

ADVENT RESPONSE Christ Be Our Light Farrell

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: In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE WORD

WORDS WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH

Jen Jammer

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 12:2-6

GOSPEL READING Luke 3:7-18

CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

Arranged by Larry Shackley

Richard Butler, guest conductor
Tomoko Galeano, guest accompanist

WEXFORD CAROL (12th-cent. Irish Carol)
(Good People All, This Christmas Time)

DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM (13th-cent. plainsong)
(Of the Father's Love Begotten)

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE (Trad. Basque Carol)
(The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came)

Narration

ORIENTUS PATRIBUS (12th-cent. French Melody)

(The Friendly Beasts)

Praise Singers

Narration

BRANLE DE L'OFFICIAL (16th-cent. French Melody)

(Ding Dong! Merrily on High)

GREENSLEEVES (16th-cent. English Melody)

(What Child Is This?)

Elaine Bryant, Harriet McDonald, Warren Way

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (15th-cent. German Melody)

(What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright?)

Christopher Jackson, soloist

IN DULCI JUBILO (14th-cent. German Melody)

(Good Christian Friends, Rejoice)

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.

OFFERING The First Nowell
Nancy Hastings, flute

OFFERTORY

†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 #23 **Angels We Have Heard on High**

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE Reprise: Wexford Carol

†*All who are able, please stand*



Carols for Choir and Orchestra

presented by

Highland Chancel Choir and Highland Praise Singers

with Viki Hogan, guest soprano
Christopher Jackson, soloist

Guest Orchestra
Dylan Quick - Trumpet
Rachel Banda - Flugelhorn
Ryan Godwin - French Horn
Aaron Brown - Trombone
Nancy Hastings - Flute
Monique Singletary - Violin
Diana Andrews - Cello
Sue Hardwick - Percussion

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

~~~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 December 12 - December 18, 2021

A note from your Pastor...

Hello Highlanders,

This season of Advent and Christmas is a time when we make space for the coming of Jesus and we are reminded of God's constant and faithful presence in the midst of our busy, uncertain, and sometimes challenging lives. I wish that I was writing you today with a sole focus on the peace and joy, love and hope that we have in the advent of Jesus. Unfortunately, as we have all learned, life often interrupts our plans.

I am instead writing to you today, on behalf of our session, to let you know that after experiencing symptoms, three of our staff members have tested positive for Covid-19. All three staff – who won't be identified to protect their privacy – are recovering at home, and we would ask you to join us in praying for their quick and full recovery.

After the positive tests on Monday morning, the rest of the staff were tested by the end of the day, both with a rapid and a PCR test. Thankfully the rest of the staff returned negative tests. At this point all of the known close contacts (as defined by the CDC) have been notified and instructed to get tested. Beyond the close contacts, we are also encouraging anyone who is exhibiting any symptoms or has any concerns to get tested immediately. We can direct you to available testing sites if needed.

We are writing so that you can join us in prayer, of course, but also to let you know that we are moving forward with our church mission, worship, and activity as scheduled.

Finally, we want to remind everyone of our masking policy, which asks that all persons - regardless of vaccination status – wear masks indoors (except while eating, drinking, or leading (speaking) while our county is in the 'High' or 'Substantial' spread levels. Currently, Cumberland county is in the 'High' level.

Thank you all for your prayers, your cooperation, and your continued faithfulness as part of the body of Christ. If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Chip or a member of session.

Sharing God's Love,
~Chip

POINSETTIAS 2021

Deadline is Monday, December 13th!

The cost is \$10 for each "in honor" or "in memory". Please complete the form found at the front desk then place it in the collection plate, mail it, or drop it back by the church (or Kelli's office).

OR! Access the order form on our website hpchurch.org/poinsettias

The Longest Night

Wednesday, December 15th - Service at 6:30pm

Christmas can be the most wonderful time of the year, but it also is a time of grief and sadness for so many. As the nights get colder and longer, we gather together to remember those we've lost, to honor our feelings of loneliness and sadness that can come this time of year, and to find comfort together.

BAKE SALE

The Presbyterian Women would like to thank all who baked, donated, bought, and enjoyed all the delicious treats from our Bake Sale Fundraiser. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

Celebrate Christmas Eve with us - December 24th

4:00pm - Christmas Eve Family Service

8:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We ask that if you and/or your family plan to join us that you please make a reservation. This is so that we can better plan for both services.

Please go online to hpchurch.org/christmas-at-highland to access the reservation form.

Or you may call Keely at 401-0929 or Kelli at 401-0928.

GENEROSITY

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.

HPC Session Highlights

December 7, 2021

*Approved the baptism of Parker and Harrison Kiser, children of Thomas and Kelly Kiser for January 16, 2022, at the 9:00 Second Mile Service.

*Approved the baptism of Harris Haithcock, son of Will and Lauren Haithcock to be held in the sanctuary at an undetermined date.

*Approved the wedding of Wallace Cameron and Jeffery Petroski to take place in the sanctuary of Highland Presbyterian Church on July 9, 2022, at 4:00pm with the Rev. Chip Stapleton officiating.

*Approved request of Lauren Reames for Dr. Ernie Johnson to officiate along with Rev. Chip Stapleton at her wedding on June 25, 2022.

*Approved request for Dorothy Davis and Dr. George Krolik to wed in the chapel of Highland Presbyterian Church at a date between December 27 and December 30, 2021, with Rev. Chip Stapleton and Dr. Jay Coker officiating.

*Received the following report from Ginny Breece, Highland Learning Center Board Chair: had hired Diana Bunton as the new director of the Learning Center; had finalized the new Learning Center playground to begin around April 2022; were getting an estimate for redoing the front playground; were able to give the Learning Center staff a raise with the grants they had received.

*Approved the worship services on December 26, 2021, to be combined into 1 unified service to take place at 11:00am. This would allow Sunday School to take place at its usual time of 10:00am.

*Approved the 2022 dates for communion at the Traditional 11:00 service as proposed by the Traditional Worship Committee.

*Approved the re-allocation of designated funds in the missions' program as presented by the Missions Committee.

*Received report from Warren Way, Facilities Use Subcommittee Chair, that the lease for the rental space by a Service Source employee had been presented and is waiting for the signature of the appropriate person.

*Approved the membership of the congregation being informed of the three COVID cases among the staff through the church emails.



DECEMBER 12, 2021

11:00am

**HIGHLAND
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

PRESERVICE MUSIC

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming
Diana Andrews, cello

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name of the most high God.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

One: Proclaim mercy of the One who comes as one of us.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

One: Trust and do not be afraid.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

One: With joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 1

Reader 2

Reader 1: The Joy of Christ be with you!

Congregation: And also with you!