**Highland Presbyterian Church**

March 26th, 2023

5th Sunday of Lent

10:30 a.m.



**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 *Neo-Classique* Hayes

**Gathering**

Lenten Refrain *I Will Come to You* Highland Choir

Welcome & Announcements Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

**Call to Worship**(**Responsive**)                                         Darrin Devault

One: O people of God, hope in the Lord!

**All: For with God there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.**

One: Wait for the Lord.

**All: Our souls wait for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.**

One: O people, hope in the Lord!

**All: With the Lord there is eternal life with Christ. Let us worship God!**

\*Opening Hymn *O God Who Gives Us Life* Hymn 53

Call to Confession Darrin Devault

Prayer of Confession (**Communal**)

**O Lord, we seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. And even so, you love us. Even so, there is still forgiveness with you. Therefore, we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon Darrin Devault

Time for the Children Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

**The Word**

Prayer for Illumination Darrin Devault

**Holy Scripture** John 11:1—45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Holy God, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Anthem *In Deepest Night* Highland Choir

Sermon “Jesus Wept” Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

Statement of Faith (**Communal**) Excerpts from *A Brief Statement of Faith PC(USA)*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

 **In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

Moment for Mission *One Great Hour of Sharing* Sandy Miller

Offering of Our Gifts

Offertory *On Wings of Song* Mendelssohn/Denton

\*Doxology Hymn 609

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

**Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people, your beloved. As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of the People & 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 *We Come to You for Healing, Lord*  Hymn 786

\*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *A Lenten Postlude* Pergolesi/Troutman

**Upcoming Events**

**Wednesdays, March 1-April 12**

Join us this Lent for a book study and dinner as we read through the devotional *Meeting Jesus at the Table* that reflects on Jesus meeting with people around meals and enjoy a meal together. We will gather in the fellowship hall on **Wednesdays** from **5:30-6:00 p.m.** for appetizers and fellowship and **6:00-7:00 p.m.** to discuss that week’s reading and eat dinner together.

**Holy Week Schedule**

**Sunday, April 2 - April 9**

**Sunday, April 2** -On Palm Sunday the Liles will bring their llamas to the church for the annual tradition of walking around the property with our palms and songs before returning to the sanctuary for worship.

**Thursday, April 6, 6:00 pm**- Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service in the sanctuary with communion.

**Sunday, April 9** - Men’s Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at **9:00 am** before Easter Worship and then Easter Egg Hunt following worship.

Weekly Schedule for March 26th – April 2nd

Sunday, March 26 – Sunday Worship **10:30 a.m**. Mission Committee **11:30 a.m.**

Monday – Matthew out of Office- **All Day**

Tuesday – Matthew out of Office- **All Day** Quilters- **9 a.m.**

Wednesday – OA- **1 p.m.** Lent Study/Dinner- **5:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

Choir Practice - **7:00 p.m. Sanctuary**

Thursday – Girl Scouts- **7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

Friday –

Saturday –

Sunday, April 2 (Palm Sunday) – Llama Gathering **10:00 a.m.**  Sunday Worship **10:30 a.m**.



