

# Highland Presbyterian Church

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
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.



**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS



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## Gathering

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Welcome &amp; Announcements

Rev. Susan Reisinger

### Call to Worship (Responsive)

One: Come and worship, all you who love and serve the Lord—

**All: outsiders and insiders,  
old-timers and new-comers,  
the young, old and the in-between.**

One: Come as you are,

**All: for this is God's house—a house of prayer for all people,  
and God welcomes each one who comes.**

\*Opening Hymn

*What is This Place?*

Hymn 404

### Call to Confession

We try to pretend we have not sinned. We are good at lying to ourselves. But as we see humanity through God's perspective, we're reminded of our faults, shortcomings, and outright disobedience. But we are not left without hope. It is the great God who promises forgiveness and a new start. Let us confess our sins.

### Prayer of Confession (Communal)

God of grace and goodness, your mercy comes to us in ways that continually surprise us, for you appear to offer such mercy with no strings attached – which is so different from the way we so often act and live. We pray for you to be merciful to us. Yet we can scoff when you are merciful to those we consider bad or wrong. We often place conditions on our love and our acceptance of many people.

The list of people we exclude could be endless: wrong political persuasion or lack of education. Perhaps our greatest sin lies in believing that we know where the boundaries of divine love and mercy are drawn. Forgive us, O God, when we deprive people of the love we owe them as people unconditionally loved by you.

Help us to see people with Jesus' eyes and to be moved by his compassion so that we become active and fearless bearers of healing and mercy. Empower us with your Spirit to be barrier-breakers rather

than barrier-builders and remind us, if necessary, over and over, that nothing can separate us, or others, from your love as we experience it in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This we pray in his name. Amen.

## Assurance of God's Love

Hymn 583

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
 2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)  
 F B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)  
 C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)  
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

Time the Children

Diane Brown

## The Word

### Prayer for Illumination

Un-stop our ears, O God, that we may hear your Word proclaimed this day. Open our minds and hearts to be changed. Free us from the unclean spirits of worry, fear, destruction, and pride. Teach us, Lord, that we may follow you more faithfully.

## Holy Scripture

Mark 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Anthem

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

Hymn 629

Sermon

"Ouch"

Rev. Susan Reisinger

Affirmation of Faith (**Communal**)

**Christ Jesus,  
Child of Mary, God with us,  
King and Suffering Servant,  
High Priest and Lamb of God,  
Teacher and Word,  
living, suffering, dying and rising again,  
you challenge, redeem and restore us.**

**Holy Spirit, Breath of life,  
Counsellor and Comforter,  
Fire of God, you inspire, sustain, and purify us.**

**Forming us in the nature of Christ,  
transforming us with your gifts,  
you bind us together in one body, your church.**

**God of all creation,  
made known to us in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit,  
your boundless love exposes our rebellion and greed.**

**A mother who will not abandon her child,  
a father who welcomes the prodigal home,  
you forgive, accept and embrace us  
and call us into loving communion forever.**

**In life and death we belong to you,  
everlasting God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Call to Offering

Offertory

*Faith of Our Fathers*

*Hemy Chris Smith, flute*

\*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**)

**Eternal God, holy and faithful, what can we give in return for our life? Teach us to take up the cross of Christ with grateful hearts and humble spirits, offering all for the sake of the gospel, so that we may receive life in fullness; through Christ, who is coming in glory.**

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## Eucharist

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Invitation & Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People & 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.**

Prayer after Communion (**Communal**)

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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## Sending

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\*Closing Hymn

*Though I May Speak*

Hymn 693

Benediction

Rev. Susan Reisinger

Postlude

*Amazing Grace*

arr. Excell / Hayes

Special thanks to Chris Smith for provide the special music for today's worship.

## Free Little Neighborhood Item of the Week

Our Free Little Neighborhood Items of the Week are personal health and hygiene products. Next time you're at the grocery store, please pick up any sunscreen, bug spray, soap, deodorant or feminine hygiene products for family use.

## Upcoming Events

### Summer Worship Music

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!! Our wonderful choir will be taking a well-deserved break during June & July. Please consider sharing your own musical talent during our summer services by signing up for Special Music on any Sunday during those two months. There's a Sign Up Sheet at the rear of the Sanctuary, or you may contact Jussara directly at [hortonjussara@gmail.com](mailto:hortonjussara@gmail.com)

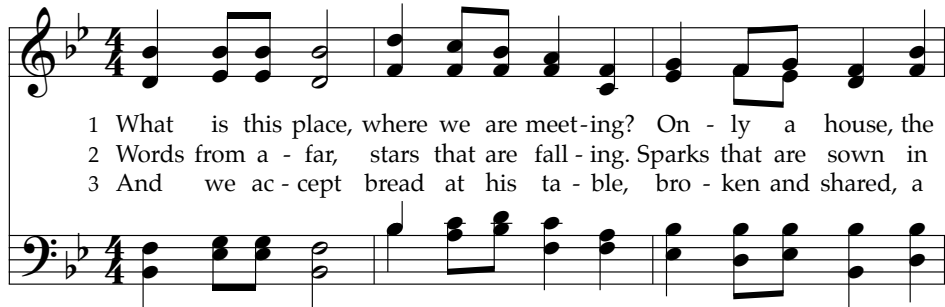
#### Weekly Schedule for July 6<sup>th</sup> – July 13<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, June 29 –	Sunday School <b>9:15 a.m.</b> Sunday Worship (Rev. Susan Reisinger) <b>10:30 a.m.</b>
Monday –	
Tuesday –	Quilters <b>9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall</b>
Wednesday –	OA at <b>1 p.m.</b>
Thursday –	Piano Lessons from <b>3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Sanctuary</b>
Friday –	
Saturday –	
Sunday, July 6 –	Sunday School <b>9:15 a.m.</b> Communion Sunday (Rev. Ann Meyers) <b>10:30 a.m.</b>

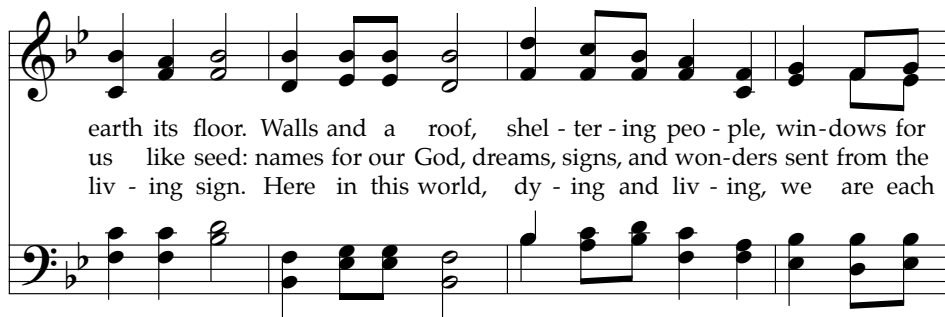
GATHERING

404

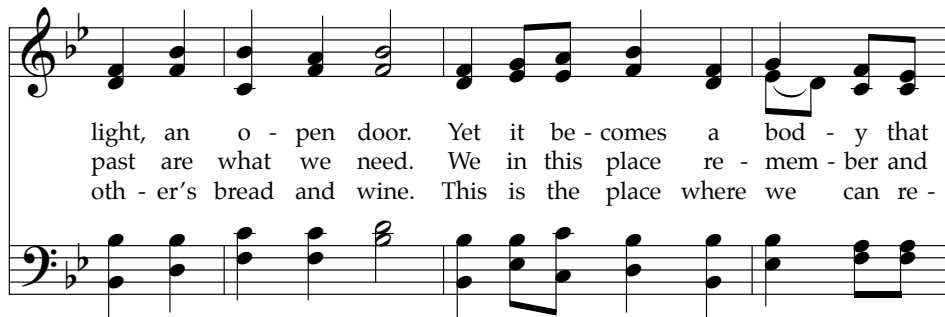
# What Is This Place



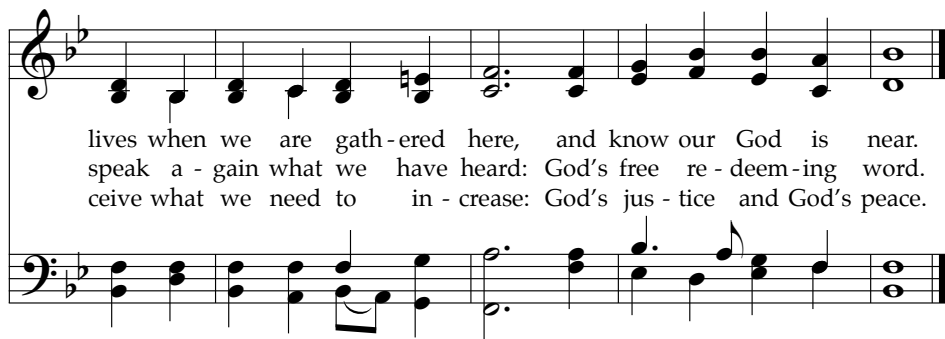
1 What is this place, where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the  
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing. Sparks that are sown in  
 3 And we ac - cept bread at his ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof, shel - ter - ing peo - ple, win-dows for  
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs, and won-ders sent from the  
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing, we are each



light, an o - pen door. Yet it be - comes a bod - y that  
 past are what we need. We in this place re - mem - ber and  
 oth - er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re -



lives when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.  
 speak a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem - ing word.  
 ceive what we need to in - crease: God's jus - tice and God's peace.

This text by a 20th-century Jesuit beautifully captures the fundamental truth that "church" is not primarily the building but the people who come together in order to be nourished by Word and Table so that they may show forth Christ's redeeming presence in the world.

TEXT: Huub Oosterhuis, 1968; trans. David Smith, 1970

MUSIC: *Nederlandsche Gedanccklanck*, 1626; harm. Bernard Huijbers, 1968

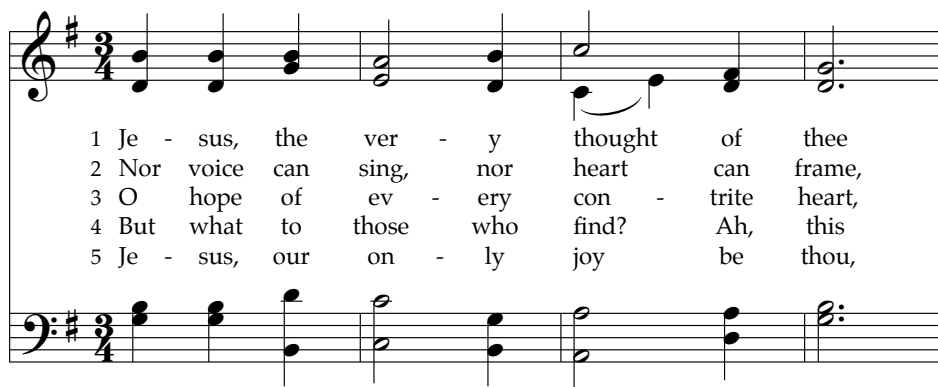
Text and Music Harm. © 1967 Gooi En Sticht, Bv, Baarn, The Netherlands (admin. OCP for English-language countries)

KOMT NU MET ZANG

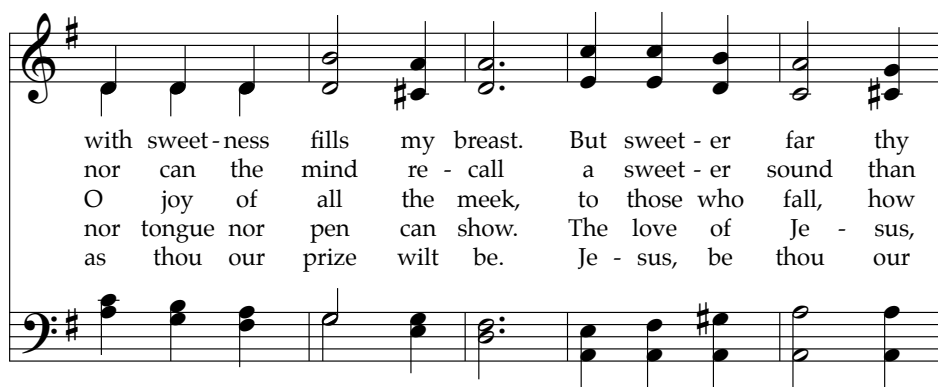
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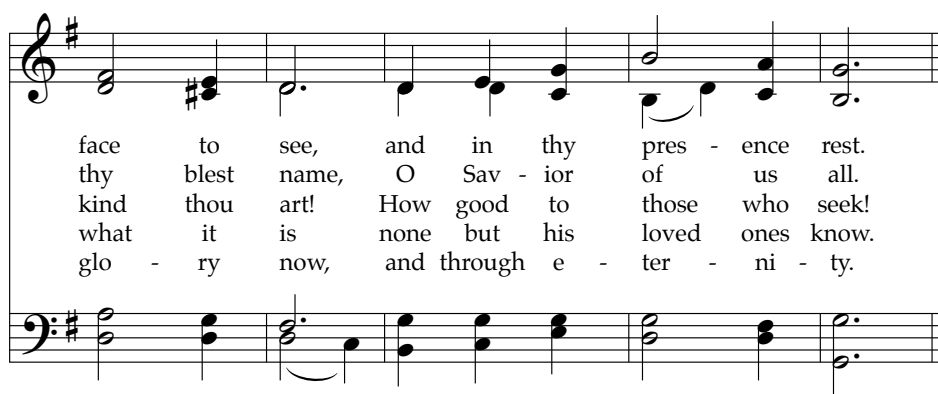
# Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee 629



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of thee  
 2 Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,  
 3 O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart,  
 4 But what to those who find? Ah, this  
 5 Je - sus, our on - ly joy be thou,



with sweet - ness fills my breast. But sweet - er far thy  
 nor can the mind re - call a sweet - er sound than  
 O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, how  
 nor tongue nor pen can show. The love of Je - sus,  
 as thou our prize wilt be. Je - sus, be thou our



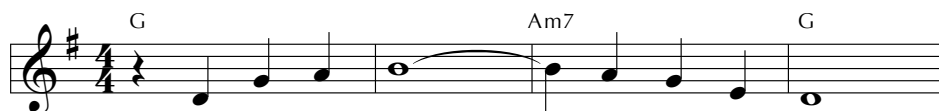
face to see, and in thy pres - ence rest.  
 thy blest name, O Sav - ior of us all.  
 kind thou art! How good to those who seek!  
 what it is none but his loved ones know.  
 glo - ry now, and through e - ter - ni - ty.

The sweetness celebrated in this anonymous 12th-century Latin poem is not cloying or sentimental; it is more like an antidote to bitterness and a source of hope and healing. The best-known 19th-century translation is set here to a tune composed especially for these words.

# Though I May Speak

## The Gift of Love

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1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire,  
 2 Though I may give all I pos - sess,  
 3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol;



and have the gift to all in - spire,  
 and striv - ing so long my love pro - fess,  
 our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain,  
 but not be given by love with - in,  
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.  
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.  
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

As paraphrases of 1 Corinthians 13:1, 3 the first two stanzas here are in the first person singular, yet they lead into a plural prayer for the gift of such love, for it thrives in community. These words are especially poignant with this adaptation of an English folk melody.