

# Highland Presbyterian Church

A Season for Remembering and for Sharing Our Gratitude

November 8, 2015

## Gathering around THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

REPORT FROM THE PNC

CENTERING SONG

*Let All Things Now Living*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Life is a journey, an everyday workshop for learning love,  
a continual opportunity to learn the way of peace.

**We travel together, “seeking to do justice,  
to act with kindness and mercy,  
to walk humbly with our God.”**

We cherish this community,  
which offers us a context for our personal transformation  
and support for our political and social involvement  
in the transformation of the world.

**We are brought together in the Spirit of God,  
to listen to each other’s stories, to share each other’s pain,  
to celebrate each other’s joys,  
to acknowledge our complicity in the state of the world,  
to grow in grace, to receive forgiveness and to offer it to one another,  
to practice reconciliation,  
and to demonstrate the authentic community of God.**

Let us worship together.

**Let us sing; let our hearts dance; let our spirits weep;  
let our hearts laugh; let our minds clear;  
let our lives flow; let the journey continue.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Guiding God, we gather as pilgrims on a journey of faith.  
We come seeking the awareness of your presence as we travel.  
We come seeking light for our darkness, strength in our weakness.  
Shine in our hearts, O Lord, with the light of your love.  
Make your presence known through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Dr. Kit Loong Yee

†HYMN

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

Pastor Kelly

†CALL TO CONFESSION

Dave Adams

†TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

Hymn 554

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Doris M. Thompson

**O God, constant and compassionate, you protect all those who  
trust in you.  
Each new day you call us to venture from our homes and  
follow you into difficult places among people we may  
not know.  
You call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.  
Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we  
will go,  
but only that your hand is leading us and your love  
sustains us.  
Grant that we, like Ruth, may find your blessing in the wanderings of our lives.  
Shelter us under your wings, that we may find our true home in you.**

†ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

†THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Proclaiming THE WORD

†SCRIPTURE

Ruth 1:1-18 (NLT)

†HYMN

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

†PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

**Bold: all people respond**

SCRIPTURE

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

SERMON THE STEEL MAGNOLIA OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

## Responding to THE WORD

+HYMN

*O for a World*

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN A SEASON OF REMEMBERING

For the earth, and all that is part of it...

**We thank you, God.**

For rocks, signs of your strength and your steadfast love...

**We thank you, God.**

For sea shells, signs of your variety and your joy in creating this world...

**We thank you, God.**

For coconuts and carrots, popcorn and pizza, signs of your providence...

**We thank you, God.**

For the birds, signs of the freedom that is ours when we recognize that we are your children...

**We thank you, God.**

For the fish of the sea and animals that walk on the land, a reminder that the new earth is to be a place where your people live, work and share in peace

**We thank you, God.**

For caterpillars and butterflies, signs of the dying and rising to new life that is the central message to us of your son Jesus...

**We thank you, God.**

For the similarities of one group of people to another, signs of your desire that there is but one flock, and one shepherd...

**We thank you, God.**

For the differences between one group of people and another, expressed through language, tradition, custom, denomination, signs of the challenge of your word and your message to each of us  
**We thank you, O God.**

For the people present at this celebration, who by their readiness to are signs of your kingdom on earth...

**We thank you, O God.**

Hymn 386

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

I

+DOXOLOGY

*Praise God*

(Tune: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* – Hymn 592)

**Praise God the Source of life and birth.  
Praise God the Word, who came to earth.  
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.  
All glory, honor to God's name. Amen.**

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OUR GIFTS AND COMMIT

## Bearing and Following THE WORD into th

+HYMN

*Take My Life*

+BENEDICTION

+SENDING SONG

*Amen*

+POSTLUDE

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*Just as you excel in everything –  
in faith, in speech, in knowledge,  
in complete earnestness, and in your love –  
see that you also excel in the grace of giving.*

~ 2 Corinthians 8:7