

Order for the Worship of God

OPENING PRAYER

Highland Presbyterian Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2015

With all that is within us, O Lord, we bless your holy name!
 You who swaddle earth in the glory of the night sky,
 you who paint sunrise and sunset like a master artist,
 you who sing with many and varied voices,
 the bullfrog and bumblebee, the alley cat and stray dog,
 the whale, coyote, lark, and child,
 we praise you!
 You who unfold each dawn, a bold new beginning,
 open our eyes to see and our hearts to savor
 the wonder and abundance of your grace. Amen.

Gathering around THE WORD

PRELUDE

Dr. Kit Loong Yee (Raymond)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Linda L. Kelly

CENTERING SONG

Holy Ground

see HYMN

Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining

CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Behrmann +CALL TO CONFESSION

God of office towers and space shuttles, of rush-hour traffic and the Milky Way,
Help us to seek you.

+TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

God of city hospitals and flying doctors, of intensive care units and desert sunsets,
Help us to find you.

God of noisy airports and fast-paced race tracks,
 of control towers and the protected tortoise,
Help us to know you.

God of pop concerts and country shows, of violin concertos and cooing doves,
Help us to trust you.

God of football crowds and lone fishing boats, of protest marches and moonlit nights,
Help us to love you.

God of cathedral choirs and chickadees, of hotline counselors and roosters at dawn,
Help us to serve you.

God of Mary's son and Peter's Lord, of a blood-stained cross and an empty tomb,
LET US ADORE YOU.

- **Create in me a clean heart, O God, cleared of the refuse of old others and deadly opposition with myself.**
- **Create in me a clean heart, O God, purified through the daily life encounters that take me beyond my grasping centeredness.**
- **Create in me a clean heart, O God, freed from the clutter of distractions and temptations, so that I can enjoy the beauty of life's simple gifts the gifts I easily take for granted.**
- **Create in me a clean heart, O God, open and receptive, so that I can receive the many ways you choose to visit my life.**
- **Create in me a clean heart, O God, bathed from harsh thoughts and perfectionist tendencies, warmly welcoming others with the grace of your judgment.**

+At this sign, you are invited to rise in body or in spirit.

Bold: All people respond

Proclaiming THE WORD

▪ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, brushed free of frantic busyness, so that I will have time to dwell with you in the listening space of solitude and silence.*

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31:31-34

▪ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, rinsed of the residue of false messages about my identity, enabling my inner goodness and light to shine through all I am and do.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

▪ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, cleansed of anxiety and lack of trust, restoring in me an enduring faith in your abiding presence and unconditional love.*

SCRIPTURE

John 12:20-33

SERMON

“A CLEARING SEASON”

▪ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, scrubbed of racism and prejudice, drawing me toward all as my sisters and brothers.*

Responding to THE WORD

▪ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, washed with your mercy and strengthened by your love, helping me move beyond whatever keeps me from union with you.*

HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

▪ *Create a clean heart in me, O God. Dust off the neglectful activity that constantly collects there. De-clutter my heart from harsh judgments and negativity. Wash away my resistance to working through difficult relationships. Remove whatever keeps me from following in your compassionate footsteps. Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

(using “forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us”)

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

+ASSURANCE OF PARDON

OFFERTORY

+THE PEACE

+DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

I will be in peace with you.

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us be people of peace together.

Offer a sign of peace to one another in word, handshake, hug, or other sign.

Bearing and Following THE WORD into the World

RECEPTION OF THE CONFIRMATION CLASS

+HYMN

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Emma Jo Stewart

+BENEDICTION

Kate Noel Stewart

Caitlin Marie Thompson

+SENDING SONG

Amen

Haleigh Elizabeth Thompson

Taylor Francis Thompson

+POSTLUDE

+HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

Hymn 525