



May 19, 2024

Church Rising

Part Seven: Toward What End?

John 12:27-33

Toward What End?

The Church Rising series has sounded a call to Highlanders (see reverse side)

Defining the end game clarifies and motivates current actions

Rescuing people into the life of Jesus? On earth as it is in heaven?

The Westminster Catechism: The chief end of humans is to glorify God... (**1 Corinthians 10:31**)

Glorify: to show the beauty of; to shine light on greatness;

How do we as frail humans attempt to glorify God? Our typical tools of Word and Deed.

We talk about Him, tell His story, pass on His Words with our best understanding

We try to act like Him so that people “see” a rough imitation

Both of these “representative” methods are good but also fraught with weakness.

An additional approach: the prayer of Jesus in **John 12:28**: “Father, glorify Your Name”

Instead of “representation” only, we aspire to “mediation”

Becoming a temple in which God’s/Jesus’ glory actually dwells: **Ephesians 2:19-22**

Highland as a place where people directly encounter Jesus Himself

How do we encounter Jesus ourselves and mediate the possibility of that encounter for others?

Encountering Jesus in the Shadow of the Cross

Today we celebrate Pentecost, the giving of the Holy Spirit to dwell in Jesus’ followers: **Acts 2:1-4**

Holy Spirit promises to glorify Jesus: see **John 16:14**

The “glory” of Jesus: When I am lifted up I will draw all people to Myself: **John 12:32**

Now is the Son of Man “glorified” and God is glorified in Him: **John 13:31-32**

The crucifixion was the public revelation, the resurrection (and earlier miracles) had a private quality

The kenotic hymn in **Philippians 2:6-11** locates the glory of Jesus in His crucifixion

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain: the glory of Jesus in the heavens: **Revelation 5:1-14**

To know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified: **1 Corinthians 2:2**

How Does Highland Live These Days in the Shadow of the Cross?

UP: lay down our control, our power, our dreams, our preferred vision and take up trust: **Luke 9:23**

IN: His “glory given to us” (**John 17:22**); “have this mind” (**Phil 2:3,4**); “love one another” (**John 13:34**)

OUT: non-violent resistance; extravagant service without conditions: **Romans 12:14-21**

For Jesus to be encountered in His glory here at Highland, we have to die, and die, and die again: **Matt 16:25**

Slipping out of the way, making room for Jesus, the Slain Lamb, to take front and center

Calling for Highland to Rise Up!

Eastertide 2024

A Summary of Possible Action Steps

From Week One: Pressing Into Prayer

- Join us (in person or by phone or by prayer guide) for weekly Morning Prayer, Thursdays at 7:30AM
- Set your alarm daily for 12:00PM and pray the Lord's Prayer wherever you are

From Week Two: All In!

- Make Sunday Morning Worship and Fellowship a participation priority either in person or on-line
- Find one way to help out in the Sunday Morning operation: see below for suggestions*
- Contribute financially to our common church costs proportionally to your resources
- Identify your "Drummer Boy Offering": your unique skill set and joyful calling has a place in the church's ministry!

From Week Three: Building an Organic Care Net through Deepening Relationships

- Initiate a small group gathering, a Bible study, book study, or support group
- Initiate an affinity hobby, sport, interest, play group
- Initiate one-time walks, meals, event attendance with others
- Invite others to attend significant moments and events in your life: games, performances, celebrations
- Offer to join Kathy Holmgren on the Congregational Care Team
- Offer to help Joanna Andersen with an upcoming fellowship meal
- Host a meal, a game night, a party at your place
- Find an opportunity for community service and invite others to join you in it

From Week Four: Welcoming One Other and the New Person

- Approach someone you don't know on Sunday morning with kindness and curiosity
- At Greeting Time/Fellowship Time, look for someone new, alone, who might be feeling awkward and come alongside
- Be wary of insider language or exclusionary actions around strangers or newcomers
- Join Cindy Reed and the team of Welcoming Greeters
- Join Julie Stapleman and the team of Friendly Ushers
- Contribute baked goods, or handmade crafts, or handmade cards to our reservoir for Newcomer Welcome Gifts

From Week Five: Banding Together to Support Highland Preschool

- Join the liaison team to support Preschool Director Andrea and help rally the Highland troops
- Participate to help with any of the series of preschool outreach events
- Adopt and manage the Preschool bulletin board to help keep us all connected with the Preschool
- Give candy, makes cookies, buy plastic eggs, and respond to other short campaigns as they come around

From Week Six: Mission Outposts are Our Main Mission!

- Pray for opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus in places where you work, live, learn, and play
- Dedicate time to like-minded communities and "persons of peace" outside the church
- Ask for prayer and tell stories about your mission outpost to your Highland family so we can support you

***Sunday Morning Gathering Ways to Help:** Welcome Team (see Cindy), Ushers (see Julie), Livestream (see Louise), Sound (see Andrew), Projection (see Louise), Counters (see Andrew), Leadership (see Kirk), Children's Worship (see Jenny), Nursery (see Jenny), Big Idea (see Jeff), Music (see Tony), Scripture Reading (see Louise), Testimony (see Jeff), Host Role (see Rod), Communion Preparation (see Carol), Refreshments (see Nelma), Sanctuary Spruce-Up (see Louise), Second Hour Electives (see Jim), Second Hour Children (see Louise), Second Hour Nursery (see Louise), Sanctuary Decor (see Jeff), Pray for Needs (see Jeff), Heritage Lounge Fireplace (see Jeff), What other ideas might you have to offer our Sunday Morning Gathering?