

Order for the Worship of God

Highland Presbyterian Church

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2015

*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven...
~Ecclesiastes 3:1*

OPENING PRAYER

**This is a new day, O God, because we begin it in your presence.
As a community, we open ourselves for holy renewal.
In every age, O Lord, you call those who are companions of you
to offer a living witness to his promise of salvation.
Help us to do so enthusiastically this day
and to embody that truth even more faithfully in the days
By your Spirit, may our lives mirror Christ's. Amen.**

+HYMN

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Gathering around THE WORD

PRELUDE

Dr. Kit Loong

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Doris M. Thompson

CENTERING SONG

This Is the Day

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mordecai said to Esther, 'Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.'

**John the Baptist said to the people,
'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'**

The gospel of John reads, 'Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus replied, "I am he."

We all have our moment.

The time has come. God is here. Let us worship God.

+CALL TO CONFESSION
TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of holiness, save us from everything that distracts or debases or
see insert for truth, beauty, and goodness.

God of wholeness, restore a balance to our pressured, lopsided

May eyes trained for video screens and traffic lights
have time to delight in a canvas sunrise or a star-filled night

May ears force-fed with sensational news and loud music
find pleasure in the rippling of creeks and the trill of a mockingbird

May nostrils flooded with exhaust fumes and industrial waste
savor again the scent of vanilla orchids or a salty sea breeze

May hands addicted to the touch of credit cards and ATMs
find release in the clasp of a child or the passing of the peace

May minds bruised with information overload
be open to the gospel parables and the plight of the needy.

May appetites pampered with fine wines or sated with junk food
be renewed by the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

God of holiness, God of wholeness, through the simple gifts of you
**restore our balance, and through the grace of Jesus Christ I
For your name's sake. Amen.**

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

Bold: all people respond

+ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

+THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Proclaiming THE WORD

+DOXOLOGY

My Tribute

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 6:10-18

NASB

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN

Spirit of the Living God

see insert

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor Kelly **Bearing and Following THE WORD into th**

SCRIPTURE

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

+HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

SERMON

HAVING DONE ALL, STAND!

+BENEDICTION

Responding to THE WORD

+SENDING SONG

Here I Am, Lord
(refrain only)

+HYMN

God Will Take Care of You

see insert

+POSTLUDE

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Heidelberg Catechism ~ Question 1

Q. What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

A. That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by the Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

At the conclusion of today’s worship service, let us gather outside to dedicate “**Ed’s Shed,**” our tool and tractor shed built by **Edwin D. McKnight,** (with some assistance from HPC members).