

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt. A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge. Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HANDBELL PROCESSIONAL West Indian Carol arr. Benhke

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM Mary Had A Baby Traditional Carol

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 35:1-10

†HYMN #1 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:18-25

MESSAGE

A NOEL CELEBRATION arr. Lloyd Larson

Sing Noel!

Chancel Choir and congregation (seated)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains
Glo - - - ria in excelsis De - o, Glo - - - ria in excelsis De - - o

Prepare the Way

Chancel Choir; Andrea Kelly, flautist

Lo, How a Rose

Vicki Hogan, soloist

Manger Carol

Chancel Choir

Noel Festival

Chancel Choir

What Child Is This?

Chris Jackson, soloist

A Noel Celebration

Chancel Choir and congregation (seated)

Hark! the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic host proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! the herald angels sing "Glory to the Newborn King"

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O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

RESPONSE

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

An Advent Affirmation

All: We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges. We believe in a God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost. We believe in a God who believes in us - believes tht we can make a difference, that we can choose grace over comparison, love over hate, peace over war. And so we strive to live our lives in love. We strive to listen as Joseph listened, and to be the people that God calls us to be. It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. This we believe. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY What Child Is This? arr. Crisafulli

DOXOLOGY

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Noel Festival (reprise) arr. Lloyd Larson

†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
Terry Morris, Pastoral Care Intern

A Noel Celebration

Musicians

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Tomoko Galeano, piano
Dylan Quick, trumpet I
Rachel Banda, trumpet II
Doug Poteat, French horn
Gregory Regling, trombone
Juan Banda, tuba
Monique Singletary, violin
Kimberly Simpkins, viola
Andrea Kelly, flute

Thank you to all my church family, for the cards, prayers, visits, delicious food, love, and help during my sickness and recovery these past several months. Highland is my home and you truly are my family. Thank you, ~Gayle McDonald

HLC Needs Your Help!

Please support the Highland Learning Center in their mission to support the Cumberland County Animal Shelter this Holiday season.

Any donations you can most generously give (food is very important), please drop off at the HLC Christmas tree December 1 - December 16th.

Cat food, Dog food, leashes, collars, toys, and treats! Thank you and bork bork.

~~~PASTORAL CONCERNS~~~

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

P.W. and Martha Jessup Steve & Orion Gaynos
Jean Robinson Madie Rae Locklear
Lisa Hitt ("Grandma" to the Guy Family)
(daughter of Gayle McDonald) Lib Yarborough
Charlotte Ingram Bill Johnson
June Marie Smith Betty Graham
Doris & John English Hope Campbell
Violet McNeill Mike Byerly
Gayle McDonald (SIL to Shirley Olund)

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



**HPC Session Highlights**  
December 6, 2022

- Approved Paula Smith and Joan Miller as co-chairs of the Food and Fellowship Committee to begin in January
- Approved Thomas Kiser, Jr. as chair of the Building and Grounds Committee to begin in January
- Approved the baptism of Elizabeth Faye Riddle, daughter of Mary and Trey Riddle, to be held on December 18, 2022, at the 11:00 Traditional Service
- Received the following recap for the year from Ginny Breece, Highland Learning Center Board Chair: had regained the five-star rating; had updated the playground; had remodeled 2 classrooms; had gone to an online pay system; had stayed steady with an enrollment of 98-99 student population
- Approved the communion dates for 2023 traditional worship services as presented by the Traditional Worship Committee
- Approved a recommendation from the Personnel and Finance Committees to use some of the Employee Retention Credit Funds to give year-end bonuses to all staff



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

- Circle 3 - Tuesday, December 13th at 12:00pm in Leighton McKeithen
- Circle 4 - Monday, December 12th at 12:00pm at Nikki Sessom's house
- Circle 5 - Monday, December 12th at 11:30am in the Side-dining Room
- Circle 6 - Tuesday, December 13th at 10:00am in the Parlor
- Circle 8 - Tuesday, December 13th at a member's home

**BIBLE STUDY**

Our Thursday morning Bible study will begin January 12, 2023. We will be using the book and video, *Elijah, Faith and Fire* by Priscilla Shirer. We start at 10am and end by 12. Please join us for a wonderful time of study and prayer. You may call Elva Owen (910-484-6936) for more information.

**Presbyterian Women's Annual Bake Sale**

Wow! Did you see all the delicious treats?  
Thank you to everyone who baked and bought!  
It was a wonderfully sweet night.

**A HIGHLAND CHRISTMAS PARTY**

HPC hosted over 240 friends in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner was delightful (thank you Jermaine and Vanessa), the crafts and other shenanigans were fun, and the Learning Center's Children's showcase was the highlight of the evening. Thank you to everyone for your dedication and complete support of all our ministries and missions. We appreciate you.

**YOUTH INFORMATION**

December 11- Here we go a-Caroling!

Bring a thermos to take a cup of hot cocoa, and we're gonna head out to share some Christmas Cheer with our neighbors and families!

December 18- Christmas Paaarrtay!

A gift exchange (\$15), some really stupid- make you laugh- Christmas games, and a spirited retelling of the Christmas story, starring YOU!

**CHICK-FIL-A BREAKFAST**

Every Tuesday at 7:20 am - Last one on December 13

Join us for a good breakfast, a chat with your friends, and some encouragement to help you get through the week!  
We'll restart on January 10.

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS - 5:30-6:30**

Longest Night Service on December 14

We'll restart Wonderful Wednesdays on January 11

**YOUTH NEW YEAR'S PARTY - Wednesday, December 28**

6:00pm at Battlehouse Laser Tag in Westwood Shopping Center (\$30)  
Then hang around for a treat at Dairy Queen (cost is up to you, how much ice cream can you eat?)

What's coming Next Year?

January 8- New Series for High School:  
How NOT to Read the Bible

Contact Chris if you want to buy a book (but you don't have to)

New Series for Middle School:

Throne Room, (It's really about being in God's presence, but there just might be some bathroom humor thrown in for good fun!)

~Christopher Jackson - Director of Youth and Worship Ministries



**DECEMBER 11, 2022**  
**11:00AM**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*SHARING GOD'S LOVE*

**GATHERING**

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE Sussex Carol arr. Crisafulli

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the midst of the barren land,  
**All: flowers burst into bloom.**  
One: In the midst of the dry desert,  
**All: streams of water gush forth.**  
One: In the midst of sorrow and sighing,  
**All: Joy and gladness dance together.**  
One: We shall see the glory of God!

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

†HYMN #478 **Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ADVENT CANDLE RESPONSE **Christ Be Our Light** Farrell

