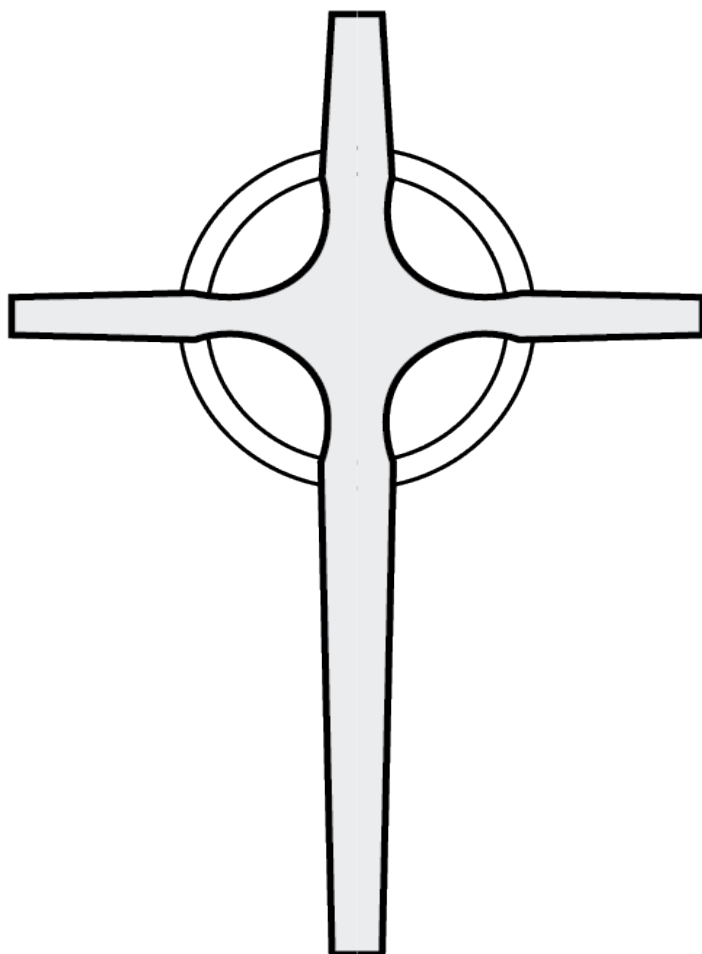
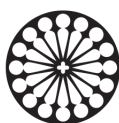


FULLY ALIVE WITH THE PASSION OF CHRIST



August 16, 2026 | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Twelfth 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, many of our prayers are drawn from Psalm 19. The psalmist begins with the beauty of creation as it glorifies God: “The heavens declare the glory of God!” The sun, moon, and stars are like a choir singing of the character and majesty of their Creator. Days and nights “pour forth speech,” as creation itself preaches a sermon about God’s power and goodness.

But then, after this symphony of nature, Psalm 19 shifts to an unexpected place: “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.” What do creation and the law have to do with one another?

In the beginning, God the Father created using his powerful Word. He spoke, and all life came into being. In Scripture, God’s Word is also called God’s law. And though we think of the “law” as rules we must obey, we see a much deeper and richer understanding from this Psalm.

Just as God’s Word brought creation into existence, God’s Word also renews and re-creates his people. That’s why the psalmist can say God’s law “revives the soul,” “rejoices the heart,” and is more precious than gold and sweeter than honey.

As Psalm 19 calls us to worship, confess our sins, and rest in God’s grace this morning, let us remember that the Word of God who spoke the universe into existence is the same Word who, by his Spirit, transforms us into a new creation.

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: "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" Harold DeCou
Kenny Lewis, Organ

WELCOME Emily Knight (8:30)
Rev. Abby Gatliff (11:00)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** **please stand if able* Based on Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
Let us tell of His glory!
The skies above proclaim God's handiwork;
We too are the work of His hands!
The voice of creation sings God's praises;
Let us join in the chorus!
Let all the earth proclaim God's holy name.

***HYMN:** #455 (blue)

"All Creatures of Our God and King" LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Entrance of the Word and Light

***PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION**

***CALL TO CONFESSION** Psalm 19:9; Romans 3:10

The ordinances of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.
There is no one righteous; no, not even one.

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God our Creator,
you have proclaimed your glory
through the heavens and through your handiwork,
but we have not listened to your voice.

You have proclaimed your law
 through your Word and your Spirit,
 but we have not obeyed your commands.
 Declare us innocent from hidden faults.
 Free us from the dominion of sin that reigns over us.
 And let the words of our mouths
 and the meditation of our hearts
 be acceptable in your sight,
 O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

*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 Psalm 19:7

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
 the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)

Loraine Alice Williams, daughter of Robert and Amanda Williams

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (11:00) 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.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE “Jesus Loves Me”

*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*Following the Baptism 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.*

MOMENT FOR MISSION Pablo and Aneta Montano

OFFERING OURSELVES, OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Anthem: “Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me” K. Lee Scott
(8:30) Natalie Valentine, soloist
(11:00) Chancel Choir

*Gracious Spirit, dwell with me: I would gracious be;
help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;
and, with words that help and heal, Thy life would mine reveal;
and with actions bold and meek, would for Christ, my Savior, speak.*

*Truthful Spirit, dwell with me: I would truthful be;
help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;
and with wisdom kind and clear, Thy life in mine appear;
and with actions brotherly, speak Christ’s sincerity.*

*Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee;
separate form sin, I would and cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be give him who have me thee.*

*Mighty Spirit, dwell with me: I would mighty be;
help me now thy power to see, I would be like thee;
‘gainst weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;
let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.*

*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 Donna Lowe (8:30)
Rick Atkerson (11:00)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Hebrews 1:1-4
NT pg. 264

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 1:1-25
OT pg. 1

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

SERMON

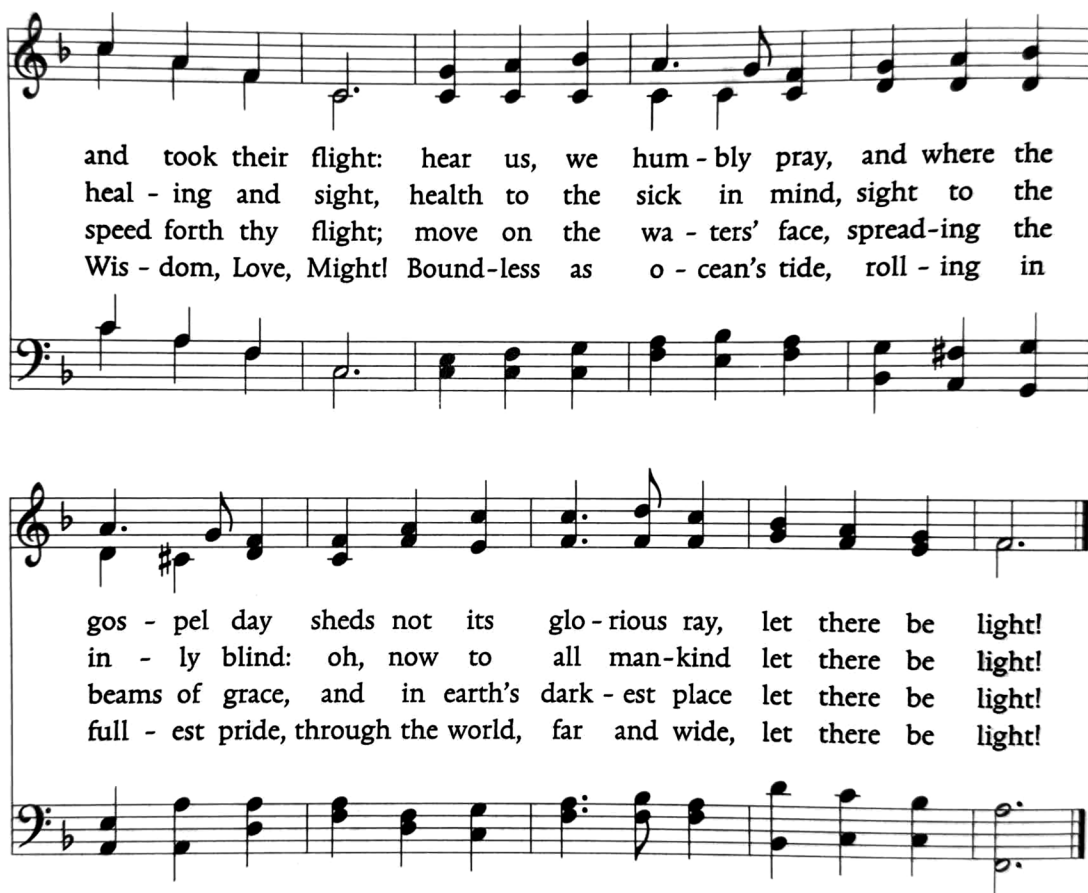
“The God Who Speaks” Rev. Cort Gatliff

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Thou, Whose Almighty Hand

1. Thou, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2. Thou who didst come to bring, on thy re - deem - ing wing,
3. Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly Dove,
4. Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, Glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
 heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
 speed forth thy flight; move on the wa - ters' face, spread-ing the
 Wis - dom, Love, Might! Bound-less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light!
 in - ly blind: oh, now to all man-kind let there be light!
 beams of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light!
 full - est pride, through the world, far and wide, let there be light!

Words: John Marriott, ca. 1813, alt.
 Music: Felice Giardini, ca. 1760

ITALIAN HYMN
 664 6664

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

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: #288 (blue)

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God" ELLACOMBE
Recession of the Word and Light

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Trumpet Tune in D Major" Henry Purcell

WELCOME

Getting Connected at SHPC | To find out more about who we are and how you can become part of our church community, contact Assistant Minister Emily Knight at eknight@southhighland.org.

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 **this Wednesday, 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).
- **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" Social Justice 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.

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.