



*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**

**Ringling 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](mailto: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

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## **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 Scarbourgh)  
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