**Highland Presbyterian Church**

**Maryville, TN**

***Our Mission:***

***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.***

November 28th, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

Prelude *My Jesus, I Love Thee* Gordon/Hegarty

**Gathering**

Welcome Rev. Rachel Penmore

Call to Worship Sandy Miller

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord

**People: The Lord will fulfill God’s promise to God’s people**

Leader: Justice and righteousness will fill the land

**People: And all will live in peace and safety**

Lighting of the Advent Candles Family

Advent Song *Love Has Come (verse 1)* Hymn 110

Opening Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Hymn 93

Call to Confession Sandy Miller

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God,  
We find ourselves with two options every day—  
to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win.**

**Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?**

**Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it’s impossible?  
Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.  
Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won’t let go.  
Gratefully we pray, amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Time for the Children

**The Word**

Prayer for Illumination Sandy Miller

**Holy Scripture Luke 21:25-36**

**A picture containing logo

Description automatically generated**“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Sermon “Already, Not Yet” Rev. Rachel Penmore

Special Music *My Lord! What a Morning* Highland Choir

Statement of Faith Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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**.

Offering of Our Gifts

Minute(s) for Mission Christmas Joy Offering/Heifer International

Offertory *I’ve Been in the Storm So Long* Spiritual/Burleigh

Prayer of Dedication Rev. Rachel Penmore

**Sending**

Closing Hymn *See Fig Leaves Now Spouting* Highland Choir

Charge and Benediction

As you leave *this* service, *your* service begins:

Comfort the homesick.  
Open your doors to others.  
Seek sanctuary.

Be brave enough to go home by another way.

And remember that here in God’s house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—go in peace.

Postlude *Come, Ye Thankful People Come* Elvey / McDonald

*Special thanks this Sunday to our guest musician, Rachel Acuff, for providing music.*

Highland Presbyterian Church

721 East Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, TN 37804

(865) 982-9272

www.highlandpresby.org

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

matthew@highlandpresby.org

Choir Director & Organist: Jussara Horton

Communications Director: Tabby Parker

communications@highlandpresby.org

Office Administrator: William Martin

[office@highlandpresby.org](mailto:office@highlandpresby.org)

Facebook: Facebook.com/HighlandPC

Instagram: highlandpresmaryville

**Logo

Description automatically generated**