



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024

10:30 A.M. SERVICE



ALL ARE WELCOME

Highlands United Methodist Church affirms that nothing can separate anyone from the love of God. We invite all to worship, wonder, and discover God's grace as we aspire to create a safe space for all to participate fully in the life of this community of faith. We are called to shine as a beacon of hope, grace, belonging, and respect for all people. Regardless of age, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, family, financial status, nationality, physical or mental ability, past or future, there is room for you at Highlands.

GLORIA

Richard Proulx

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo-ple on
 earth. Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
 wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for — your glo - ry.

(Sung by the Choir) Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone — are the Lord. You a -
 lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men. _____

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

PREACHING – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON

LITURGIST – REGGIE HOLDER

CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS

VERGER – BRIAN BELLENGER

***Those who are able, please stand. Words in bold are spoken or sung by the congregation.**

Serving for Altar Guild: Karen Holton • *Serving as Ushers:* Joe Hughes, Ethan White

Serving as Acolytes: Mack Forrester, Robert White • *Serving as Lay Reader:* Malcolm Carmichael

Serving as Communion Stewards: Lynn and Dick L'Eplattenier

PEALING OF THE TOWER BELLS

Kara Cargile, Chimer

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on UNION SEMINARY
Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether | UMH 632

Charles Callahan (b. 1951-2024)

*HYMN 384

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL
Descant Setting: Richard Phillips

*COLLECT FOR PURITY

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Let us pray: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (*See facing page*)

Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father,
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
(*Sung by the Choir*) Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

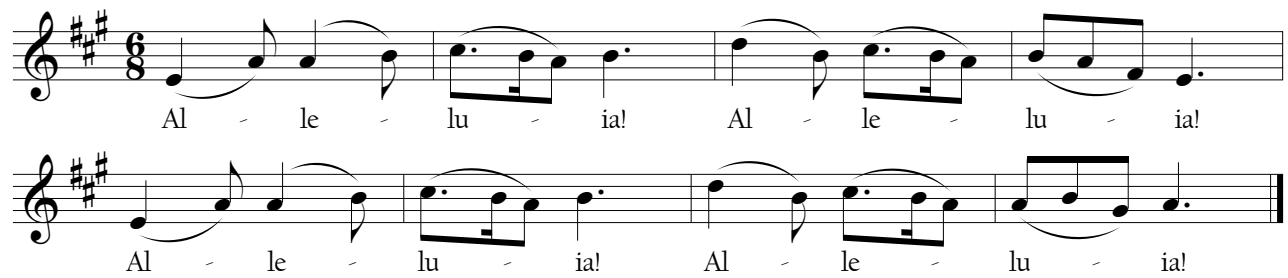
FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

May these words reveal Christ to us. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Fintan O'Carroll (1922-1981) and Christopher Walker (b. 1947)



*GOSPEL LESSON

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Lesson

John 15:1-8

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reggie Holder

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Musical Setting: A Community Mass – Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

*INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION & THE PEACE

God in Christ breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and divide us from one another. We are the body of Christ. Around this table, we enact our faith. The Communion Table is open to all who are in love with God and their neighbor and seek forgiveness and healing in this broken world.

*The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.***

GREETINGS AND PARISH NOTICES

Reggie Holder

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Sat Down Under His Shadow

The Choir

*I sat down under his shadow with great delight,
And his fruit was sweet to my taste.
He brought me to the banqueting house,
And his banner over me was love.*

Sir Edward C. Bairstow (1871-1946)

Text, Song of Solomon 2:3b-4

*DOXOLOGY 94

LAST UNSERFREUEN WITH ALLELUIAS

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen, Christ will come a - gain. _____

...Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

A - men. A - men. A - men. _____

THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Agnus Dei
The Choir

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.*

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Reflecting our conviction that God's grace is for all people, everyone is invited to the Lord's table. Please come forward as directed by the ushers to receive the sacrament. Holy Communion will be served by intinction; clergy will dip the bread into the cup and place in congregants' hands. Gluten-free communion wafers available upon request. Congregants are welcome to kneel at the chancel rail for prayer before returning to their seats.

COMMUNION MOTET

Ave Verum
The Choir

*Ave verum corpus, natum ex Maria Virgine: vere passum immolatum in cruce pro homine;
cujus latus perforatum unda fluxit et sanguine; Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.*

TRANSLATION: *Jesu, Word of God Incarnate, of the Virgin Mary born; on the cross thy sacred body, for us with nails was torn.
Cleanse us by the blood and water streaming from thy pierced side. Feed us with thy body broken, now and in death's agony.*

Alexandr  Guilmant (1837-1911)

Text, Traditional Latin; English translation by Norman Greyson

ORGAN IMPROVISATION

I Need Thee Every Hour
Text, UMH 397

NEED

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

God of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gates of glory. May we who share Christ's body, live his risen life; we who drink his cup, bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 314

In the Garden
Verse 1 – All
Verse 2 – The Choir
Verse 3 – All

GARDEN

*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

ORGAN IMPROVISATION ON A HYMN TUNE

MOTHER'S DAY

Hydrangeas



\$30 each

Order by April 30

*Flowers may be taken after the
service to give to honorees.*



WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!

ALL ARE WELCOME



A Reconciling Congregation with the Reconciling Ministries Network – rmnetwork.org

Highlands United Methodist Church is a community of disciples of Christ; a beacon of hope, inviting all to become new persons in Christ to be sent into the world to share the Gospel and to serve our neighbors; and a sanctuary for those in need of God's love and grace.

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INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

The message of the Hebrew prophets, Jesus, Paul, and the early church was always a message of welcome and inclusion for all. The image of God's kingdom is of something small and insignificant growing into something larger and of great significance. The oppressed, the alien, and the outcast were all welcomed, included, and cared for. In this sense, our faith is built upon the idea of gracious hospitality. Followers of Jesus are not about walls of exclusion but bridges of grace and acceptance. Ours is a faith of invitation, for all to come to know Jesus as the living Christ who overcomes all brokenness, sin, and even death, offering a way to make all things new. This invitation extends to you. If you desire to explore what this means for you, please speak to a member of the clergy after the service or sometime this week. We welcome the opportunity to visit with you.

OFFERING

Cash or Check Giving:

- Giving envelopes are available in the pew racks.
Checks may be made payable to HUMC.

Electronic Giving:

- Text GIVE to 205-900-3040. A link will be provided for a simple, quick way to give with one click.
- Visit www.highlandsumc.net/giving to give using a debit card, credit card, or bank account.

Sustainable Giving:

- To set up automatic monthly bank drafts, contact financial manager Tyra Johnson-Pirtle at finance@highlandsumc.net.



SCAN THE CODE WITH YOUR MOBILE
DEVICE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING AT HIGHLANDS!

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