

ADVENT RESPONSE Christ Be Our Light Raney
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: We confess to you, O God, that we are not prepared to welcome your way of righteousness, justice, and peace. You call us to repentance, but we refuse to change our ways. You call us to be reconciled, but we remain divided and afraid. Forgive us, God of grace. Pour out your Spirit in our lives so that we may be forgiven, set free, and made ready to meet you at the coming of your holy realm; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE WORD

WORDS WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH Jen Jammer

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Caroline Johnson

ANTHEM

PSALM READING Psalm 25: 4-5

SERMON The Inn, week 1: Making Room
Rev. Chip Stapleton

RESPONSE

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed pg. 14 Blue Hymnal

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 from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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.

OFFERTORY Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence arr. Deasley

†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

†CLOSING HYMN #44 O Little Town of Bethlehem

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE Prepare the Way arr. Post
Pam Langston, organ

†All who are able, please stand



Worship Leaders

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

GENEROSITY

Thank you to everyone who has pledged to our 2022 Generosity Campaign. We appreciate you. If you have not yet made your pledge and would like to do so, it's not too late. Please go to hpchurch.org/pledge to access our online giving form.

Important notice to those of you who currently have recurring giving set up online. If you are submitting next year's pledge and wish to change the amount of your recurring gift, please indicate this information on your pledge card and we will reach out to you shortly to ensure that this change is made starting in 2022. Your current online gift amount will continue into 2022 unless we are otherwise notified or you cancel the gift online yourself. Please email finance@hpchurch.org or call 401-0924 with any questions.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL

Menu for December 1st...

Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Salad Bar, Dessert)
Make your reservations by EOB on Tuesday!
kellilu@gmail.com or 910-401-0928

Presbyterian Women's Bake Sale

Wednesday, December 8th, 3:00-6:30pm
(Dinner is Fried Chicken, corn, dirty rice)

Please join us in making delightful sweet treats, cakes/cookies/etc. for our annual fundraiser. If you're not quite the baker, but want to enjoy something tasty, stop by our bake sale to purchase a few items!

For those who will be baking something to sell, please fill out the sign-up sheet located at the front desk (or in your Sunday School classroom or through your Circle). Or you may contact Kelli at kellilu@gmail.com 401-0928 to let her know what you plan to provide (I will need your name, email, phone number, and item(s) baked/donated.)

Addresses

Don't forget! We are asking for mailing addresses of our college kids. The end of the semester is fast approaching and the Presbyterian Women want to help make exam time a little better. Please email name/address by Nov. 29th to Kelli at kellilu@gmail.com

InterFaith Christmas

It's time to go shopping...for our InterFaith families! If you, your Sunday School class, family, or other group would like to support this mission, please contact Jen Jammer at 989-447-3489 to let her know you are interested. Thank you!

~~~PASTORAL CONCERNS~~~

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

P.W. and Martha Jessup	Norman Blakely
Jean Robinson	Steve & Orion Gaynos
Sam Williams	Madie Rae Locklear
Lisa Hitt	("Grandma" to the Guy Family)
(daughter of Gayle McDonald)	Lib Yarborough
Charlotte Ingram	Bill Johnson

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.

Kelli Lujan 401-0928 or email kellilu@gmail.com

Announcements for November 28 - December 4, 2021

A note from your Pastor...

Hello Highlanders,

I want to begin today by thanking everyone who was able to join us on Sunday for a great dedication Sunday. It was a wonderful day with a unified service and a time of fellowship afterwards. We are so thankful for all of you who have already pledged for 2022 - these pledges allow us to be good stewards and plan appropriately for our mission and ministry in the coming year - and I would ask that each of you that haven't yet pledged prayerfully consider doing so.

We have much to be thankful for, both as a church and as individuals, and this week, where we celebrate Thanksgiving is a perfect time to reflect on all those gifts and all that we have to be grateful for.

In that vein, I wanted to share with you some thoughts that I found from a recent op-ed in the New York Times from Tish Harrison Warren, a priest in the Anglican Church in North America and accomplished author. In the article, Warren says the following:

The practice of gratitude is central to nearly every religious and spiritual tradition. And all of us have much to be grateful for. We get the shocking privilege of living on this planet that is uniquely crafted so that humans can be born, breathe, grow, work, harvest and create. We have bodies that know the pleasures of strawberries, guacamole and buttery popcorn. We hear laughter and breathe in the steam of hot coffee.

The practice of gratitude teaches us, as the theologian Christine D. Pohl put it, "the giftedness of our total existence." This posture of receptiveness — living as the thankful beneficiary of gifts — is the path of joy because it reminds us that we do not have to be the makers and sustainers of our life. Gratitude is how we embrace beauty without clutching it so tightly that we strangle it.

To receive life as a gift is to acknowledge that we do not — and indeed cannot — hold our world together out of our sheer effort, will and strength. Most of the best things in life can only be received and held with open hands. Like the story of the Israelites receiving manna from God in the desert, we receive what we need as sheer mercy, but it cannot be hoarded, clung to or clutched. Instead, understanding all of our existence as a gift allows us to see that we are limited in our own capacity to control the world and yet we are given what we need, day by day.

While gratitude is central to the living out of our faith, it doesn't always come naturally to us. Warren says, 'Feeling grateful does not always happen naturally. Thankfulness is something like a muscle we can exercise. Just as we can cultivate ingratitude, entitlement, bitterness or cynicism, we can foster gratitude, appreciative humility, delight and joy.'

To help us exercise those critically important gratitude muscles, Warren gives us 5 ways to do just that. Here they are:

1. Keep lists. Look back over a day or a week, and write down as many things as you can think of that you receive as a gift — things that are as essential as breath or as frivolous as a good parking spot. On a terrible week, you can list moments of light amid the darkness. On a good week, you can take time to celebrate each grace.

2. Write Thank-You notes. This is a dreaded task for most of us, myself included. But I think a lot of that has to do with our view of them as some sort of obligation. If, instead, we viewed the task of recognizing and responding to the good things others have done for you or brought into your life, as an opportunity to call out and claim the things we have to be grateful for, that act of saying thanks can bring us joy too.

3. Compose your own Psalm. The Psalms are a poetic way of expressing thanks to God. You can read a Psalm of thanksgiving like Psalm 111 or Psalm 34 and alter the words to reflect the particular good things in your own life. For example, Psalm 34 says, "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." I could write, "I sought the Lord and he heard me and helped me with that difficult conversation with a friend." Or healed my son from his stomach bug. Or delivered me from a fear of failure.

4. Make a piece of art. For those who are more visually inclined, instead of listing things for which you are grateful, create a space where you can draw, make a collage or otherwise represent things that remind you of the gifts in your life.

5. Take a gratitude walk. The simple act of movement can sometimes free our minds to see things from a different perspective. Use that opportunity to think about, and give thanks for the good things in your life.

I hope you and yours have a wonderful Thanksgiving and that it is a time filled with recognition of the gifts of God in your life. And, if your plans don't involve travel, we hope to see you on Thursday morning as we share our gifts in preparing Thanksgiving meals for the community.

Sharing God's Love,
~Chip



*Carols for Choir
& Orchestra
December 12, 2021
11:00 AM
Highland Presbyterian
Fayetteville, NC*



NOVEMBER 28, 2021
11:00am

HIGHLAND
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Harriet McDonald

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Lloyd

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our promised salvation is at hand.

All: A righteous branch has sprung forth, bringing hope to our world.

One: Our eyes have beheld the goodness and mercy of the Lord.

All: A Son has been give to us, bringing justice and virtue to our land.

One: Our hearts have felt the stirrings of God's presence.

**All: The Spirit of truth is here to heal us,
teaching transgressors God's ways.**

One: God of our Salvation, for you we wait.

All: Night and day we pray for your return.

One: Come and fulfill your promise to us.

All: Come and deliver your people.

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #2

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING The Johnson Family

Reader 1

Reader 2

Reader 1: The Hope of Christ be with you!

Congregation: And also with you!