

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: O Lord we seek your mercy...yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged. We think it "only fair" and "what is right" when we retaliate and use harsh words and withdraw from relationship. The forgiveness you offer on our account is larger than we can comprehend, still we withhold forgiveness and carry the grudge over petty items. We are eager to do your judging. And the worst: we conspire our inner thoughts to secure your forgiveness while avoiding honest repentance. Forgive us Lord for the sins we know in our hearts. Save us Lord from the sins we hide. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you!
All: And also with you!

†Gloria Patri #579 **Glory Be to the Father**

THE WORD

CATECHISM RECOGNITION Jen Jammer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BAPTISM Odette Higgins
Daughter of Lucy and Jonathan Higgins

BAPTISMAL HYMN #498
Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

NEW TESTAMENT Romans 14:1-12

ANTHEM Creation Will Be at Peace Page
(Chancel Choir)

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

MESSAGE Learning to Love Our Enemies, week 2:
The Transforming Power of Forgiveness
Rev. Chip Stapleton

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*

All: 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.

RESPONSE

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table
Words of Institution
Prayer after Communion

COMMUNION MEDITATION

There Is Something About that Name Gaither
(Donna Hunt, soloist)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG Let There Be Peace on Earth arr. Meyer
(Sue Hardwick, handbells)

†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

†SENDING #343 **Called As Partners in Christ's Service (verse 1)**
**Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace.
We respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend.
Equal partners in our caring, to fulfill God's chosen end.**

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE Go Now in Peace Lau

†All who are able, please stand



CATECHISM PARTICIPANTS

*Nancy Augustine, Nate Horne, Tripp Howard,
Rory Ivey, Henry Stapleton, Wade Tilghman*

Notes on Today's Music...

"Festive Trumpet Tune" by David German is a joyful way to begin worship! The composer is a fellow Winthrop University alumnus and has served as organist of Calvary Church in Charlotte. A festival trumpet rank of pipes will soon be added to our organ which will make trumpet tune pieces like this one marvelous!

"When in Our Music God Is Glorified" is our opening hymn. The four verses of this hymn explore how human song gives voice to creation, how music can convey new insight, how sung faith has kept the church authentic, and how sound can be praise. May we lift our voices together to proclaim these truths boldly!

"Creation Will Be at Peace" by Anna Laura Page is a prayer for peace based on Isaiah 11:6-9. I first learned of this anthem while serving First Baptist Lumberton, and remember playing through tears as the beauty of the words and music washed over me. It is cherished here at Highland by choir and congregation alike.

"There's Something About that Name" by Bill and Gloria Gaither wrote this song of praise in 1970. It's in 23 hymnals, although not our Presbyterian Hymnal. Today's communion meditation will be sung for the glory of God by Donna Hunt as her first ever solo.

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" arranged for solo handbells by Kurt Meyer will be our offertory rung by Sue Hardwick. Unlike group ringing where a ringer is responsible for a particular space on the staff, a solo ringer plays all the notes alone - a challenging feat that requires extensive planning and choreography.

~Pam



~~~PASTORAL CONCERNS~~~

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

Martha Jessup      Steve & Orion Gaynos  
Doris & John English      Madie Rae Locklear  
Violet McNeill      ("Grandma" to the Guy Family)  
Bill Owen      Lib Yarborough  
Pattie Koonce      Bill Johnson  
Mary Lynn Bryan      Betty Graham  
Melody Acosta      Annette Pleasant  
Donavon Murray

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. Email kellilu@gmail.com

Hello Highlanders,

This week I spent some time at the Massanetta Springs Retreat center in Harrisonburg, VA serving as a commissioner for our Presbytery at the Fall Synod of the Mid-Atlantic assembly. In doing that work, I was reminded of one of (in my opinion) the best parts about being Presbyterian. We are a 'connectional' church. That is, that we recognize and really believe that we are better together, and that our lives of faith are not intended to be lived in isolation, but in working together - let by the Holy Spirit, we can be who God has called us to be.

Being Presbyterian means that we know and take seriously God's call to community and try to express his love and care for all through our work together.

One of the great ways that we do that is through our denominations Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. In light of the terrible news coming out of Morocco and Libya this week about the natural disasters there, I want to direct you to the PDA website, here. As a denomination we are actively involved in sharing God's love in tangible ways with those affected by natural disasters around the world and around our country. At the website you can quickly and easily find tangible ways to be involved in that effort, from guides to prayer, options to donate funds and/or other needed material and more.

Another way that we grow together as a community is when we come together to study God's Word. Of course we do that through worship each week, but more detailed study is an important part of discipleship and growth for all of us. That is why I am so excited to be starting back with our Adult Bible study as part of our Wednesday night programming 5:30ish in Leighton McKeithen room.

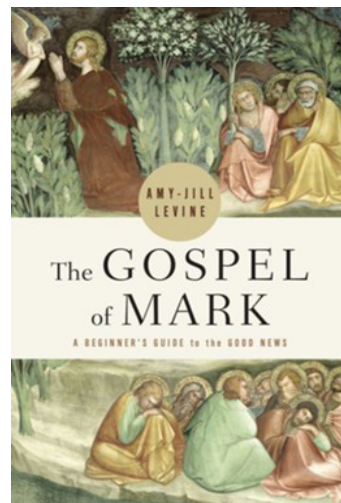
We are going to begin our study this fall with a look at the Gospel of Mark - the shortest and in some ways most 'accessible' of the gospels.

We will be utilizing a recent book, The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News by Amy-Jill Levine - an author who we have read before - as a companion and guide for this study.

We will have copies available for purchase (for \$12) and it is also available through Amazon and wherever else you get your books. But as always, you don't need the book, or to have read ahead to participate in the study - just show up!

*Sharing God's Love*

~Chip



### Adult Bible Study

with Chip

Leighton McKeithen

Classroom

Wednesdays

at 5:30pm

Join us!

We are studying

the Gospel of Mark, using the companion guide

The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News by Amy-Jill Levine

(\$12, also available on Amazon)

**Sessional nomination update:** Suggestion boxes and forms are located at the Fellowship Hall lobby desk and beside the Sacristy just outside the sanctuary. Names should be submitted by October 1. If you know an active church member with leadership qualities, the nominating committee asks that you prayerfully consider suggesting that person(s) for sessional nomination. Please note that permission for proposed nominees should NOT be obtained before submitting their name(s).



Wednesday Night Dinners - 5:00-6:00

Menu for **September 20**

**Spaghetti, Garlic Bread  
Salad Bar, Dessert, Beverage**

Adults - \$8 | Kids - \$4 | Family Cap - \$32

We also offer a gluten free option, please let us know when you make your reservations. Go to [hpchurch.org](http://hpchurch.org), scroll down a little on the landing page, there you will find the reservation form.

If you would like to make a "standing reservation" for the 2023-2024 season, you may do so in the reservation form. Please note that we have NOT carried over standing reservations from last year, so you will need to make sure to do this.

Please make your reservations by 12:00noon on the Tuesday prior. This allows time for proper preparation. Thank you! [kellilu@gmail.com](mailto:kellilu@gmail.com)

### YOUTH GROUP

Starts TONIGHT, 6pm, Fellowship Hall

Watch our Instagram page for a preview of our new series. Dinner, Games, and Bible Study

CHICK-FIL-A BREAKFAST - Tuesday Mornings

Get rewarded for hanging out with your friends!

Grab a CFA Breakfast loyalty Card!



SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

11:00AM



HIGHLAND  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

GATHERING MUSIC

### GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

Festive Trumpet Tune

German

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Children of God, when we face strife, upset, and harm in our midst, we so often turn to God and ask:

**All: How many times should I forgive?**

One: When Jesus answers that we should forgive again and again and again, we are tempted to repeat the question:

**All: How many times should I forgive?**

One: Until God turns the question around:

"How many times have I forgiven you?"

**All: Seventy times seven.**

One: "How many times have I loved you?"

**All: Seventy times seven.**

One: "How many times has my grace been sufficient for you?"

**All: Seventy times seven.**

One: Let us learn, then, how to forgive not out of our own power, but out of God's.

**All: God forgives us that we might be free to learn to live with one another well. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

†HYMN #264

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

CALL TO CONFESSION