

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion offers the chance for an encounter with God; therefore, all persons, including children, are invited to participate and receive the sacrament. When you come forward, bread will be placed in your hand, and you are invited to dip it into the cup and eat.

If you would prefer an allergen-free wafer for communion rather than bread, please let one of the servers know.

---- **SENDING FORTH** ----

*CLOSING HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" #206

*SENDING FORTH WITH BLESSING

Following the dismissal, the congregation is asked to remain standing for the chimes before departing the sanctuary.

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Go Now in Peace" Sleeth

*POSTLUDE Improvisation on "Prepare the Royal Highway" Burkhardt

The Highland family welcomes Sandy and Lee Murray who joined today at Connection.

Attendance November 26, 2017

8:30am: 67 10:30am: 115 11:00am: 128 **Total: 310**

STREAMING MINISTRY: Gabriel Adamson, Edward Shutt

SCRIPTURE READERS: 8:30: Norman Childs; 11:00: Tom Wolcott

AUDIO: Byron Baird

PRAYER ROOM: 8:30: George Hedrick; 11:00: Roz Thompson

COMMUNION SERVER: 8:30: Janine Wood; 11:00: Malinda and Les Stallings

ACOLYTE: Edward Shutt

Highland United Methodist Church
1901 Ridge Road, Raleigh NC 27607
919.787.4240 highlandumc.org

PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Alan Swartz

PASTOR: Rev. Charlie Baber

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION: Rev. Janet Baucom

MINISTER TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES: Rev. Sarah Fletcher

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR: Amy Takahashi

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Jo Anne Swartz

ORGANIST: Marcia Nance

DIRECTOR OF CARE MINISTRIES: Candi Scott

Highland United Methodist Church

December 3, 2017 - First Sunday in Advent

11:00 AM Traditional Worship

8:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:30 AM Contemporary Worship

9:20 AM Sunday School



We are an inviting family of faith seeking to love, serve, and share Christ in our community and the world.

---- **ENTRANCE AND PRAISE** ----

We welcome our guests today. You honor us with your presence. Please sign the fellowship pad on each pew and turn all electronic devices to silent mode. Children are always welcome in our worship services. Nursery care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers is also available downstairs in Room 107.

**If you are able, please stand for this part of the service.*

PRELUDE "Advent Meditation" Patten

ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Charlie Baber

INTROIT "O Be Joyful" Yarrington

*OPENING HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #196

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Chris, Johanna & Helen Wilson

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**God Our Hope,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son.
Help us follow his teaching and holy life,
that we may truly repent according to his preaching;
and, following his example,
constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice,
and patiently suffer for the truth's sake;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

---- PROCLAMATION ----

SPECIAL MUSIC "Down in the Valley" Traditional
Children's Choirs

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM "The First Noel/Pachelbel Canon" Albrecht
Highland Choir

*GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 3:1-12 Common English Bible

SONG OF RESPONSE "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" #204
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.

SERMON Heroes of Advent: John the Baptist Rev. Dr. Alan Swartz

---- RESPONSE ----

*HYMN OF RESPONSE "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" #216

INVITATION TO THE TABLE #12

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wondrous God,
who sets suns and moons above us,
mountains and valleys beneath us,
and friends and strangers among us:
how often have we tried to hide from your presence,
how seldom have we looked for your creating face
and your fashioning hand!
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Wondrous God,
who took upon yourself flesh of our flesh in Jesus our brother,
and being found in human form made the ultimate disclosure of yourself
in the face of Jesus Christ:
how often we have forgotten you,
how seldom have we really loved and followed you!
Christ, have mercy upon us.

Wondrous God,
who pours out freely the Holy Spirit:
how often have we ignored your promptings,
how seldom have we asked for your help or accepted your gifts!

Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.
(Please offer silent confession.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.

*THE PEACE

Following ancient Christian practice, we greet one another, offering reminders of Christ's peace. Please greet those around you saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

OFFERTORY "Veni, Emmanuel" Krapf

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" tune #219
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.
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING #17

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father,
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.