

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Merciful God, forgive us.

**All: We have become so accustomed to living in an unjust world that we do not hear your call to justice.**

One: Give us courage to insist that our social structures be just; that there be no more victims.

**All: We do not completely believe in your generosity, so we fear the future, and we are stingy in our giving to you and to others.**

One: Give us courage to sacrifice all false forms of security and to trust only in you. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive fully your gifts; open our lips and our hands to share them fully with others.

**All: In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

†Gloria Patri #579 **Glory Be to the Father**

**THE WORD**

WORDS WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH

Jen Jammer

PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 22:1-14

ANTHEM

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

arr. Schrader

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:40-42

MESSAGE

Family Reunion, week 3: An Unthinkable Trial

Rev. Chip Stapleton

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

**All: 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.**

**RESPONSE**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

arr. Hayes

†Doxology #592

**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 DEDICATION

**SENDING**

†SENDING #276 **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

†BENEDICTION God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Tomer

†POSTLUDE

O Sing A New Song

arr. Post

*†All who are able, please stand*



The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today  
to the Glory of God and in honor of

**Gayle McDonald**

In appreciation for her many years of service  
to Highland Presbyterian Church and our choir

Given by *The Chancel Choir*

Hello Highlanders,

While the weather isn't quite cooperating, as of today's Summer solstice, we are 'officially' in the thick of summer. Summer means a lot of changes, different schedules, and a different pace of life - at least sometimes.

A member on Sunday reminded me that, especially in the summer that Highland can be what he called an 'up and down' congregation - up in the mountains and down at the beach. And, of course, that is part of what makes summer such a wonderful time - the chance to get out and enjoy some of God's wonderful creation.

But because of the changing schedules and the opportunities to be elsewhere, many of our 'regular' church activities, beyond worship, take a break during the summer. But, even though it is harder to get a 'critical mass' to do something like a summer Bible study, growing in our faith and discipleship isn't something that should be seasonal.

To that end, I want to encourage you to be regular in your personal discipleship and study - find a Bible reading plan and/or a devotional that is engaging to you and stick with it, wherever you are. If you don't know where to start, just reach out to me and I can provide you with several options.

Additionally, as I was studying for our Summer sermon series about Abraham and Sarah and God's chosen family in Genesis, I came across a compelling and thought-provoking book, *The Flawed Family of God: Stories about the Imperfect Families in Genesis* by Carolyn Helsel and Song-Mi Suzie Park.

The book, available on Amazon here, covers more and some different territory than our sermon and worship series will, but there is a lot of overlap and they are complementary. So, as an additional discipleship resource this summer, we will be posting regular episodes of the HPC podcast, beginning this week - with a discussion about Abraham and Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, and Isaac. You can find the HPC podcast on the church website, our HPC app, and anywhere you get your podcasts. We hope you will give us a listen.

Sharing God's love,

~Chip

~~~PASTORAL CONCERNS~~~

***We ask that you keep our home-bound in your thoughts and prayers.***

P.W. and Martha Jessup  
Lisa Hitt  
(daughter of Gayle McDonald)  
June Marie Smith  
Doris & John English  
Violet McNeill

Steve & Orion Gaynos  
Madie Rae Locklear  
("Grandma" to the Guy Family)  
Lib Yarborough  
Bill Johnson  
Betty Graham  
Bill Owen

Please let us know if you have concerns that you think the church should know about. Please limit to close-extended family. We will put their names (and relation to you if you desire) in the email update. The names will be removed after a few weeks unless requested otherwise. Thank you. Email [kellilu@gmail.com](mailto:kellilu@gmail.com)

**HPC YOUTH**  
**SUMMER 2023**  
 You won't get bored with these lots of fun activities!

**HERE'S THE DEETS:**  
 Wed, June 7: Wet Wednesday @ HPC  
 VBS June 12-16: Get your Volunteer Hours!  
 ASP: June 18-24  
 Wed, June 28: Sweet Frog Family Night  
 Wed, July 12: Putt-Putt Fun Center  
 Sun, July 16: Woodpeckers Game  
 July 21-26: Mission Conference  
 Wed, Aug 2: Carowinds  
 Date TBD: Lake Day  
 Wed, Aug 16: Battlehouse  
 Sun, Aug 27: Back to School Cookout



**Notes on today's music...**

*Precious Lord,  
 Take My Hand*

worship, it was not approved for liturgical use. Fortunately, it has been included in 24 Protestant hymnals, one of which is the 2013 Presbyterian Hymnal.

**Introit:** Austrian composer Franz Schubert's beautifully crafted "Sanctus" will begin our worship service this week. Sometimes the most profound musical statements flow out of simplicity. This piece from Schubert's Deutsche Messe is a good example. Although commissioned for use in Catholic

**Anthem:** "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" was written by Thomas Dorsey (1899-1993), known as the Father of Black Gospel Music. Even though he had hundreds of jazz and blues songs to his credit, he turned to gospel music following the tragic death of his wife and son. This song became the most famous of his gospel songs. "Precious Lord, take my hand..." indicates a suffering soul that is reaching out. Dorsey was likely referring to Matthew 8:23-27 where Christ stills the storm when he penned, "Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light."

**Choral Benediction:** "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" is traditionally a closing benediction for the congregation. It's also sometimes sung as a farewell on the occasion of someone's departure. This Sunday it will serve as both. 68 years ago in June, almost to the day, a wonderful soprano joined our church and later our choir. Gayle McDonald's decades long choral music leadership comes to a close with this song. Thank you, Gayle, for giving your beautiful voice to the glory of God here among us. You will be greatly



**Power Forward** - the neighborhood youth group at HPC is conducting a summer sock drive. The need is basic. The demand is great. Our goal is to supply socks to our group. Boys & girls ages 8 to 19. Black athletic socks preferred. Ankle, quarter, calf, and no shows are all desirable. A box for collections will be placed in the front entrance area for donations. We will be collecting for the next few weeks and greatly appreciate your support! Thank you.



**JUNE 25, 2023  
 11:00AM**

**HIGHLAND  
 PRESBYTERIAN  
 CHURCH**

*SHARING GOD'S LOVE*

GATHERING MUSIC

**GATHERING**

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

Sanctus

Schubert

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us worship the eternal God,

**All: the Source of all justice and all giving.**

One: Let us worship Jesus Christ,

**All: who sacrificed himself to live among us.**

One: Let us worship the Holy Spirit,

**All: the Living Presence, who teaches us to be just and giving.**

One: When we walk the pathways of destruction

**All: We are met by the God of peace and reconciliation.**

One: When we sit and wonder if there is any way we can be of help

**All: We encounter the Holy One who invites us to faithful service.**

One: When we least expect it

**All: The Holy One through the Spirit offers us life-giving water.**

OPENING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

†HYMN #455 **All Creatures of Our God and King** (verses 1-4)

CALL TO CONFESSION



Vacation Bible School

**TO ALL OUR FRIENDS!**

Thank you all so much for your help and participation in VBS this year. We all had such a good time and now we know how to show the love of God by being the Fruit of the Spirit!