**Highland Presbyterian Church**

April 14th, 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m.

A painting of person surrounded by angels

Description automatically generated

**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 *Hymn to Peace* Martin

**Gathering**

Welcome & Announcements Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

**Call to Worship**(**Responsive**)                                         Jeremy Lloyd

One: We live in the radiance of your glory.

**All: Our worship comes from the gladness you have put in our hearts.**

One: We give you thanks for the peace of your salvation.

**All: Oh, hear the joy of our praise for your grace and mercy.**

One: We gather to worship with joy in our hearts.

**All: May we continue to worship praising God!**

\*Opening Hymn *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*  Hymn 234

Call to Confession Jeremy Lloyd

Prayer of Confession (**Communal**)

**You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood, yet we still struggle to live and believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us; forgive us. Enter into our lives and cast out our fear so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

A sheet music with text and notes

Description automatically generatedAssurance of Pardon

Time for the Children Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

**The Word**

**Prayer for Illumination** Jeremy Lloyd

God of all who doubt and believe, by the gift of your Spirit enable us to hear with our ears, to see with our eyes, and to touch with our hands your Word of life—Jesus Christ— our Lord and our God. Amen.

**Holy Scripture**  Luke 24:36—53

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what God promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Anthem  *He Is King of Kings* (African American Spiritual)

Sermon “Faith Seeking Understanding” Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

Statement of Faith (Responsive). Excerpts from A Brief Statement of Faith (PC(USA))

**In life and in death we belong to God.  Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Minute for Mission UKirk UT Audrey Blackburn

Offertory *Hymns of Adoration* arr. Keveren

\*Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Hymn 609

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures high and low.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving **(Communal)**

**Holy God, we give you thanks and praise for light and life and love, and—above all— the presence of the living Lord among us. By your Spirit who breathes within us, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer**

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**.

**Sending**

\*Closing Hymn Go, My Children, with My Blessing Hymn 547

\*Charge and Benediction Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

Postlude *An Easter Alleluia* Ashford

**Free Little Neighborhood Item of the Week**

Our Free Little Neighborhood Item of the week is soup. Next time you’re at the grocery store please pick up a few extra cans or packages of soup. If you can find containers that are microwavable, that is a big help for some of our neighbors who don’t have access to a full kitchen.

Weekly Schedule for April 14th – April 21st

Sunday, April 14 – Sunday Worship **10:30 a.m**.

Session **11:30 a.m.**

Monday –

Tuesday – Quilters **9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

Happy Highlanders **11:30 a.m. Blount Co. Library**

Wednesday – OA- **1 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

Thursday – Piano Practice **3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary**

Friday – **All-Day** in Fellowship Hall

Saturday – **All-Day** in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 21 – Sunday Worship **10:30 a.m. (Earth Care Service)**

Worship Committee **11:30 a.m.**

Garden Blessing **11:30 a.m.**

Small & Mighty Youth **3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Athens, TN**

Gate Dance Party **5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

**Happy Highlanders**

**Tuesday, April 16**

Join the Happy Highlanders, Highland’s older adult ministry, on **Tuesday, April 16 from 11:30a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** as we take a tour of the Blount County Library and eat lunch at the café. We’ll learn about the community work the library does and what all it takes to make a library successful. Let Bruce or Pam Clifford know if you’d like to attend.

**Small and Mighty Youth**

**Sunday, April 21st , Athens, TN**

The youth of Highland (6th-12th grade) are invited to join our youth ministry partnership, Small and Mighty Youth, for our next gathering on **Sunday, April 21st from 3 - 6 p.m.** in **Athens, TN** so our Chattanooga friends can join us. We will meet at a local park for Outdoor Games & Sports with a cookout dinner to follow. Let Pastor Matthew know if you would like to attend.

**Gate Party at Highland**

**Sunday, April 21st**

Highland is excited to host a pizza and dance party for the Gateway to Independence in Highland’s **Fellowship Hall** on **Sunday, April 21st from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** We expect this to be a wonderful night of dancing and fun. If you would like to help, there are several ways: Donate a dessert or veggie tray, contribute funds to help pay for pizza and supplies that night, or help with set up and clean up. Let Eleanor Wills know if you would like to help in anyway.



