

Special Music

Jesus, Be With Us

Prayers of the People and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

In Christ There Is No East or West

Hymn. 440

Blessing and Charge

Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

Postlude

How Majestic Is Your Name

Smith / Hayes



**Highland Presbyterian Church
Maryville, TN
Sunday, November 22, 2020
Matthew 25 Sunday**

Our Mission:
Highland Presbyterian Church seeks to be a diverse and inclusive Christian Community as we embody the love and forgiveness of Jesus by serving the community and the world, drawing people to Christ.

Prelude

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Smith / Sanborn

Welcome and Explanation of Matthew 25

Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

Opening Sentences

Jesus says: Blessed are the poor in spirit.....

And blessed is the church that serves with the love of God to eradicate systemic poverty.

Jesus says: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.....

And blessed is the church that trusts in the grace of Christ to build congregational vitality.

Jesus says: Blessed are the peacemakers.....

And blessed is the church that seeks by the power of the Spirit to dismantle structural racism.

Blessed are you, O holy, triune God,
and blessed is your holy realm forever.

Highland Presbyterian Church
721 East Lamar Alexander Parkway,
Maryville, TN 37804
(865) 982-9272
www.highlandpresby.org
Pastor: Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington
matthew@highlandpresby.org
Choir Director: Sharon Brothers
Organist: Jussara Horton
Church Secretary: Lindsay Rogers

Time for the Children

Opening hymn:

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Hymn. 151

Confession and Pardon (Communal)

Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your way of truth and life.

You call us to share all that we have and work together for the common good, but we hoard up treasures for ourselves and deny others their daily bread.

You call us to set the captives free and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear of our neighbors and hide ourselves from our own kin.

You call us to walk in newness of life and to be witnesses to the resurrection, but we dwell in the valley of dry bones and keep silent about your saving love.

**Forgive us, God of grace.
Set us free from sin, death and fear
so that we may serve you with gladness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Prayer for Illumination

Speak to us, O God, with the voice of your Holy Spirit, that we may know the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture:

Matthew 25:31-40

Sermon:

What Are We Waiting For?

Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

Litany of Commitment

Jeremy Lloyd

Do you renounce the evils of systemic poverty and economic exploitation? **We renounce them!**

Will you devote yourself to doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with your God? **We will, with God's help.**

Do you renounce the sins of structural racism and white supremacy? **We renounce them!**

Will you devote yourself to breaking down the walls of hostility that separate us from one another? **We will, with God's help.**

Do you renounce the ways of fear, isolation and scarcity in the church? **We renounce them!**

Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers? **We will, with God's help.**

Affirmation of Faith

Excerpts From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.

Systemic Poverty

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives.**

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

Structural Racism

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
to live as one community.**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

Congregational Vitality

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**