



Sunday, September 1, 2024

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: “Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away, for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (NRSVUE)

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for human anger does not produce God’s righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

James 1:17-27 (NRSVUE)

- Highland, A Place to be Seen, Known, and Loved -

Greeters: Cammie & Doug Camens, Eileen & Harry Flick, Darla & Jack McKim, Joanna Roth, Judy Berg

Ushers: Leigh Shuman, David & Marion Drain, John Wolfe, Bev Campbell

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:
Kay Houghton, in memory of Don Houghton

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes & Prelude

Children ages 0 to 4 are welcome to attend our nursery during the service. Children ages 5 and above may use an activity bag from the Narthex during the service and return them afterward. Sunday School will begin again on Sunday, September 8th.

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.

At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.

*Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Leader: Arise, my love, my fair one and come away.

People: Summer and winter, springtime and harvest,

Leader: For now the winter is past, the flowers appear on the earth.

People: Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above.

Leader: The time of singing has come; the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

People: Join with all nature in manifold witness.

All: To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn #267

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Proclaiming God's Word

Silent Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

God of light, we confess that we live in the shadows of hypocrisy and self-righteousness. We honor you with our lips, but we have not served you in our hearts. We are satisfied with human traditions and norms and we avoid your liberating truth. We have confused meekness with weakness, holiness with social conformity, and anger with righteousness. Forgive us we pray. Empower us by your Spirit that we might be doers of your word and not hearers only. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison 572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Leader: God has given us the perfect gift of forgiveness: Jesus Christ our Lord, who liberates us and makes us new. Friends believe the good news of the Gospel!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Passing of the Peace		Rev. Dr. Bob Burns
Leader:	As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.	
People:	And also with you.	
* Gloria Patri 579		
	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.	
Hymn of Illumination #322	"Spirit of the Living God"	
Scripture Readings	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 James 1:17-27	Rev. Ken Osborne
Message	"Hearers and Doers"	Rev. Matt Drumheller
<u>Responding to God's Word</u>		
Invitation to The Lord's Table		Rev. Allison Beaulieu
Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer		Rev. Allison Beaulieu
	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.	
Words of Institution		Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne
Choral Anthem	"Gracious Spirit Dwell With Me"	
Distribution of the Elements		
Prayer after Communion		Rev. Allison Beaulieu
Invitation to the Offering		Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne
	<i>Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex</i>	
<u>Going in God's Name</u>		
* Closing Hymn #422	"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"	
* Charge and Benediction		Rev. Matt Drumheller
Postlude		

*PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT
MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST
A-V TEAM: GUS BEAULIEU, MARK ANDERSON

During last week's conversation with Matt and Sarah, time prohibited the final two questions. Here are their responses:

Has it ever been difficult to trust God while pursuing your calling? and How can we trust God with our needs?

MATT: In my freshman year at Virginia Tech, I was randomly assigned a dorm roommate named Abdul. Abdul is originally from Somalia, from which his family fled political persecution when he was young. This pairing created some culture shock for both of us, but Abdul and I quickly grew close. We shared a common love of movies, a poor record of waking up for class on time, and a passion for playing dodgeball at the local rec center. We also shared the differences and commonalities of our faith traditions.

I was chosen by my presbytery to attend a conference at Fuller Seminary called Repairers of the Breach. Ordained and lay leaders who represented a variety of theological perspectives explored Scripture together. This experience forced me to confront some of my deepest doubts, especially as I considered my Muslim friend. I remember a come-to-Jesus moment in my hotel room in Pasadena. I wondered how my friendship with Abdul was compatible with my faith in Jesus Christ. By the grace of God, I emerged from that experience with a better understanding of my friendship with Abdul, with a more mature relationship with Jesus Christ, and, most importantly, with trust that God has in hand that which I do not.

Trust is such a difficult thing, because, as the adage goes, trust must be earned. Experience is what tests our trust. When someone shows me through their actions that they love me, that they care about me, that they have my best interests at heart, this helps me know I can place my trust in them. So how does this rule of experience work with God?

First, we have the witness of Scripture. We have generations of stories about people experiencing God's presence. God cares about us, wants to be in relationship with us, and is consistently present for us, even when it doesn't feel like it. Scripture is filled with stories of trust placed in a God worthy of that trust.

Second, we can look back at our own lives to see a foundation of trust. When I look back on my life, I see many moments of hardship and loss; moments when it felt like God was absent. But I also see God's presence. I see growth into the person I have become. It is often much easier to see the hand of God at work when we look back upon our lives, than it is to see God at work in the moment. This hindsight gives me the courage to place my trust in Jesus Christ.

SARAH: There have been moments on my call journey where I could not understand God's movement in my discernment process. I have always felt a very strong sense of God in my life, even in the more stressful moments. Like the disciples I always knew that God had the power to do amazing miracles in people's lives, even through people who have very little. I did however also need regular reminders of God's provision.

The times where I questioned God the most as I pursued my calling was when the door shut for Africa three times my senior year of college, when I was going through the ordination process and working part-time, running God's Precious Children, and somehow navigating being a stay at home mom, and the third was discerning my next career once we moved to Lancaster for my husband Andrew's new call at Willow Valley as a Chaplain. Each time my discernment looked a little different. When the Africa door shut, the door opened for a ministry passion I did not know that I had, ministry with Youth and Young Adults. When the road of ordination became so hard for me to continue with working and having young children, I took a break and was able to be more present with Sunday Grace and Preston and participate in some beautiful ministry at Second Presbyterian Church in Carlisle with families and seniors. When we moved to Lancaster, prayerfully I decided to take a short break from ministry, which led us to Highland Presbyterian Church, a congregation we felt so connected to and wanted to raise our family in. That short break allowed me to work with seniors at Willow Valley as a nurse's aide, where I was privileged to care for another vulnerable population. Then once again God's provision was evident.

Although I loved the work at Willow Valley, there was always something missing. I just prayed and waited and trusted that God had something for me. I trusted that God hadn't forgotten about my love for ministry. Getting the email from Pastor

Please be advised that services are recorded and you may be incidentally captured on video as part of the recording of the service. The back of the right side of the sanctuary as you enter is out of the range of the camera.

A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.

FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

Cell Phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.