

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John W. Bowling

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## WORSHIP WITH SINGING\*

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord;  
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing;  
Jesus Light of the World; Emmanuel

## DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN

*(At this time, children 4yrs through 5th grade are dismissed to go upstairs for Sunday School.  
Parents, please pick up your child in room 207 upstairs following worship.)*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jeff & Pat Sidler

*(After the Lighting of the Candle, the congregation is invited to sing together **verse 4**  
of “What Child is This”, printed below)*

What love is this, so humble, true,  
That heaven stoops to human view?  
God laid aside all power and praise,  
To walk our roads, to share our days  
Raise, raise the song on high.  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy! Joy! For Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

## MINISTRY OF GIVING

**OFFERING MUSIC** Make Room; O Holy Night; In the Bleak Midwinter

## SCRIPTURE

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

## MESSAGE

**Enfleshment**

Rev. John W. Bowling

*Love in Real Time*

## WORSHIP WITH SINGING\*

Darlin’; Make Room; I Will Wait

## BENEDICTION\*

\*Please stand as you are able.



Special thank you to today’s **Ushers & Greeters,**  
**Pat & Jeff Sidler**  
Your service is greatly appreciated!

**Welcome to Highland United Methodist!** If you’re looking for information about our church, you can probably find it and much more at [highlandmethodist.com](http://highlandmethodist.com)

**We welcome all visitors today and kindly request you complete a “Connect Card”** found either in the pew or by scanning this QR code. We would love to get to know you!



## Advent 2025:

**Enfleshment** means *to take on flesh*. In the Christian story, it refers to the astonishing truth that God chose to become human in Jesus. For many, that can feel like a distant or abstract idea—but it is at the very heart of the Gospel. God’s love did not remain a concept—it became real, visible, and touchable in Jesus. As followers of Christ, we are invited not only to receive and rejoice in that love, but to live it out; to let God’s compassion, mercy, and grace take on flesh again in *us*.



**Highland United Methodist Church will have special candlelight Christmas Eve worship services at 5pm and 11pm.** Bring your friends and family to celebrate in song and scripture, and share holy communion. Nursery care will be available at the 5pm service only.

**PRELUDE** In Dulci Jubilo Dale Wood

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. John W. Bowling

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**HYMN #240\*** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**ADVENT LITANY\***

In this season we come not to celebrate a distant God, but to celebrate a God who draws near.

**We come to worship the Christ who took on flesh and walked among us.**

Scripture tells us that Christ, though God, did not cling to power or privilege.

**Instead, God emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant.**

Incredible! The God of the universe humbled Himself, choosing obedience, choosing vulnerability, choosing love—and walked among us.

**He came not in glory, but in weakness; not to rule, but to serve.**

In Jesus, God steps into our world—into our pain, our fear; to be our hope for a new way to live together.

**In Jesus, love takes on flesh and blood.**

Therefore, God exalted Jesus and gave him the name above every name.

**That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

As we wait for Christ's return, let us share his mind, walk in his way, and live in God's truth.

**Yes: may the love that came down in Jesus be enfleshed in us, to the glory of God. Amen.**

**DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN**

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**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Tom Marshall & Martha Ashcraft  
*(After the Lighting of the Candle, the congregation is invited to sing together verse 4 of "What Child is This", printed below)*

What love is this, so humble, true,  
That heaven stoops to human view?  
God laid aside all power and praise,  
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Joy! Joy! For Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

**MORNING PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**MINISTRY OF GIVING**

**OFFERTORY** Cradle Hymn Robert Powell

**DOXOLOGY\***

**HYMN #218\*** It Came upon the Midnight Clear vs. 1-3

**ANTHEM** O Come, All Ye Faithful arr. Heather Sorenson

**SCRIPTURE** PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

**MESSAGE** **Enfleshment** Rev. John W. Bowling  
*Love in Real Time*

**HYMN #251\*** Go, Tell It on the Mountain

**BENEDICTION\***

**CHORAL AMEN\***

**POSTLUDE** Tell Out My Soul Paul Manz

\*Please stand as you are able.

**Advent 2025:**

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## YOUTH MINISTRY

\*Youth Group will be on Christmas Break from 12/21—1/4.



We are still seeking 1-2 more adults to help lead **Monday Morning Prayer** during the '25-26 school year, on a rotational basis. Are you available once a month on Monday mornings from 7:15—7:40 am? Please contact Madeline at

youth@highlandmethodist.com or call the office to be a part of this longstanding, vibrant ministry that HUMC has offered to our youth & the community for many years.



### AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2025

General Fund YTD Income: \$482,904

General Fund YTD Expense: \$503,664

YTD Net Shortfall: (\$20,759)

YTD General Fund Budgeted Need: \$562,460

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISE REPORTS

- Lynn E—recovery
- Dan Jones' son—Broken leg/surgery
- Rosemary
- Jim Davis-health concerns
- Curtis & his son Owen
- Margie (Marlene Selby's sister-in-law) - ALS
- Clara Eaglin—ovarian cyst
- Mary Ellen Elsbernd-loss of sister-in-law



Highland United Methodist Church  
www.highlandmethodist.com  
859-441-0587  
office@highlandmethodist.com  
Guest wifi password: HumcLoves

# Highland United Methodist Church

December 21, 2025 11:00am

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

## Enfleshment



## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

### **Grow – Follow – Love**

At Highland United Methodist Church, we are a community of imperfect people who exist to **grow** God's kingdom by **following** the examples of Jesus and **loving** with purpose.

We are deepening our spiritual understanding by embracing diversity, enriching lives, mindfully serving, and bringing joy through music and friendship. As United Methodists, we inclusively welcome everyone and follow the Wesleyan call to do no harm, do good, and love God.