

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Merciful and loving God, we are so grateful for your redeeming love for each one of us. We confess that there have been times of doubt in our spirits. We confess that when the times of difficulties are upon us, we don't always believe that you will take our burdens. We feel we have to always be in control, trying to demand the desired outcome. Help us to place our trust in you. Remind us that you surround us continually with your care, you never just let us go to drift aimlessly about. Open our hearts and spirits again to your healing powers. For we pray these things in the name of Jesus, the one who will take our burdens and give us peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

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

THE WORD

WORDS WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH Jen Jammer

INDEPENDENCE DAY LITANY A Prayer for our Land

One: Our gracious God, we thank you today for the land in which we live.
All: We thank you for the freedoms which are ours, for the multitude of opportunities presented to each of us, for a land of abundance.

One: Forgive us for our lack of creativity in sharing the nation's bounties inequitably,
All: for tarnishing our political process with greed, for failing the needy.

One: Save us from that litany of destructive behaviors which St. Paul outlined:

All: Enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissension, factions, envy, and all that would undo us.

One: Lead us instead to strive for the fruits of the spirit.

All: Help us to develop loving behaviors which demonstrate care and compassion for others.

One: Help us in an over-serious and gloomy world to know real joy because you help us overcome the world.

All: Help us to work for peace in a world which seems to prefer violence.

One: Help us, in our hurry up world, to develop patience,

All: and to learn that all does not have to be completed in our hurry up time.

One: Help us to demonstrate kindness to all,
All: and especially to those with whom we find it especially difficult to be kind.

One: Help us to learn generosity with our resources,
All: but help us especially to learn how to be generous in our attitudes and behaviors toward people.

One: And help us to be faithful, gentle, and self-controlled.

All: O God, raise our national vision.

One: Give us tolerance and understanding for all peoples.

All: May we hold dear for all people the freedoms we cherish. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49

ANTHEM A House United The Emerging Sound
Chorus: We won't be divided, we are a house united (repeat)

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 24:58-67

MESSAGE Family Reunion, week 4: A Biblical Romance
Rev. Chip Stapleton

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG The Gift of Love Hopson

†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 #438 **Blest Be the Tie that Binds**

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE A House United The Emerging Sound

†All who are able, please stand



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

P.W. and Martha Jessup  
June Marie Smith  
Doris & John English  
Violet McNeill  
Bill Owen  
Steve & Orion Gaynos  
Madie Rae Locklear  
("Grandma" to the Guy Family)  
Lib Yarborough  
Bill Johnson  
Betty Graham

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](mailto:kellilu@gmail.com)

Hello Highlanders,

As we are coming up to a long holiday weekend, I wanted to say that I have heard a lot of feedback about my most recent sermon, on the 'Binding of Isaac', and that I really appreciate everyone who has reached out and shared their own thoughts.

One of our highest calls as followers of Jesus is to 'continue to work out our faith with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in us' (Philippians 2:12). The best way for us to do that - to think about, talk about, and even wrestle with passages of scripture that are challenging or other matters of faith that are difficult is to do so together.

One of the things that I hope resonated with everyone that heard the message last week is that God not just wants but expects us to engage with and work through his Word to us. We are to live with it, to have it in our hearts and minds, to talk about it together.

As I was thinking about that, I came across an article from Rick Warren that shared '6 Trustworthy Principles for interpreting the Bible. I thought I would quickly share the 6 principles, as they highlight some simple and clear parameters that can help us fine-tune our hearing and understanding of God's Word.

Here are six principles of Bible interpretation that you can rely on:

**You need faith and the Holy Spirit to interpret Scripture.** The Bible is a spiritual book that must be understood by spiritual people. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 2:11, "No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God" (NIV).

**The Bible is its own best commentary.** Scripture interprets Scripture. Practice this principle by getting a Bible with cross-references in the margin. By looking up cross-references, you'll get a clearer picture of what God has said in all of his Word, not just that one context.

**Read the Old Testament with the New Testament in mind and read the New Testament with the Old Testament in mind.** The New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament. Always interpret unclear passages in the light of clear passages. Look at the full counsel of God in Scripture to get a clear understanding when you find a passage that seems contradictory or confusing. For example, when you're reading an obscure passage about baptism, let clear passages about salvation and baptism interpret the unclear one, not vice versa.

**Don't form a doctrine based solely on a historical event.** Take historical passages of the Bible for what they're meant to be: good lessons. Don't build your doctrine upon them. In Mark 1, Jesus got up before dawn to go somewhere and pray by himself, but that doesn't mean you have to do the same. When you're learning doctrine, look to doctrinal passages. Use narrative passages to learn lessons.

**Never interpret Scripture based on your own experiences.** The point of Bible study is not to shape Scripture to agree with your subjective opinions or your experiences. Feelings lie. Emotions lie. Instead, discover God's timeless truth, and let it shape your life. Study the Bible with an open heart and invite God to conform you to his will.

I hope you find these principles as helpful and timely as I did, and that you use them to continue to live with, think about, and even wrestle with God's Word every day.

*Sharing God's love,*

~Chip

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**Power Forward** - the neighborhood youth group at HPC is conducting a summer sock drive. The need is basic. The demand is great. Our goal is to supply socks to our group. Boys & girls ages 8 to 19. Black athletic socks preferred. Ankle, quarter, calf, and no shows are all desirable. A box for collections will be placed in the front entrance area for donations. We will be collecting for the next few weeks and greatly appreciate your support! Thank you.

JULY 2, 2023  
11:00AM  
UNIFIED WORSHIP



HIGHLAND  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*SHARING GOD'S LOVE*

GATHERING MUSIC

### **GATHERING**

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

As the Deer

Nystrom

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Freedom is coming!

**All: We can hear it in the voices of the oppressed.**

One: Hope is coming!

**All: We can see it in the eyes of all those who despair.**

One: God is here!

**All: We count on God's presence with us,  
to guide, heal and uplift our spirits.**

OPENING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

†HYMN #376

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

CALL TO CONFESSION