

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of today and tomorrow, when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth’s house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy? Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE WORD

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH

Jen Jammer

BAPTISM

Elizabeth Faye Riddle  
Daughter of Trey and Mary Riddle

BAPTISMAL HYMN #498

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-45; 56-58

ANTHEM

The Wexford Carol  
(Highland Ringers)

Dean Wagner

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:46-55

MESSAGE

From Generation to Generation, week 4: Seeing God in Each Other  
Rev. Chip Stapleton

RESPONSE

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

An Advent Affirmation

All: We believe that creation is inextricably linked. We belong to one another in an undeniable way. We are bone of bone and flesh of flesh, life breathed into dust. We believe that God invites us to live into that truth - to love without abandon, to see the good in one another, to trust that all belong to God. We know that this life of connection is easier said than done, which is why we gather in this space, week after week, generation after generation, to be reminded: We see God in each other. This we believe. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

†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

†HYMN #3 Comfort, Comfort You My People  
(remain seated until verse 3 begins)  
Verse 1: Soloist  
Verse 2: Choir  
Verse 3: Congregation

†BLESSING & BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE Break Forth, O beauteous Heavenly Light Bach  
†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       | 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)        |
|                              | Bill Owen                     |

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



NOTES ON TODAY’S MUSIC...

The Wexford Carol is a beloved traditional Irish Christmas carol about the nativity of Jesus.

It is also known by the first line of these anonymous 12th century lyrics: “Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind what our good

God for us has done in sending His beloved Son.” The remaining nine verses recall all the beauty and depth of God’s fulfilled promise. The reverent quiet of that holy night, the bright star, the angelic voices in the heavens...these mysterious and stirring sounds are reflected in Dean Wagner’s 2001 Wexford Carol arrangement for handbells. On December 18th the Highland Ringers will participate in worship leadership once again by offering this truly inspired composition to the glory of God.

Soli Deo Gloria!

~Pam

P.S. With two more ringers we would have been able to cover the five octaves of bells needed to fully present this beautiful piece. Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of this ministry.



No Wednesday Night meals until  
January 11th! Check back for menus!

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



### POWER FORWARD

We are going to collect new or never worn athletic socks for our Power Forward youth group from now through the service on 1/1. We have 30+ teenagers/young adults and they can use socks that are Medium and Large. Many of these youths do not have socks or wear mismatched socks on Wednesday night and we want to start off their New Year with a gift at our Wednesday night session on 1/4. You may find a donation box in the elevator lobby behind the front desk. Thank you for your support.



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.



Please join us on Saturday, December 24th for one of our Christmas Eve services. Our Family candlelight service will be at 4:00pm and our Traditional candlelight service will be at 8:00pm.

We will celebrate Jesus' birthday on Sunday, December 25th at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall.



Highland Offices and Buildings will be closed the following dates/times for our staff to celebrate the holidays with their families.  
Friday, December 23rd - closed half-day  
Monday, December 26th - closed all day  
Tuesday, December 27th - closed all day  
Friday, December 30th - closed half-day  
Monday, January 2nd - closed all day



### CHRISTMAS TIME'S a-COMIN' December Youth Events

#### 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!  
2pm-4pm in the Fellowship Hall

#### CHICK-FIL-A BREAKFAST

We'll restart on January 10

#### WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

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  
Highland Presbyterian Church



DECEMBER 18, 2022  
11:00AM  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HIGHLAND  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

GATHERING MUSIC

### GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE Variations on an Advent Carol Lind  
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release; Let us find our rest in Thee.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us serve the Lord with gladness,  
**All: and come before his presence with a song.**  
One: Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;  
**All: let us exult his name together.**  
One: Our souls magnify the Lord!  
**All: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**  
One: The mighty One has done great things for us!  
**All: Holy is God's name!**  
One: Let us worship God.  
**All: For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;  
from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

†HYMN #11 **O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?**  
(Same tune as familiar hymn #88)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ADVENT CANDLE RESPONSE **Christ Be Our Light** Farrell  
**Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**  
**Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**