



Highlands

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday in Advent

Morning Worship - 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.

Sunday School and Communities - 9:45 a.m.

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 3, 2023

Gathering Song

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere,
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

Words: John W. Work, Jr. 1872-1925
Music: Traditional African American
Spiritual, 19th cent.
Arranged by Mike Murphy, 2021

Welcome

Meditation and Preparation for Worship

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie,
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by,
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868
Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1868
Arranged by Mike Murphy, 2018

The Advent Reading

Luke 1:26-33

8:30 - Cory and Stephanie Wilson

10:50 - David and Amy Turner

The Call to Worship

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Pastor: Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.

People: Come, let us keep the feast!

I Corinthians 5:7-8

Joy To The World



Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions



King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow far
prove the glo - ries of His right - eous - ness, and



heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far
won - ders of His love, and won - ders of His love, and



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
as, far as the curse is found.
won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Words by Isaac Watts, 1719. Music by George Frederick Handel, 1742.
Arranged by Mike Murphy. © 2020 Murphy Sound

The Morning Prayer

We Bring God's Tithes and Our Offerings

At the 8:30 a.m. service, please place your offering in one of the offering boxes outside the sanctuary doors or inside the balcony entrance. Offering plates will be passed at the 10:50 a.m. service. To give online, please visit highlandspca.org or follow the QR code on page 7 of the bulletin.

Offertory: We Three Kings

Words and Music by John H. Hopkins Jr., 1857

We three kings of Orient are
bearing gifts, we travel so far,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

O star of a wonder, star of light,
star with a royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh,
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom,
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

The Scripture Reading

Psalm 98

We Receive God's Word

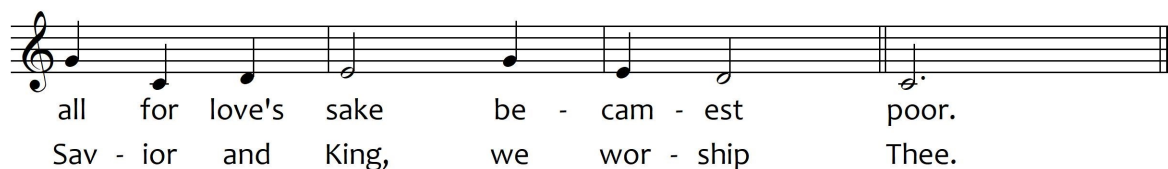
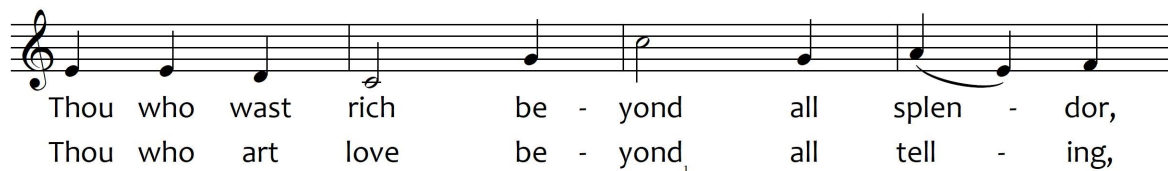
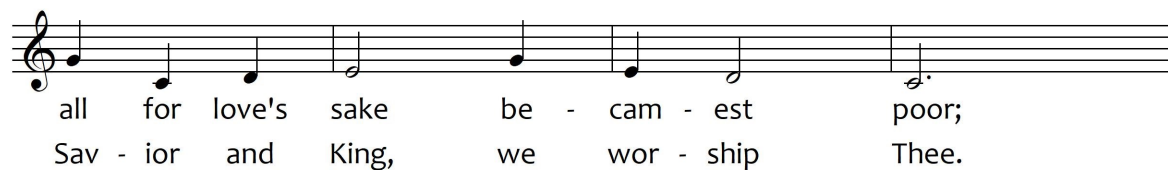
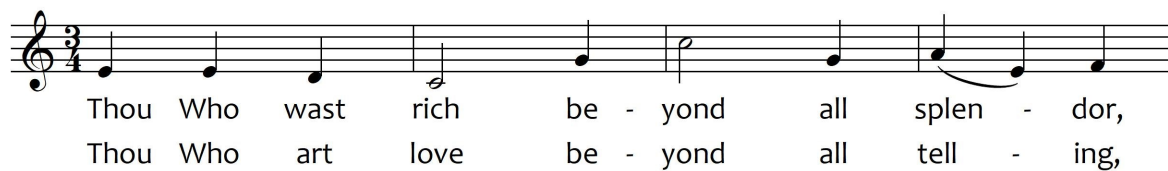
The Rev. Bradford Mercer

FINDING CHRISTMAS

“Joy to the World!”

The Communion Hymn

Thou Who Wast Rich



Words by Frank Houghton, 1934. Music: Traditional French carol. © 1934 OMF International

The Apostles' Creed

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.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty winds made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow was falling, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Words: Christina Rossetti, 1872

Music: Gustav Holst, 1906

Interlude: Antonin Dvorak, 1893

What, then can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
What, then can I give Him?
I will give my heart.

The First Noel

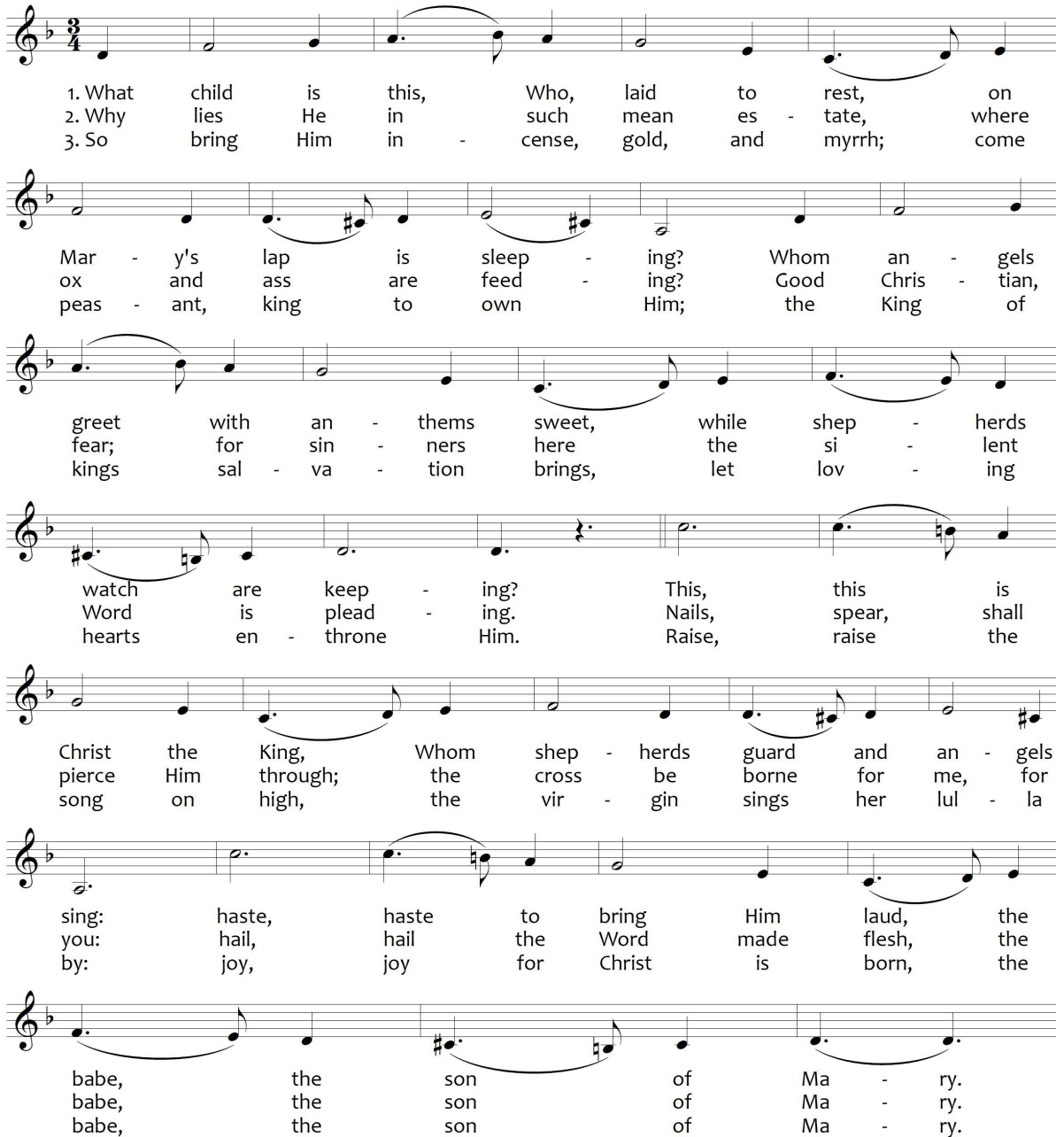
The first Noel the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Words and Music: Trad. English Carol

Arranged by Mike Murphy, 2012

Then let us all, with one accord,
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
Who hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

What Child Is This?



1. What child is this, Who, laid to rest, on
 2. Why lies He in, such mean es - tate, where
 3. So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come

Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian,
 peas - ant, king to own Him; the King of

greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds
 fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent
 kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing

watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 Word is en - throne Him. Nails, spear, shall
 hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

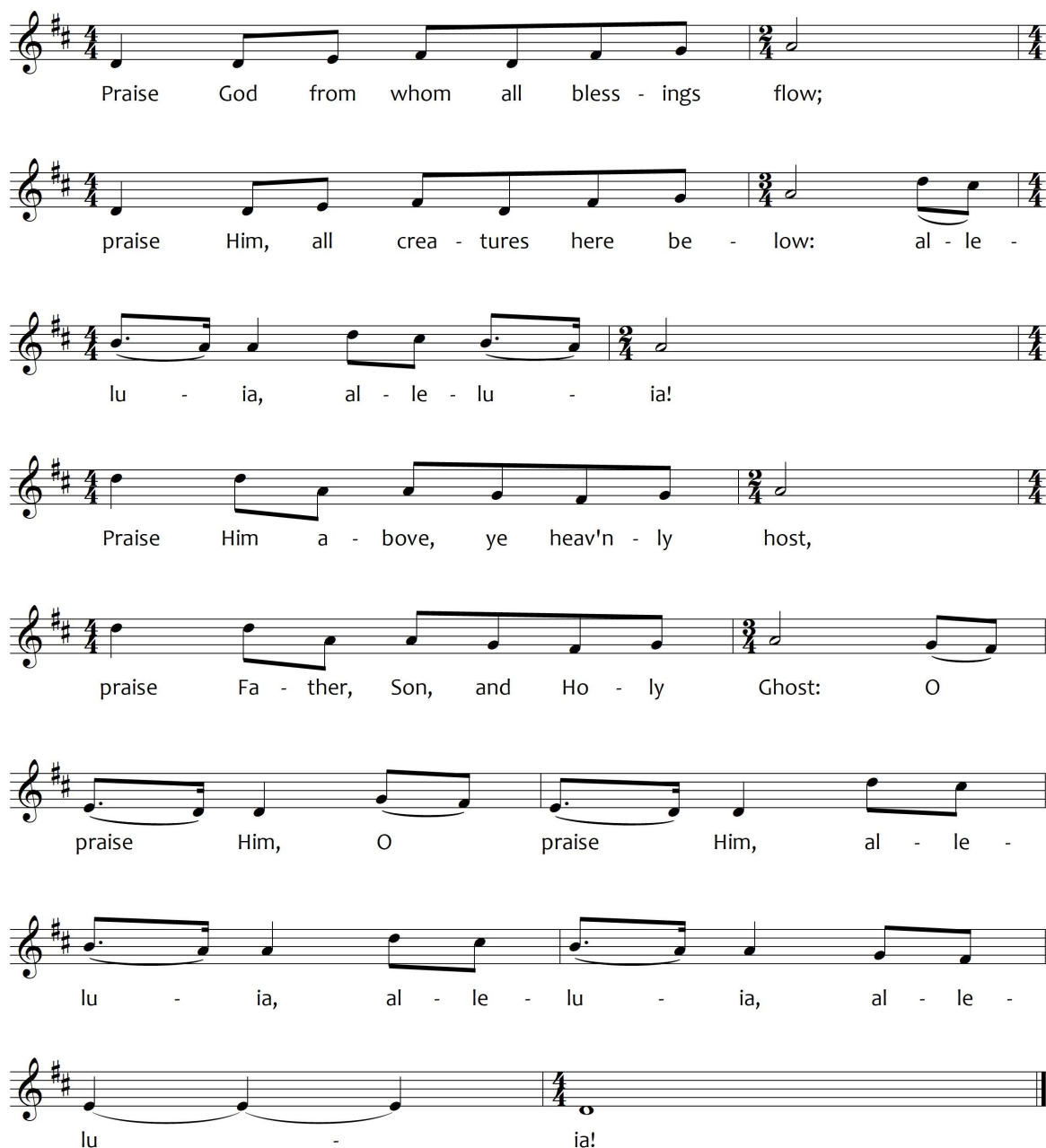
Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels
 pierce Him on, through; the the cross be borne for me, for
 song on high, the the vir - gin sings her lul - la

sing: haste, haste to bring Him laud, the
 you: hail, hail to the Word made flesh, the
 by: joy, joy for Christ is born, the

babe, the son of Ma - ry.
 babe, the son of Ma - ry.
 babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: Traditional English carol; adapted by William C. Dix, ca. 1865. Music: English melody, 16th century.

The Doxology



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow;

praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low: al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host,

praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost: O

praise Him, O praise Him, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia!

Words: St. Francis of Assisi, ca. 1225. Trans. by William Draper, 1926. Traditional German Melody, 1623.

The Benediction

CCLI #624966

GENERAL FUND GIVING UPDATE THROUGH DECEMBER 3, 2023

End-of-year giving is a critical part of Highlands' financial health. Highlands historically receives up to 40% of its financial gifts during the last quarter of the calendar year. The financial support of our members and friends is what makes ministry at Highlands happen! Our church facilities, ministry, and outreach are all made possible through your generous gifts. In addition to placing your gifts in the offering plate or in one of the four wall-mounted boxes located outside the main sanctuary doors, just inside the balcony doors, or at the Welcome desk, you may:

- Send your gift in the mail to 1160 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS, 39157.
- Make a stock gift - contact our Church Administrator for our account and DTC numbers.
- Give online at <https://highlandspca.ccbchurch.com/goto/giving>, or use the QR code to the right.



General Fund Budget 2023	\$2,427,829
General Fund giving received through 12/3/23	\$1,928,913

Thank you for your support of the ministry and outreach of Highlands!

YOUTH MINISTRY

All Youth

Visitors, please join us in anything you see below. The Youth building is behind the church (we call it "The U").

- Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. in The U.
- Small Groups will resume meeting in January, 2024.

JrHi Ministry Coordinator: Joel Blackmon · joel@highlandspca.org

JrHi Girls Coordinator: Avery Griffin · avery@highlandspca.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is Communion Sunday. Please prepare your hearts and minds to receive this means of God's grace. Gluten-free communion wafers are available in the center (blue) section of each cup tray.

Please note: On December 24 and December 31, we will have ONE worship service at 10:50am. There will be no Sunday School either Sunday. Join us in the Atrium at 10:15am both Sundays for light refreshments prior to the worship service.

Christmas Eve Service at Highlands: Please join us Sunday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m. for our annual Christmas Eve Service. Dress is casual and children are welcome! There will be a nursery for children three and under.

PLEASE HELP US GREET ON SUNDAY MORNINGS! A warm, friendly welcome is a gift to members and guests alike. Greeters serve in the Atrium between 8:15 a.m. and 8:40 a.m. at the early service or between 10:25 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. for the late service. *You can volunteer for as many or as few slots as you like!* Please sign up to serve, either as a couple or as an individual, at



Precepts Bible Study begins January 4, 2024. How are people in the church to behave? First Timothy contains some doctrine, but also very practical instructions for how people in the church are to live. This seven-week study, *The Church, the Pillar and Support of the Truth*, begins January 4 and meets each Thursday from 9-11am in Room 210 (also available via Zoom). For more information, contact Sandra Dewey at dandsdewey@gmail.com.

Save the Date!

January 17, 2024: Midweek at Highlands begins.

January 26-27, 2024: Men's Retreat - Twin Lakes

February 9-11, 2024: Women's Retreat - Moscow, TN

February 18-25, 2024: Missions Festival

SERMON NOTES

FINDING CHRISTMAS

“Joy to the World!”

December 10, 2023

Psalm 98

page 500 in the pew Bible

Highlands Presbyterian Church

1160 Highland Colony Parkway

Ridgeland, MS 39157

601.853.0636

highlandspca.org



To make or schedule
an online gift
in support of Highlands:
highlandspca.org/giving



FINDING CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS IN THE ATRIUM - 10:15 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP - 10:50 A.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - 4:30 P.M.

CASUAL DRESS, NURSERY FOR CHILDREN 3 AND UNDER.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS IN THE ATRIUM - 10:15 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP - 10:50 A.M.