

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John W. Bowling

CALL TO WORSHIP

WORSHIP WITH SINGING*

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord—Godspell; Let Your Light Shine on Me;
Advent Hymn—Rick Lee James; O Come, O Come Emmanuel
*Worship Team: Chris Pinelo, Sally Osborn, Neal Sterrett,
Oliver Golden, Keith Whitehead*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Philippe Family

*(Each week during the Advent Wreath candle-lighting, we will hear an Old Testament prophecy concerning the coming of the Lord. Today we hear a word of prophecy from **Jeremiah 33:14-16**. After the candle is lighted the congregation is invited to sing together the brief refrain of hymn #204: “Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel”)*

MINISTRY OF GIVING

OFFERING MUSIC

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
I Wait—All Sons and Daughters

SCRIPTURE LESSON

I John 4:7-16

MEDITATION

IN-carnation

Rev. John W. Bowling

The Wondrous Divine Posture

INVITATION TO THE TABLE OF THE LORD

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

The story of this season is the arrival of a child whose birth was anticipated for centuries.

He came and he will come again and he we will sit at the table with him, not as strangers, but as friends. And we will feast at the table of divine grace.

This is his character, his nature, his purpose: to invite and include.

We see this as he fed the multitudes, turned water into wine, and ate with valued friends the night before his death.

That very night when they were together, Jesus took bread, blessed it, and broke it. *Eat in remembrance of me*, he said. *This is my body*.

We do remember. And we remember also:

Jesus took a cup of wine, and in his blessing reminded them that when they sipped from the fruit of the vine to drink in remembrance of him. *This is my blood shed for you*. It was a new covenant of love. This is the wondrous posture of God.

This is the one we celebrate today: Jesus, the Christ. Emmanuel – God with us. He is the Light of the World. The Word of Life. King. Messiah. Savior. Friend. He is our hope, our peace, our joy. He is the wondrous gift of the Father.

Pour, now, Your Spirit upon Your children gathered and upon the bread and the cup. As You feed us with the bread,
so flood us with compassion, that we may go to serve all who ache for love and friendship.

As You open Your heart so that the cup of grace might be filled with Your hopes,
send us out to share Your holy joy and create a greater community with all.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Communion

WORSHIP WITH SINGING*

I Wait (Reprise); I Will Wait—Mumford and Sons

BENEDICTION*

*Please stand as you are able.

Welcome to Highland United Methodist! If you’re looking for information about our church, you can probably find it and much more at highlandmethodist.com

We welcome all visitors today and kindly request you complete a “Connect Card” found either in the pew or by scanning this QR code. We would love to get to know you!



13

Holiday Crafts made by the United Women in Faith of Circle 13 are for sale in the Welcome Center. All proceeds will be donated to support missions.



Coffee & Friends is a casual gathering hosted by Linda and Wayne Wiedenbein in their home. You are invited to join them **at 10am on the first WEDNESDAY of every month** for delicious beverages and great conversation. Contact the church office for location.

PRELUDE Come Thou Long Expected Jesus Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. John W. Bowling

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.

And so we cry to the heavens asking for a sign.

Well friends, God is responding! And God is responding in a way we could never have imagined.

So we come now with expectant hearts and eager spirits. We gather to receive. We gather to worship.

So let us begin our preparation today to receive the blessed gift of God incarnate.

HYMN #203* Hail to the Lord's Anointed

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MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

MINISTRY OF GIVING

OFFERTORY Twas in the Moon of Wintertime Robert Powell

DOXOLOGY*

CHORAL ANTHEM Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love Joseph M. Martin

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Remington Ann Bowling

SCRIPTURE LESSON I John 4:7-16

MEDITATION **IN-carnation** Rev. John W. Bowling
The Wondrous Divine Posture

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CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending Hugo Gehrke

HYMN #242* Love Came Down at Christmas

BENEDICTION*

CHORAL AMEN*

POSTLUDE *Wachet Auf* Robert Lind

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Director, Hilary Dungan—children@highlandmethodist.com

Children's Sunday School meets every week in room 207 during both 9:30 and 11 o'clock services. Nursery is available for children, infant through 3 years old, in room 102.



PODCAST

Every week, John Hodges-Batzka takes the Sunday sermon, adds a devotion and announcements about upcoming events to create the **Highland Methodist Podcast**. Check it out! Available Mondays in the app, Apple Podcasts, and Google Play.

The easiest way to stay connected and in the loop is to **download the HUMC app** and turn on notifications. In the app, you can listen to the sermons, set up online giving, register for events and so much more! Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to download the HUMC app!



PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISE REPORTS

- Melinda G—2nd brain surgery 12/6
- Mary P—(Lanee Philippe's sister-in-law) brain tumor surgery
- Lee H—shingles
- 3 month old with COVID
- Marlene P—MRI results
- Barb W—infection, travel
- Caroline—3yr old diagnosed with diabetes
- Vera—stress and care of parents
- Baby Vivian—born prematurely
- Aidan—surgery on 11/27
- Nancy M—healing
- Mac H—continued healing
- Lynn E—rehab from brain injury
- Pingwah Tang—Sonya Tang Girdwood's father, healing
- Rick E — regain strength
- Lana V— back surgery rehab
- Christina—praise for good lab results



Highland United Methodist Church
859-441-0587 office@highlandmethodist.com
www.highlandmethodist.com
Guest wifi password: HumcLoves

Highland United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 3, 2023 11:00am

First Sunday of Advent



Highland United Methodist Church affirms and welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, ages, nations, and races. We fully include all in the life and ministry of the church as we seek to share God's love in Jesus Christ.

The Mission of Highland United Methodist Church is to transform lives by demonstrating Jesus' love and making him known through serving others.



What does it mean when we say that Jesus is the incarnation of God? How can Jesus be God *and* human? **We'll explore what it means to say that God came down at Christmas in our IN-carnation advent worship series.** We hope you'll join us as we prepare for the Christmas season.



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Highland Methodist is excited to celebrate the Christmas season with the community with the **Holiday Walk, TODAY.** We will serve hot chocolate and make s'mores on the plaza from 5:15-7, and the Highland Ringers will play the **handbells from 5:30-6:30.**



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The Highland United Methodist Choir presents "Winter's Grace: A Christmas Cantata," Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30PM. This musical evening tells the story of how Christ comes into the shadows and winter of this world to bring us the light and warmth of salvation. Following the performance, all are invited to enjoy refreshments in the Welcome Center.



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SANTA VISIT

Saturday, December 9
9:30 and 10:30



Register at highlandmethodist.com



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