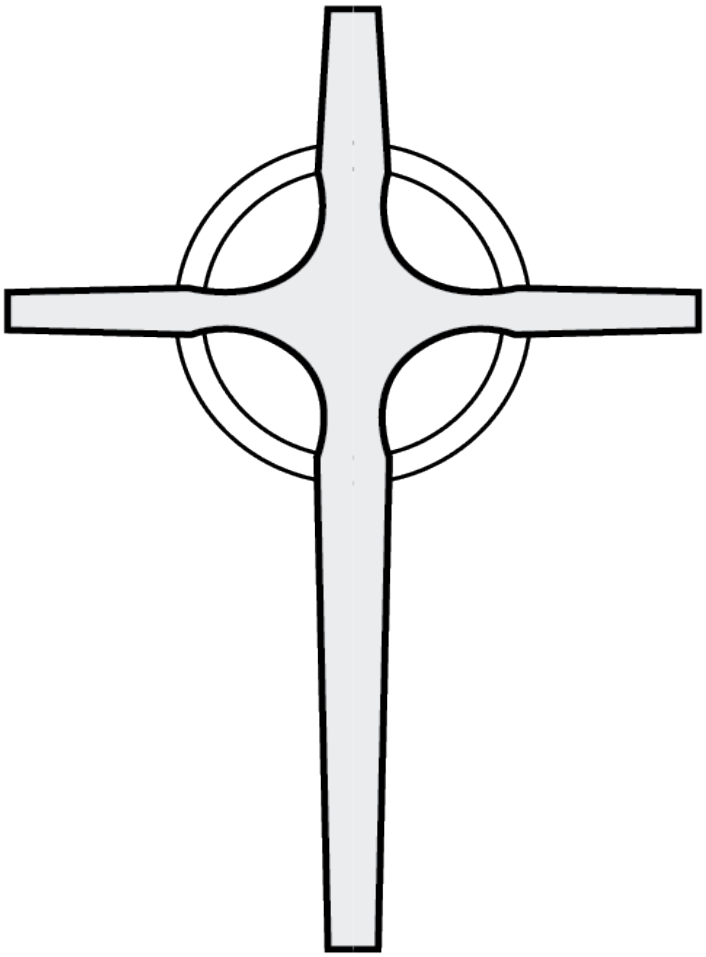
FULLY ALIVE WITH THE PASSION OF CHRIST



November 22, 2026 | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Twenty-sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Christ the King Sunday

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

Today is Christ the King Sunday, which was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as a reminder that our ultimate allegiance belongs not to any earthly ruler or nation, but to Jesus Christ. It emerged after World War I, amid political upheaval, rising nationalism, and growing secularism. A century later, in a world still marked by division and competing allegiances, we need this reminder as much as ever. Whatever kingdoms rise and fall, Jesus Christ is Lord.

But what does it mean for Jesus to be our King? The Westminster Shorter Catechism tells us: "Christ carries out the office of a king in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies."

That language of Christ subduing us to himself may strike us as strange. We like to think of ourselves as independent, free to live as we please. But to confess Christ as King is to acknowledge that we belong to him and that his authority extends over every part of our lives.

In today's reading from Genesis 11, we encounter people determined to make a name for themselves. Their story is our story, too. We are forever trying to build our own little kingdoms rather than submit to God's reign. But the gospel announces a different kind of kingdom, ruled by a different kind of King. Unlike earthly rulers who seek their own glory and power, Jesus humbled himself for our sake. He is merciful and tender, patient and kind. And when he comes again, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

So today, let us worship the King of kings and Lord of lords. He alone is worthy.

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: "Andantino" ..... Franz Schubert

Kenny Lewis, Organ

WELCOME ..... David Yancey (8:30)
Emily Knight (11:00)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** **please stand if able* ..... Psalm 24:7–10

Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in!
Who is the King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in!
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts—
he is the King of glory.

***HYMN:** #155 (blue)

"Rejoice, the Lord is King" ..... DARWALL'S 148TH

Entrance of the Word and Light

***PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION**

***CALL TO CONFESSION** ..... Daniel 9:9–10

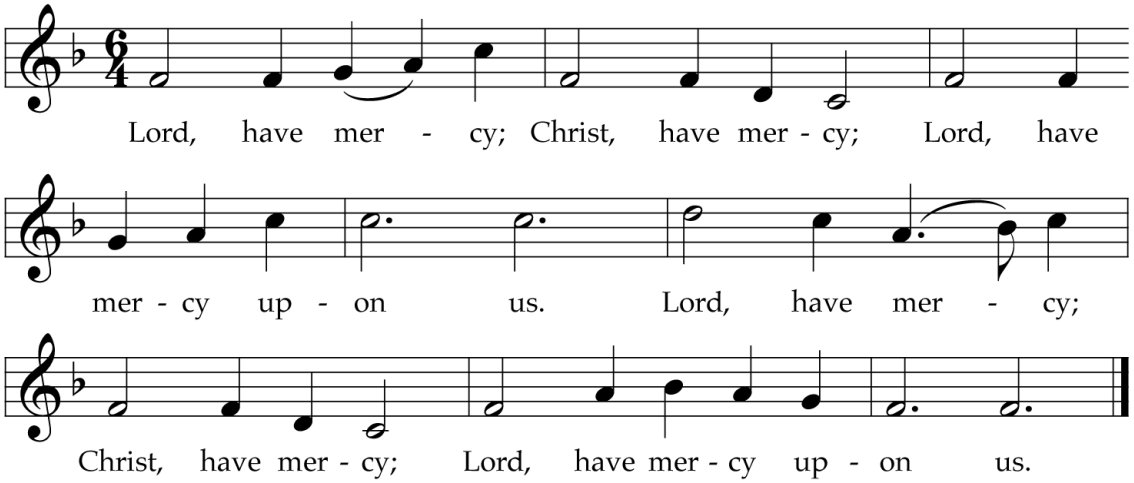
To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, but we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful God,
you alone are King of kings and Lord of lords.
Your kingdom is everlasting,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
Yet we confess that we have rebelled against your gracious rule.
We have sought our own glory,
trusted in our own strength,
and attempted to build our own kingdoms,
rather than the kingdom of your Son.
We have been proud in spirit,
divided in heart,
and slow to submit ourselves to your Word.
Forgive us, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ,
our crucified and risen King.
Subdue our rebellious hearts,
renew us by your Spirit,
and teach us to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

*CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE



*DECLARATION OF GRACE & FORGIVENESS ..... Colossians 1:13–14

He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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 (11:00) ..... Ann Roth

Following the Children's Moment 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

Anthem: "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" ..... Frederick Candlyn

(8:30) Natalie Valentine, soloist
(11:00) Chancel Choir

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by Thee;
joyless is the day's return till Thy mercy's beams I see,
till Thou inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more Thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

***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

***HYMN FOR ILLUMINATION:** #139 (blue)

"Come, Thou Almighty King" ..... ITALIAN HYMN

NEW TESTAMENT READING ..... Philippians 2:1–11
NT pg. 240
Debbie Perkins (8:30)
Josh Vick (11:00)

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING ..... Genesis 11:1-9
OT pg. 10

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

SERMON

"The City of Man" ..... Rev. Cort Gatliff

RESPONDING IN FAITH

***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:** #151 (blue)

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" ..... DIADEMATA

Recession of the Word and Light

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "Imperial March in C" ..... Edward Elgar

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.

The Flowers in Worship this morning are given for the glory of God and in loving memory of Rand and Martha Hood, by Myles and June Hood Carpenter and Martha's grandchildren, Rand and Selena Carpenter and Carol Morris.

Events and Happenings:

- **Feed My Sheep Donations** | If you've brought a package of toilet tissue for our food pantry ministry to our neighbors, Feed My Sheep, you may place it in one of the donation baskets you'll find around the church today. Thank you!
- **Christmas Poinsettia Sales** | You can help our Flower Guild beautify our worship spaces for Christmas by purchasing a lovely red poinsettia plant in memory or in honor of someone special. Cost is $25 per plant, and you may order either at the table in the library gathering area, through the South Highland website, or in the SHPC mobile app. Deadline to order is Sunday, December 6.

2026 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

From the angels' visitation to Elizabeth and Mary to the multitude of the heavenly host, the coming of God's Word made flesh is anything but silent. Join us on a daily devotional journey through Advent with "The Word Who Breaks the Silence." To receive daily devotional emails, scan the QR code, or sign up online or in the SHPC mobile app.

Advent
AT SOUTH HIGHLAND

DEC 8 Tuesday

SENIOR ADULT EVENT

Christmas Luncheon

11:30 a.m. at The Club's Glen Iris Room
Program by storyteller Dolores Hydock
Cost $23 • RSVP by 11/30 to church office

DEC 13 Sunday

SOUTH HIGHLAND TRADITION

Christmas Together

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Pageant with SHPC's Kids
Potluck Holiday Supper

DEC 20 Sunday

SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR ADVENT

Nine Lessons and Carols

One Service Only
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
with Chancel Choir and Handbells

DEC 24 Thursday

WORSHIPING TOGETHER

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Family Service
6:00 p.m. Traditional Service
Carols, Communion, Candlelight