

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH AND FOR JESUS
OFFERING

DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH# 95

SINGING *Joy to the World* UMH# 246

BENEDICTION

Whether you herd sheep or milk cows,
whether you live by a barn or in view of a silo, listen for the angels singing.
**Paying taxes, stuck in smelly places, carrying cluttered, crowded hearts,
singing carols, unwrapping packages, eating, Jesus will come to us.**
Emmanuel, God with you and our world, live and love.

**If able, please stand.*

*Christmas Eve Communion will be offered at Highland between 4pm to 6 pm.
A Christmas Eve worship service with songs, (a different) sermon,
communion, and candlelight will be at New Hope, 7 pm.*

Highland United Methodist Church

4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve, 2017

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATING SPECIAL DAYS

GOOD NEWS *Luke 2:9-12*

The angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you (will be born)...in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

*SHARING THE PEACE and PROMISE of CHRIST BEING WITH US
RINGING THE BELL

ADVENT WREATH

Kenny Bernard, Tricia Custer,
and all who have and are fighting cancer

**“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine
Let it shine, shine, shine
Let it shine.”**

MEMORY ANGELS
SPECIAL MUSIC

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The time is almost here! Mary (very “with child”) and Joe took a donkey to Bethlehem.

People: *(Bob up and down, lean side to side)*

Leader: Joseph had to pay taxes to the Emperor.

People: *(Hands pulling out pockets)*

Leader: Getting to the bustling city, they had to find room to stay.

People: *(As if knocking on a door, turn to person beside you)*

Can we stay here?

Leader: Finally, one inn keeper, with a full inn said, “You can stay... in the back, in the barn.”

People: *(Finger on nose and say, “woo whee.”)*

Leader: Mary’s water breaks, she moans, she inhales and exhales, Jesus is on the way!

People: *(Take the hand of the one next to you.)*

***SINGING** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

UMH# 238

POEM FOR PRAYER

He did not wait till the world was ready, till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.
He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.
He came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice! (*“First Coming” by Madeleine L’Engle*)

SPECIAL MUSIC

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: *Isaiah 7:10-14*

SHARING AND PRAYING:

I will be _____ and God will be with me.
_____ will be _____ and God will be with them.
_____ will be _____ and God will be with them.
_____ will be _____ and God will be with them.

EPISTLE LESSON: *Romans 16:25-27*

SINGING: *Silent Night*

UMH# 239

GOSPEL LESSON: *Luke 1:1-7*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.**

SERMON “Givinig the Gift of Ourselves: Joyful Obedience” *Rev. Amy E. Pannell*

***SINGING** *Star-Child*

(See Insert)