



Founded 1890

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sharing Christ's Love and Growing Disciples

701 Highland Road, Street, Maryland 21154

(410) 452-9394



email: followchrist@highlandpresbyterianchurch.org
<http://www.highlandpresbyterianchurch.org>



Rev. Raymond R. Meute, Jr., Pastor
Rev. Dr. William J. Netting, Pastor Emeritus

April 28, 2024
10:00 AM

THE LORD'S DAY
Order of Worship

Earth Day Sunday
April 24, 2024

The Family of Believers Comes Together
Responding to Christ's Call

(Please silence your cell phones)

(This worship service is being recorded from Prelude through the Prayer of Dedication)

Prelude

Ringling of Church Bell

The Church in Action

Life in the Church

Lighting of the Christ Candle – Sarah Summerfield

The church bell that just rang reminds us of the bell that is rung inside Trader Joe's stores when someone brings their own bag to carry out their groceries. The lighting of the Christ candle signifies a light turning on within us inspiring us to take better care of our beautiful planet.

Call to Worship (Responsively) Stacey Scarff

Scripture tells us that "creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed."

Creation is waiting for us.

(- Please stand as you are able)*

To open our eyes to the devastation in our world.

Creation is waiting for us.

To put the needs of the most vulnerable above the greed of the powerful.

Creation is waiting for us.

To prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self.

Creation is waiting for us.

To remove the pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies, and hearts.

Creation is waiting for us.

In all these things and more, creation waits for us to assume our roles as its servants and protectors.

With God's help, we will answer creation's call. Amen.

* **Hymn** "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Hymnal # 14

***Invitation to Confession**

Beloved, we are made in the divine image, and God called us good. Yet we go our own way, causing harm to ourselves, to one another, and to the planet. Confident in the mercy of the One who made us and saved us, let us confess our sin to God and to one another.

(* - Please stand as you are able)

***Prayer of Confession (Responsively)**

Giver of life, in the midst of a plundered earth we groan with creation:
Have mercy on us.

Giver of life, in the midst of poisoned water we groan with creation:
Have mercy on us.

Giver of life, in the midst of polluted air we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of life, in the midst of mountains of waste we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of life, in the midst of rising seas, we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of life, forgive us and make us agents of healing for the good of your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

***Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

In the water of baptism, God pours out mercy and blessing. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace as you share that blessing with others and care for this good earth, that all creation may declare God's glory. **Amen.**

***Congregational Response**

“Gloria Patri”

Hymnal #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen, Amen.

(* - Please stand as you are able)

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 32: 1-6

P. 78

Anthem “Creation is Waiting for Us”

Chancel Choir **Time with Young Disciples and Noisy Offering**

***Hymn** “The Earth Belongs to God Alone”

Hymnal #715

Epistle Reading

Romans 8: 18-25

P. 158

***Gospel Reading**

John 10: 7-10

P. 103

This is the promise of God to our ancestors and to us.

Thanks be to God.

Message “Abundant Life or Abundant Plastic?”

(- Please stand as you are able)*

Affirmation of Faith (Unison) -- from "The Brief Statement of Faith"

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love...Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

The earth is yours, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Thank you God, for people of faith for whom love of creation and care for God's world is a core piece of their identity and their faith in the Lord, and who are using their creative gifts to reduce reliance on plastics and encourage others to bravely go against the flow of society's standards. And may these gifts

(- Please stand as you are able)*

given today be first fruits of continued efforts to care for mother earth. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn** “All Creatures of Our God and King” Hymnal #15

Parting Greeting

- Monday, 6:30 – 8:00 PM **One Book, One Presbytery** study on Zoom. Register at www.baltimorepresbytery.org.
- Wednesday, 6:30 PM **Study and Prayer; Choir Rehearsal** at 7:30 PM.
- Thursday, 6:00 PM **Pub Theology** at Falling Branch Brewery.

Benediction

Choral Benediction “Dona Nobis Pacem”

Postlude

Thank You ~ to Sarah Summerfield and Stacey Scarff for serving as our Worship assistants this morning. Also, thank you Nancy Jones, Organist and Ian Fallon, Pianist for the wonderful music today ~all of our Worship is to the Glory of God!

♦ ♦ **Please e-mail Carolyn Patrinicola with all prayer-related additions, changes & removals by Tuesday mornings 10:00 AM to ensure that they will be included in next Sunday's bulletin. Names under Intercessions will be removed after 3 weeks unless otherwise instructed by email. Email for Carolyn Patrinicola is cwpat64@gmail.com**

(- Please stand as you are able)*

From the Deacons...

The Deacons are organizing a Meal Train page for Stu and Heidi Richardson and their family living with them. The Richardsons have been facing long-term health issues for some time, and a weekly meal would be helpful and much appreciated by them. Please use the link below to sign up if you would like to bless them by participating. If you have questions or need help delivering a meal, please contact Mary Beverly Gallagher at (410) 937-2500, or dartfrog999@gmail.com.

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/R44V7L>

For those without access to a computer, please contact Koren Buehler at (410) 937-9172 to sign up. Maybe consider teaming up with someone else to make it easier!

****National Suicide Prevention Hotline –
1-800-273-8255** or Dial 988**

Please reach out if you or someone you know needs help.



Our Tithes and Offerings

You can now give to Highland electronically through our secure e-Giving option provided through the Presbyterian Mission Exchange. You can set up a giving profile (which will save your giving information if you wish) to either give a one-time gift or to make regular giving easy.

Click “Give Now” above (also posted on Highland’s website) or you can scan the QR code at the bottom with your smart phone to set up your profile and begin giving electronically today!

As always, you may make your contribution to the Church via check. If you are giving to a certain fund, please designate on your check and/or giving envelope the amount given to each fund.

*Thank you for your prayers & continued financial support of
Highland Church!*



(* - Please stand as you are able)

Prayer List

+Denotes New Addition

THANKSGIVING FOR:

New Meute grandchildren
Upcoming graduates
May birthdays

INTERCESSIONS FOR:

+Paul Braddock (Donna Noble)
+Art Noble (Donna Noble)
+Ed Weiland (FIL of Ryan) (Pete McCallum)
+Claudia Scarborough (Ray Meute)
Family of Mathew Rockstroh (Barndt)
Family of Bryan Frei (Barndt)
Family/friends of Eva Plude
(C.Patrinicola)
Susan Thompson (David Thompson)
Family of Larry Davis (John Durand)

LONG -TERM PRAYERS NEEDED:

Michael Yarrington (Amos family)
Linda Zirkle (Patrinicolas)
Bobbi Jo Ayres (Debbie Ayres)
Dana Meute (Meutes)
Dave DeRan (Craig)
Lisa Deganhardt (Nancy Carver)
Jeannie Rainey (Donna Noble)
Andy Gallagher (Mary Beverly)
Deb Degan (Martha D.)
Paul (Ian)
Charlie and JoAnn Oliver
Margaret (sister of Elaine & Sandy)
Gail Hartman (Lucy Hollens)
Connie Rutherford (Doss)
Anne Giordano (Nancy M.)

Joe and Bobbi Lynne Skidmore (Craig)
Laurie Faulkner (Nancy Jones)
Frank Thayer & Janet Gilley (Dolly)
Sam Jones (Sarah DeBaugh)
Heidi and Stu Richardson
Ruth Noble (mother-in-law of Donna Noble)
Dorothy Shahan (Julie-Anna Flaherty)
Sharan Deinlein (Mary Thompson)
Jewel Sams (Doss)
Patrick Volker (Claudia)
Aunt Nancy & Uncle Felix (Wilson)
Leroy Gross (Jean Bullen)
Roger Woods (Norma T.)

MINISTRIES:

Presbytery of Baltimore - W. Virginia Adv.
Susquehanna Parish - Bethel Presbyterian
Church-All Leadership, HPC Legacy Bldg. Team
Local - All Outreach Ministries
Missions-Ihanktonwan Mission

OUR MILITARY:

Ryan Richardson, Navy Reserves
Peter Barndt, AD, USN
Cathy Durand Cantu, Coast Guard – AD, Alaska

COMMUNITY, NATION & WORLD

CONCERNS:

Ukraine - aid for defense
Gaza – safety and food assistance for civilians
Israel – choices to achieve lasting peace
Justice for all
Taiwan - restoration
Unity for progress within U.S. government
Current & long-term Key Bridge/Port restoration