



Founded 1890
HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Love God, Love Our Neighbors, Share God's Hope

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

January 4, 2026
10:00 AM

Order of Worship
Second Sunday of Christmas
January 4, 2026

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

A Word of Encouragement

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

Matthew 1:23

Prelude

Ringing of Church Bell

Life in the Church

The Church in Action

Lighting of the Christ Candle (Garrett Scarff)

At the beginning of a brand-new year, it is good to be sure that we have what we need to venture forth. A light to guide us would be ideal. This Christ candle flame fulfills that need. And so, we light the Christ candle.

Call to Worship (Responsively) – *from Jeremiah 31*

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people.”

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion;

they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

With expectation and joy as we begin a new year, let us worship the living God!

* **Hymn** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Hymnal #121

Invitation to Confession – based on *I John 1:8

“If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us.” And yet, we know that we need to begin again for we have fallen short of the glory of God. So, we come to the baptismal font seeking a fresh start. With confidence that God hears our prayers and has adopted us as beloved children, let us confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession (Unison) – adapted from *Jeremiah 31: 7-9, 13

We cry out: “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel,” for we are a people in need of saving. You promise to gather your people, but we confess that we want to put limitations on who is saved. We want you to save those we define as strong and beautiful and wise; You call the blind and the lame, the children and those in labor.

Forgive us, O Holy God, for our prejudice and narrow vision. Forgive us for our lack of faith. Forgive us for doubting your promise and declining your invitation. By your Spirit, renew us. Turn our mourning into joy and our sorrow into gladness that we might return to you and your way.

***Assurance of God's Forgiveness (Responsively)**

God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. According to the riches of Christ's grace, we are redeemed.

Hear and believe this good news: **In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

P. 734

Anthem

“Go! Tell it On the Mountain”

Chancel Choir

Message with Young Followers of Jesus and Noisy Offering

Hymn

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Hymnal #128

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1: 3-14

P. 192

Message “Live for God's Glory”

Ordination and Installation of Officers

Invitation to the Offering

With gratitude for all that God has provided and with hope in Christ, let us give of our lives to the Lord.

Offertory

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

We give you thanks, O God, for the many blessings abundantly provided us. As you have chosen us for a purpose and praise, may the gifts we bring be a symbol of our dedication to you. Bless our gifts and offerings. Bless us that we might be ever more faithful in your work of reconciliation, love and joy. In Christ's name, we pray. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Consecration and The Lord's Prayer

Communion

Prayer after Communion

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim you redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

***Hymn** “Once in Royal David’s City” Hymnal #140

Parting Greeting

--Wednesday, 7:30 PM **Choir Rehearsal**

--Friday, **Annual Report Deadline!** Please submit your written reports to Nancy Carver (nancycarver@live.com).

--Next Sunday we will distribute **Star Words** which is a spiritual practice of receiving a word to guide you and direct you in this new year.

Benediction

Choral Benediction “Dona Nobis Pacem” Hymnal #75

Postlude

Thank you – to Garrett Scarff and Pete McCallum for serving as our Worship assistants this morning. Also, thank you to Nancy Jones, Organist; Ian Fallon, Pianist; and Stacey Scarff, Director of Music, for the wonderful music today – all of our Worship is to the Glory of God!

Prayer List

+Denotes New Addition

THANKSGIVING FOR:

The glory of God revealed

INTERCESSIONS FOR:

Danae Wills (Jim Galbreath)

Mia Siegel (Alexa Scarff)

Family of Elaine Knight (Carolyn Patrinicola)

Richard and Harriett Holloway (Wilson Tharpe)

Michael Marden (Susan Summerfield)

Wilson Tharpe (Claudia Scarbough)

Displaced people – 500 in Harford County

Doris Griffith (Claudia Scarborough)

Ted Wiley (Wanda Amos)

John Philip Wilson (Lucy Hollens)

Donald Jones (Elaine Derickson)

Art Noble (Donna Noble)

Carole DeRan (Craig DeRan)

Care and support for those with mental illness

(Pastor Ray)

LONG-TERM PRAYERS NEEDED:

Helene Mackey (Pastor Ray)

Bill Netting (Dave Thompson)

Jeanie Rainey (Donna Noble)

Jenny Smith (Kim Goode)

Jean Bullen (Pastor Ray)

Debbie and Family (Kathy Watson)

Jim Lawrence (Debbie Mezzatesta)

Valerie Keck (Mary Beverly Gallagher)

Grace Christman

Tommy Amrein (Eley Welkner)

Mike Mills (Wilson)

Molly & Sisters (Rose)

Margaret (Elaine & Sandy)

Michael Yarrington (Amos family)

Paul (Ian Fallon)

Gail Hartman (Lucy Hollens)

Frank Thayer (Dolly)

Sam Jones (Sarah DeBaugh)

Heidi and Stu Richardson

Ruth Noble (mother-in-law of Donna Noble)

Dorothy Shahan (Julie-Anna Flaherty)

Tom Bulleit (Eley Welkner)

Joy Merryman (Nancy Jones)

MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS:

Baltimore-Dakota Partnership Mission

All people & their loved ones suffering from addictions and outcomes

Presbytery of Baltimore

Susquehanna Parish – Christ Our King PC

All Leadership, HPC Legacy Bldg. Team

Local – Susquehanna Habitat for Humanity

OUR MILITARY:

Peter Barndt, USN

Cathy Durand Cantu, USCG

Ryan Richardson, USNR

COMMUNITY, NATION & WORLD:

Children, elderly, and disabled people without S.N.A.P. support

Justice and the rule of law

Mass shooting attacks Brown Univ. & Australia

Families suffering from loss of federal and medical assistance

Worldwide needs

Economic uncertainty

Truth to guide all world, national & local events

Peace & restraint in Middle East conflicts

Peaceful & just end to Russian invasion of Ukraine

Immigrants and US citizens being deported and families being separated

Comfort to those living in fear

World Council of Church Prayer Cycle: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine