

**Highland Presbyterian Church**  
**Order of Worship**  
**December 20, 2020**

**PRELUDE**

“O Holy Night”

Paul & Diana Kirkpatrick, cellos

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of my child,  
**Suddenly, joy was overflowing**  
I knew love, but when you held my hand,  
**Suddenly, love was overflowing.**  
I knew God, but when you showed me grace, when you forgave me,  
when you loved me, when you raised me,  
**Suddenly, God was overflowing.**  
So, let us worship Holy God together as a reminder that  
God is here and we are never alone.  
**This is community.**  
This is the body of Christ.  
**Welcome home.**

**OPENING PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER**

**SONG**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Chancel Choir

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of Good News, You say to me, “You are highly favored,” but I struggle to see how that could be. You say to me, “Do not be afraid,” but I am afraid all the time. You say to me, “Even the impossible is possible, just look at Elizabeth!” But hope slips through my hands like water. The impossible still feels impossible. So today I pray, today we pray: Teach us to sing like Mary. Teach us to laugh like Elizabeth. Teach us to trust like the angels. Forgive us when we can only do one at a time, or none at all. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Jen Jammer

## **GIVING**

## **GOSPEL PASSAGE**

Luke 1:26-45

## **MESSAGE**

Those Who Dream, week 4: "Are Not Alone (Love)"

Rev. Chip Stapleton

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe that this world is hard - harder than it has to be. When the world falls apart around us, we believe in listening for the angels that say, "Do not be afraid," and in seeking out the Elizabeths in our lives - those who laugh with joy at our arrival and throw open the doors to their homes. We believe that healthy relationships can offer healing, through the laughter of cousins, the joy shared between siblings, and the home found in partnership. Therefore, we believe in church families, in chosen families, and in the love that extends beyond family. We believe in friendships, in neighbors, and in leaning on each other when the going gets tough. We believe in the Triune God - Lover, Beloved, and Love itself. Inherently relational, always connected, and never alone. We believe that we are loved and claimed, never alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

## **SONG**

"Pastoral Symphony" from "Messiah" Paul & Diana Kirkpatrick, cellos

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

"Angels We Have Heard on High" Paul & Diana Kirkpatrick, cellos

**WIFI Password - Churchonthehill\$1**