeriya Terry. The event begins at 6:30 p.m.
- **SJBC: Criminal Justice** | The next meeting of the Social Justice Book Club will be Sunday, October 25, 2026, with a discussion of *Reforming Criminal Justice: A Christian Proposal* by Matthew T Martens. Contact Laura Chapman with any questions.

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, August 30, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service for the purpose of electing elders and deacons to the Class of 2029, electing one elder to finish an uncompleted term, and other business. See the full meeting notice at southhighland.org.