

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Why do you look upward?

All: Our Lord has been taken away into heaven.

One: Look around you. What do you see?

All: There are so many places where the love of God is needed.

One: Look beyond you. Where will you go?

All: Christ calls to go into the world, bringing God’s healing love to all.

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

†HYMN #483 **Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world, and is head of the church, his body. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE WORD

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH

Jen Jammer

LITANY OF LAMENT

(Based on a Prayer from UMC Bishop of Western NC, Ken Carter)

One: Almighty God, our prayers rise like incense. When we cry out to you, the Psalms teach us, you answer.

All: Lord, in your Mercy, hear our prayer

One: The massacres of the innocent, in Buffalo, in Laguna Woods, in Uvalde are known to you.

All: Lord, in your Mercy, hear our prayer.

One: Our schools, our churches, our supermarkets are pierced by violence, racism, and hatred.

All: Lord, in your Mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We sit now in the darkness of yet another grief, and we cannot be complacent.

All: Lord, in your Mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We are our sister’s keepers, our brother’s keepers.

All: Lord, in your Mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We pray for those who have lost so much. We pray for those motivated by a culture of death. We pray for the anger that we harbor within ourselves.

All: Lord, in your Mercy, hear our prayer.

One: And, as we pray, we know that we can and must act. We name those who have been murdered. We ask for courage and responsibility from our leaders that they may seek solutions and pursue them.

All: Lord, in your Mercy, hear our prayer.

One: And we commit ourselves to the way of Jesus Christ, who is our peace, and who has broken down the dividing wall of hostility that is between us.

All: Lord, in your Mercy, hear our prayer.

One: Come, Lord Jesus. May our swords become plowshares, may our killing fields blossom into a garden.

All: Lord, in your Mercy, hear our Prayer.

One: Guide our feet into the way of peace.

All: Lord, in your Mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT Acts 16:16-24

ANTHEM No Longer Slaves
(Second Mile Praise Band)

You unravel me with a melody You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies Till all my fears are gone

*Chorus: I’m no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God*

From my mother’s womb You have chosen me
Love has called my name I’ve been born again into Your family
Your blood flows through my veins

*Bridge: You split the sea so I could walk right through it
My fears were drowned in perfect love*

You rescued me so I could stand and sing I am a child of God

NEW TESTAMENT Acts 16:25-34

MESSAGE Surprise (The Unexpected Acts of God),
week 6: An Amazing Escape Rev. Chip Stapleton

RESPONSE

†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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow arr. Post

†DOXOLOGY **“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

ANTHEM **Eternal Father Strong to Save**
(Congregation to join on last verse)

**O Trinity of love and power, all travelers guard in danger’s hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe’er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee, glad praise from and land and sea.**

†BLESSING & BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE God of the Ages arr. Hopson

†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
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       | Noel Harris                   |
| Jean Robinson                | Steve & Orion Gaynos          |
| Lisa Hitt                    | Madie Rae Locklear            |
| (daughter of Gayle McDonald) | ("Grandma" to the Guy Family) |
| Charlotte Ingram             | Lib Yarborough                |
| June Marie Smith             | Bill Johnson                  |
| Gayle McDonald               | Patsy Thames                  |

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

Hello Highlanders,

Earlier this week all of us likely woke up with a heavy heart, reflecting on the school shooting in Texas. I certainly did. As I tried to focus on my tasks for the day, one of them was finalizing the order for our unified worship service this morning, one of the things I was looking at was potential prayers that recognize and help us focus on the meaning behind our Memorial Day holiday.

The prayer below, written in 2017 by Jill Duffield, former editor of the Presbyterian Outlook and currently a pastor in Greensboro, struck me as particularly meaningful, so I thought I would share it with all of you.

**Memorial Day Prayer**

*Lord God, until there is war no more and you wipe every tear from every eye, we will remember. We will remember those who have served and died for the sake of something greater than themselves. We will remember and give thanks for the men and women who knowingly put themselves in harm's way so that others might be safer. We will remember the families who grieve this day and every day for brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, daughters and sons, friends and spouses, who lost their lives while wearing the uniform of our country.*

*Lord God, until you beat swords into plowshares and the ox and lamb lie down together, we will remember. We will remember that peace doesn't happen without peacemakers and violence won't cease unless we stand in the breach and begin to repair it. We will remember that war is costly, the price paid in priceless lives cut short.*

*Lord God, until the Prince of Peace returns and death and crying are no more, we will remember. We will remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country. We will support those left bereft in their absence. We will remember to seek reconciliation, knowing that while we cannot control the ways of the world, we can seek to work for peace in our own lives and communities.*

*Lord God, until there is no need for men and women to place themselves in harm's way, we will remember and give thanks for those who did and died.*

*In the name of the One who grants us the peace that passes understanding, we pray. Amen.*

*~Jill Duffield*

Sharing God's Love,  
~Chip

**USHERS NEEDED**

Serving as an usher is a wonderful opportunity to welcome others to our time of worship at Highland Presbyterian Church.

Ushers also pass the collection plate during the service. Volunteers are needed - no experience necessary! So, if you are middle school age or older and are looking for a way to serve, please contact Suzanne Beekman at sbeek106@centurylink.net or call 910-867-0431 (home), or 910-366-2364 (cell).

**YOUTH Summer Schedule**

**NO SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH DURING SUMMER**

Wednesday June 8 5:30 pm

Slip-n-Slide and Cookout in Learning Center Side Yard  
All Rising 6th graders invited to join us for their first Youth Group activity!

WOODPECKERS GAME - Sunday, July 10 2:00pm

Cost: FREE (We have 20 seats available, contact Chris to reserve yours!)

ASP - June 26- July 2

Our team will be working in Breathitt County, KY  
Participants please read the information in the email sent on May 16 and contact Chris with any questions.

WHITEWATER RAFTING - August 5-7

Please contact Chris if you are interested in participating or want more information. More details to come soon. Estimated cost: \$200

Have a great summer!

~Chris Jackson || 910\*309\*3030

**Music Notes with Pam...**

Our 1990 Presbyterian hymnal is also sold under the title Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs. It features more than six hundred hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs. Twenty-three of them are African American spirituals. That was an increase from the 1955 hymnal, yet less than what was included in the 2013 hymnal. Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 are where we can find what Paul wrote about worship...we are to admonish one another in, "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." The traditional spirituals of today are songs that were created and first sung by African Americans during the 19th century. These songs are a familiar, valuable part of American history, and their melodies are an integral part of worship services. Themes such as the hope to be lifted out of suffering and the belief that a higher power will help a person persevere in tough times are especially meaningful today. We pray that as we sing them together, we will come to have a deeper sense of our unity in the body of Christ.

Our choir will be learning several spirituals over the summer, and in September we look forward to hosting a seminar on the history of traditional spirituals and their significance in present day worship. Our clinician, Maestro William Patrick Alston, is a native of Baltimore, MD and has performed throughout the US and abroad as a solo artist, composer, and accompanist. He holds degrees and honors from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and teaches there as an adjunct professor of music. We are looking forward to this!

Sing together psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs!

~Pam

**Important Children's Summer Dates**

to help you make plans!

**VBS- Designed By God To Praise Him!**

June 6th-10th from 9-12

**Craft Camp**

July 11th-14th from 11-2



**HIGHLAND  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**MAY 29, 2022**

**11:00AM**

**UNIFIED SERVICE**

*SHARING GOD'S LOVE*

PRESERVICE

**GATHERING**

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

**House of the Lord**  
(Second Mile Praise Band)

**We worship the God who was, we worship the God who is  
We worship the God who evermore will be  
He opened the prison doors, He parted the raging sea  
My God He holds the victory, yeah**

*Chorus: There's joy in the house of the Lord,  
There's joy in the house of the Lord today  
And we won't be quiet, we shout out Your praise  
there's joy in the house of the Lord  
Our God is surely in this place, And we won't be quiet  
We shout out Your Praise*

**We sing to the God who heals, we sing to the God who saves  
We sing to the God who always makes a way  
'Cause He hung up on that cross, then He rose up from that grave  
My God's still rolling stones away**

*Bridge: We were the beggars, now we're royalty  
We were the prisoners, now we're running free  
We are forgiven accepted, redeemed by His grace  
Let the house of the Lord sing praise*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS