

THE WORD

WORDS WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH

Jen Jammer

BAPTISM

Elizabeth Faye Riddle
Daughter of Trey and Mary Riddle

BAPTISMAL HYMN #498

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 4:13-25

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 9:9-13

MESSAGE

An Invitation to the Lenten Table of Jesus Christ
Rev. Chip Stapleton

†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.

COMMUNION

Call to Communion
Words of Institution
Prayer after Communion

COMMUNION MEDITATION

The One
(Chancel Choir)

Courtney

RESPONSE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace
(Highland Ringers)

arr. Mokolbust

†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

†HYMN #371

Lift High the Cross

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord!

Roff

†All who are able, please stand



Altar Flowers

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today
to the Glory of God and in loving memory
of our daughter

Charlotte Rebecca Haithcock

Given by: *Lauren & Will Haithcock*

~~~PASTORAL CONCERNS~~~

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

P.W. and Martha Jessup	Steve & Orion Gaynos
Jean Robinson	Madie Rae Locklear
Lisa Hitt	("Grandma" to the Guy Family)
(daughter of Gayle McDonald)	Lib Yarborough
Charlotte Ingram	Bill Johnson
June Marie Smith	Betty Graham
Doris & John English	Mike Byerly (SIL to Shirley Olund)
Violet McNeill	Bill Owen
Randy Gainer	

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. Kelli 910-401-0928 or kellilu@gmail.com

Worship Leaders

Rev. Chip Stapleton, Senior Minister
Pam Langston, Dir. of Music Ministries
Jen Jammer, Dir. of Children's Ministry
Chris Jackson, Dir. of Youth Ministry

Hello Highlanders,

As I thought about what to share with you as we stand at the precipice of (yet another) Lenten season, my mind kept being drawn to an article I recently read. In the article, a religion reporter - who labels himself 'unsure of his faith', was asked why he makes it a point to always attend a service on Ash Wednesday. His response stuck with me for days and, I hope, will serve as a powerful reminder of why we participate in Lent and as an invitation to our services on Wednesday. *I think the answer has to do with the radical and disorienting nature of the observance. Our consumer culture promises that attractiveness and eternal youth are just one purchase away. Cash or credit. But Ash Wednesday reminds us we are dead in our sins and, soon enough, dead in fact. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.*

There is a strong tendency in American churches to suppose that Christianity condemns other people's corrupt values, but never our own. Easily available, grace becomes cheap. Ash Wednesday subverts the Sunday-best facade many wear to church every week and the happy-clappy shallowness they find there.

To the degree that sin is even a relevant cultural category at all, it is almost completely subjective. And sin, if it even exists, is something other people do. Yet the Ash Wednesday liturgy recalls memorable lines from Psalm 51: "My sin is ever before me." It feels strange to recall my own sins and the manifold social evils in which I am complicit. Is there something rebellious and wicked in my very nature? On Ash Wednesday, I am forced to confront those parts of myself.

Many Catholics and liturgical Protestants attend services in the morning or at noon. The ashen crosses on their foreheads bear silent but compelling witness to their faith. In secular Washington, D.C., a town obsessed with power and status, the ashes are welcome reminders that many people still lead quiet lives of devotion. Ultimately, they acknowledge, they have no power over nature. Ultimately, they are dust.

I prefer an Ash Wednesday service in the evening. I don't feel quite worthy to wear the sign of the cross on my forehead, supposing it to be more appropriate for people with stronger faith and more active devotion.

But even I can approach the altar on Ash Wednesday, suspending for a moment my speculations about what parts of religion are true and what parts are illusions. Even if I do not finally know what Jesus can do about it or how, it feels right to acknowledge my sin, my incompleteness, and my mortality.

For all my childhood years of going to church to hear that God loves me, it seems worth remembering that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Church cannot just be a place to have my ideological views, my consumer preferences, or my lifestyle choices affirmed. It should also be, in the words of a Catholic priest during the Civil War, "one clean spot on earth, uncontaminated by politics, where every sinner may bow his proud head before God."

And so I will bow my head. I will receive the cross of ashes and hear the words, "Repent, and believe the gospel." Of course, the meaning of the gospel has confounded the philosophers of the ages. And yet it is so simple, even a child can understand: Jesus "came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." (1 Timothy 1:15).

I will leave the church in silent contemplation, then go to my home and wash the ashes off my forehead. And I will be vividly aware, for one day at least, that my immortality and righteousness are actually illusions, while my finitude and sin are very real.

I will credit the church, so fashionably and widely accused of trafficking in delusions, with telling me the truth. For the message of Ash Wednesday is indisputable: I am a sinner, and I will die.

And in the penitent days of Lent, my skeptical heart will wonder what other truths the church may possess.

I hope you will join us on Ash Wednesday as we begin our Lenten journey together.

Sharing God's Love,

~Chip

Presbyterian Women's Mission Day

Monday, February 27th - 9:30am

Fellowship Hall - Light refreshments

Please check the baskets outside the elevator/lobby to see what's needed. Place your donations in the appropriate baskets.

Thank you.

Catechism



Dear Parents of Highland Fifth Graders and everyone else who has missed out in the past few years!!!!

Highland Presbyterian is preparing to offer the study of Children's Catechism beginning Sunday, March 5th during the Second Mile or 11:00 service after the children's message. We will meet every Sunday in the kid's choir room next to mission central.

If you have further questions or your child plans to participate, feel free to call Jen (989) 447-3489. This is a meaningful family experience, and we hope your family will be a part of it.



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL
Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023**

Menu: *Hamburger Steak with Gravy, Rice, Broccoli, Salad Bar, Dessert*

Make your reservations now! Call 401-0928 or kellilu@gmail.com



**Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023**

Please join us at 12:15pm in the Chapel or 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. Imposition of ashes at both services.

While we will be having dinner on February 22nd, there will be no 'other' planned activities for the evening.

Consider Attending

PRESBYTERIAN PILGRIMAGE

An Intensive 3-day Christian Growth Experience

From

Sundown Thursday March 9

To

Sundown Sunday March 12

Visit www.ncpilgrimage.org for more information and talk to someone from Highland who has attended. Here are some people you know who have been to Pilgrimage and would be happy to answer your questions: *Sally Augustine, Margaret Barefoot, Cathy Blackwell, Avery Cameron, Valen Fowler, Nancy Haithcock, Lauren Harper, Martha Ann Harrell, Carol Ivey, Gina Keel, Becky Lee, Lynn Legatski, Neill Legg, Katherine Parnell, Stuart Augustine, Kenny Barefoot, Scott Cameron, Mike Fowler, Dana Haithcock, Steve Harden, Shields Harper, Tom Lee, Karl Legatski, and Terry Morris.*

Notes on Today's Music...

"I Will Greatly Rejoice" (Isaiah 61) is a jubilant expression of praise! The "alleluias" of this celebrative introit will soon give way to the contemplative music of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday.

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!" is a glorious hymn of praise in which the author invites us to declare Christ's continued presence among his people. Accompanied by handbells and organ, let us sing "alleluia!" to the ever-present Christ.

"The One" is an effective choral meditation during the serving of communion elements. It is Jesus' invitation to the table presented with simple clarity. "The One who knows your name has bid you, 'Come.'"

"Amazing Grace" is a handbell arrangement of this 200-year-old hymn. The tune for this hymn is an early American melody. Highland Ringers would love to have all bells ringing!

"Lift High the Cross" makes clear that the cross is a symbol of Christ's love. Written in 1887 as a processional hymn for Winchester Cathedral, it didn't find its way to America until 1974. It is a Highland favorite!

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" (Sanctus) is a liturgical setting of an ancient text. There are five settings: Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei. The Sanctus is a joyful shout of thanks and praise to God.



NO Youth Group This Sunday. Enjoy your Holiday Weekend!



FEBRUARY 19, 2023

11:00am

**HIGHLAND
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

I Will Greatly Rejoice

POTE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Friends, we are invited to prepare our hearts for the journey of faith

All: towards the One who calls us each by a new name.

One: Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,

All: pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.

One: Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,

All: whose promises take on flesh and blood

in the good news called Jesus.

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #144

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of calling, you called Abraham and Matthew and gave them the strength they needed to follow you. You also called a people and cared for and nurtured that people so that they could live life in your abundance. You also call us, but sometimes we prefer to close our eyes and cover our ears, turning our backs to your will. Forgive us, O God, and grant us the confidence and the hope that we need to follow when you call. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING THE PEACE

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

All: And also with you.