

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Lord God, only you are holy. Yet we imagine that we are righteous, excusing our own faults while pointing out those of others. We are quick to lay burdens upon our neighbors but slow to help with their own. We take credit and give blame. In spite of the grace you have shown to us, we are slow to show mercy. Forgive us, O God, and wash us clean, that we may serve you with joy and thanksgiving. 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**

CHILDREN’S MUSIC      Ring Joy, Ring Praise      Ellis Post  
(Music Makers)

WORDS WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH      Jen Jammer

NEW TESTAMENT      1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

ANTHEM      Walk Worthy  
(Chancel Choir)

GOSPEL      Matthew 23:1-12

MESSAGE      Entrusted, week 1: The Rise of Servant Leaders  
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**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING SONG      People Need the Lord      McHugh/Nelson  
(Bill Hardwick, soloist)

†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 #391      **Take My Life**

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE      Harvest Fanfare      Gilbert Martin

*†All who are able, please stand*



Altar Flowers

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today to the Glory of God and in memory of

**Joe Thompson**  
*in honor of his 90th birthday*

Given by Lynn Thompson

**Notes on Today’s Music...**

**Gathering Music:** A medley of praise hymns by arranger Marcia Wells (Morning Has Broken, For the Beauty of the Earth, and Holy, Holy, Holy) will be played by Harriet McDonald on piano as we gather.

**Prelude/Postlude:** “Let All Things Now Living” and “Harvest Fanfare” from **Autumn Praise:** Colorful Praise and Thanksgiving for Organ will be our prelude/postlude. One of America’s well-known organ composers, Gilbert Martin, has created joyous compositions for this season.

**Opening Hymn:** When we join our voices in singing “Let All Things Now Living” we will give words to the tune heard during the prelude. The second stanza is a reflection on the natural created order, “stars,” “sun,” “hills and mountains, the rivers and fountains.” All creation joins with humanity to raise a song of adoration to God.

**Children’s Music:** Highland’s Music Makers are ready to play their first handbell piece in worship! The bells are color coded so that even the youngest child can follow the music and experience the joy of praising God with instruments in the sanctuary.

**Anthem:** “Walk Worthy” by Joseph Martin is a church choir library standard. The majestic accompaniment provides a foundation of rich harmonies that gradually build to a final glorious acclamation. “Walk worthy of the Lord. Come, give your life to Christ.”

**Offertory:** At a lunch meeting between Christian musicians, Phill McHugh became aware of the pain in the eyes of the waitress and said to Greg Nelson, “People need the Lord, don’t they?” A song was written in that moment that became popular with soloists and choirs. It’s now in fourteen hymnals. Bill Hardwick will sing it in worship to the glory of God.

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**Food and Fellowship is looking for new members!**

We are open to all members male or female. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at noon in the McKeithen SS room. We help in a variety of ways: Wednesday night suppers, serving or taking up money usually from 4:30-6:15, helping out with Sunday lunches, or in other areas that might need assistance. You can get in touch with either Paula Smith 910-670-1185 or Joan Miller 910-850-2821 if you have any questions.

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**~~~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       | Gene Holstein                 |

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!

I was caught off guard a bit this week when I realized that Thanksgiving is less than 2 weeks away. Preparations for our annual Thanksgiving meal are well underway but the fast approach of Thanksgiving also means that another HPC tradition is also fast approaching - our annual stewardship dedication day (which we have traditionally held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving).

This has been an amazing year for Highland in so many ways - we have seen God work powerfully in so many ways: the continued strength and growth of our children's programs; our vibrant and diverse worship experiences; the largest number of youth participating in ASP since 'pre-pandemic'; the continued excellence of our Highland Learning Center; and, of course, achieving our long-held goal of paying off our debt.

In some ways, after the year we have had, it might be tempting to 'rest on our laurels' - especially when it comes to our financial stewardship. But I don't believe - and our session, finance, and generosity committees don't believe that is good stewardship of the resources we have been entrusted with. After operating under the cloud of debt for so long, now is the time when we must refocus our efforts and faithfully steward our resources so that we can invest fully in God's call on our church to Share God's Love with each other, our community, and the world.

As we have highlighted many times, we would not have been able to achieve our goal of paying off our debt without the faithful work and giving of so many of you. And that faithful giving is just as important now as we move into the next phase of our life together serving God.

We have established three reserve funds (operating, maintenance, and Learning Center) so that we can continue to be fiscally responsible and operate in a sustainable fashion for the foreseeable future.

We have worked to strengthen our commitment to mission and service through our support of the Learning Center, the Family Life Center, Interfaith, the weekly food pantry, Thanksgiving meal, Power Forward, and more. We are moving forward in our commitment to grow our church in discipleship, mission, and outreach as we begin the process of calling an associate minister. We are continuing to prioritize our children and youth by our strong commitment to staffing and providing resources in those areas.

We continue to step out in faith, seeking to live into God's call and participate with him in his mission and ministry in our world. One of the powerful ways you can do that is through making a pledge to Highland for the 2024 year. A pledge allows us to plan more accurately to utilize all our resources in service to our mission and vision.

So, as you read this I want to encourage and challenge you to prayerfully consider: If you haven't been giving - to consider a regular gift. If you have been giving regularly to consider turning that into a pledge, if you have pledged in the past to consider increasing your pledge.

Our God is faithful and we know that there are great things in store for us here at Highland and we want - and need - you to be a part of it!

Sharing God's Love

~Chip

**IS IT TURKEY TIME ALREADY?? Yes, yes it is!**

Our goal this year is: #150 Pies and #250 Turkeys

Adopt a turkey, or several, for only \$20/per!

Or you may sign-up to volunteer to help in other ways...

cut & box pies, bag dinner rolls, etc. days prior, or meal assembly, deliveries, clean-up the day of the MEAL!

Adoption/volunteer forms can be found at the front desk.

**Cantata**

November Cantata rehearsals: Sundays 2:00-3:30

Open to non-choir member participation

Sopranos needed. Please join us!

**Presbyterian Women's Circle Meetings for November**

**Monday, November 13th**

Circle 4 - 12:00pm in the side-dining room

Circle 5 - 1:00pm in the parlor

**Tuesday, November 14th**

Circle 6 - 10:00am in Mission Central

Circle 3 - 12:00pm in Leighton McKeithen

Circle 8 - 7:00pm

**Presbyterian Women's Annual Bake Sale**

Wednesday, December 6th during/after the dinner hour!

Drop off your tasty treats by 3:00pm

For those planning to purchase, we accept cash, check, and now Venmo!

**Friendship Community Gardens - Annual Wreath Sale!**

Monday 10/23 through Friday 11/17.

All orders are pre-order/pre-pay. Order forms at the front desk

Questions? Scott Cameron, Sally Augustine, or Amanda Christianson

**Sunday Night Youth Group**

6:00-7:45 every Week

We have a guest speaker!

Nov. 12: Pastor Chip- Dad to 4 boys, former youth pastor, and all around great guy who never, ever takes himself too seriously.

Did we mention there will be food?

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

There will be a called **congregational meeting** for the purpose of hearing a report from the nominating committee and electing the associate pastor nominating committee on Sunday, November 19th at 10:45am in the Sanctuary.

*Jane Barnes - Janice Council - Andrea Kelly*

*Alan Pittman - Heath Stone - Catherine Thompkins*

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER RESERVATIONS!**

**Menu for November 15th - 5:00-6:00**

**Baked Ziti, Mixed Veggies, Garlic Bread, Salad Bar, Dessert**

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

Please make your reservations by 12:00noon on the Tuesday prior. This allows time for proper preparation. Thank you!



**NOVEMBER 12 , 2023**

**11:00AM**

**HIGHLAND  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*SHARING GOD'S LOVE*

GATHERING MUSIC

**GATHERING**

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

Let All Things Now Living

Gilbert Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP/ OPENING ACCLAMATION

One: Give thanks to God, for God is good.

**All: God's love endure forever!**

One: God has come to God's people with blessings and hope.

**All: Praise God for the many ways God touches our lives. AMEN.**

OPENING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

†HYMN #554

**Let All Things Now Living**

CALL TO CONFESSION