

# Advent



*IN LIGHT OF THE MESSIAH*



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# Advent

## AN INVITATION

Advent is a season of anticipated arrival. During the four weeks leading up to the celebration of Christmas, we look back at the long-awaited arrival of the Messiah, we look forward to the promised second arrival of Christ, and we look at the day-to-day longings for the arrival of Jesus in our midst. December can quickly fill up with countless festivities, activities, and responsibilities to prepare for Christmas, but preparing well for Christmas requires us to slow down and recognize our deep need for the arrival of Jesus Christ for our broken world.

More than any other time of year, Advent allows us to name the darkness of the world in a way that helps us yearn for light. In the same way that light is more visible in darkness, we often experience Christ's blessings in a dichotomy: hope in desperation, peace in conflict, joy in sorrow, and love in enmity. This Advent we will explore the traditional themes Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love through the lens of Handel's *Messiah*, blending the rich theological themes with the profound music of Handel's masterpiece to inspire us to relish the impact of the light of the Messiah for a dark and hurting world.

This Advent prayer guide is a gift to you from the elders of Highland Park Pres. We invite you to slow down to meditate on Scripture and lift up a prayer. There is much we often miss about Advent and preparing our hearts to encounter Jesus. Use this guide alongside our Advent sermon series, as we explore the light of the Messiah in a dark world.

If we hurry to the celebration of Christmas without recognizing our need for Christ, then hope, peace, joy, and love are dimmed. The greater our longing for the true Messiah, often, the deeper our delight in Christmas.

**Calum Lindsay**  
*Pastor of Worship & Prayer*

**Savannah Pace**  
*Pastoral Resident*



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SPEND TIME LISTENING TO THE SCENES OF HANDEL'S *MESSIAH* AS THEY CORRELATE WITH THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGES.

HIGHLANDER  
CONCERT SERIES

# Handel's *Messiah*

*FRIDAY, DEC. 20*  
*7 PM, SANCTUARY*

PERFORMED BY  
Highland Park Chorale & Orchestra

Jennifer Wheeler Soprano  
Sabatina Mauro Alto  
Ben Caston Tenor  
Tres Hunter Bass



## A NOTE ON HANDEL'S MESSIAH

*Messiah*, an oratorio composed by George Frideric Handel in 1741, is the most performed choral and orchestral composition in the world. Its popularity has crossed national and cultural barriers, generational changes, and language challenges, all while presenting the compelling story of the prophecy, birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Its appeal is common to all Christian denominations and is universally admired by those of other faiths and cultures.

The most striking element of *Messiah* is the text—every word in the oratorio is a recitation of Scripture, with no commentary, narration, description, or explanation. Quotations from the prophets Isaiah, Haggai, and Malachi cover the first 30 minutes of the performance. Then, the gospel is introduced with readings from Luke and Matthew. Later, Psalms, Epistles, and final quotes from Revelation conclude the work.

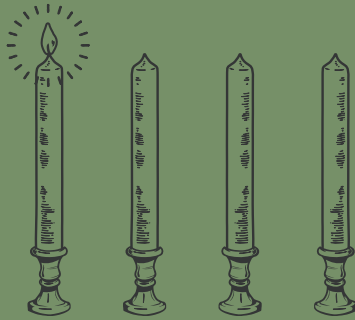
This collection of Scripture was carefully curated by the librettist Charles Jennes in partnership with Handel. Together, they worked to select Scripture that could guide the listener to discover the truth of Jesus. The music that accompanies the Scripture serves as the sermon—delivering clarity, emotional undergirding, textual emphasis—in place of a preacher.

I've always felt encouraged by the popularity of this composition, knowing that there are few events when a congregation will routinely fill a church to capacity so that they can listen to Scripture being read (or in this case, sung) for over two hours. A performance of Handel's *Messiah* offers an extraordinary opportunity to allow the power of the faithful and artistic recitation of scripture to minister to the hearts of people from all walks of life.

**Dr. Greg Hobbs**  
*Director of Music*

WEEK ONE

# Hope





# Sunday, December 1

## **MESSIAH SCENES**

"Comfort Ye My People," "Ev'ry Valley," "And the Glory of the Lord"

## **READING**

### **Isaiah 40:1–5**

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

## **PRAYER**

### **Jay Lee**

Heavenly Father, as we enter the season of Advent, we turn our hearts toward you with anticipation and hope. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, you remind us that you bring comfort: "Comfort, comfort my people." You call us to prepare for your coming in a deeper way.

Lord, as we wait for your glory to come, help us clear the paths in our lives. Knock down the mountains of pride, smooth out our doubts, and fill in the valleys of fear and despair. Let your light shine in the wilderness of our hearts, so we can see your glory in the Christ child.

As we wait, fill us with hope and peace. Help us stay open to the new beginnings you're offering in this season at HP Pres and in us. Prepare us to welcome Jesus, the light of the world. We trust you, knowing that your promises are true, and you are always faithful.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

# Monday, December 2

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"Thus saith the Lord"

## **READING**

### **Haggai 2:4–7**

<sup>4</sup> But now be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord. 'Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty. <sup>5</sup> 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'

<sup>6</sup> "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. <sup>7</sup> I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord Almighty.

## **PRAYER**

### **Lana Adams**

Gracious Father, as we begin this Advent season, we thank you for the constant reminder of your love and presence. Forgive us when we falter as we go about our daily works because we have relied on our own strength and courage instead of you. Bless us with the hope that comes from knowing that you are always with us and will keep your promises to us, your faithful believers.

Bless our hearts with the discernment to keep choosing you and following your Word. Give us the courage to make wise choices during this Advent season so that we can be a reminder of your faithfulness to stand with us always. Let our faith be strong and courageous as we welcome the joy and glory that you instill in the world as we celebrate the coming of Jesus.

With hopeful and loving hearts, in Jesus' name we pray, your humble servants.

Amen.

# Tuesday, December 3

## **MESSIAH SCENES**

"But who may abide?" "And he shall purify"

## **READING**

### **Malachi 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. <sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, <sup>4</sup> and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

## **PRAYER**

### **Earl Blankenship**

During this Advent season, O Lord, help us to slow down and be ready. As Malachi wrote about the messenger, we also heed his warning and open our hearts to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Cleanse us of anything that stands in the way of coming to you. Help us remove anything that easily distracts from your presence.

Lord, give us the grace to be aware of your love, and let your Spirit continue to grow that love within us. May our hearts be a home where your Spirit thrives, even in challenging times. As we hold on to the hope inside of us, strengthen our faith and inspire others.

While we await the celebration of Christmas, remind us to be messengers of your peace, justice, and mercy so the world will see the light of Christ in us. We trust in your promises and look forward to the coming of our Savior with joy in our hearts.

Amen.

# Wednesday, December 4

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive"

## **READING**

### **Isaiah 7:13–14**

<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?"

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

### **Matthew 1:22–23**

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

## **PRAYER**

### **Anne Compton**

During this first week of Advent, when our lives are filled with the signs of the season—Christmas trees for sale, pictures of Santa at every store, to-do lists that have no end—dear Lord, please help us to focus on the greatest gift—the gift of your Son Jesus.

Almost 700 years before the birth of Jesus, you used your prophet Isaiah to give a sign of your plan for our hope and salvation: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." Matthew repeated this promise of the birth of Immanuel—a name which means "God with us." You gave this prophecy and sign to point to the foundation of our hope—that our omnipotent God who created the universe would also be the same God that would live with us, teach us, care for us, love us and provide for our salvation.

We often put our hope in people or events that eventually disappoint us, but our hope in the love and salvation of our Lord Jesus is worthy of our trust. By sending a baby, born to a virgin in a tiny village, you fulfilled the promise made centuries earlier, and that promise continues for each of us today. Because of this promised birth, we have hope of a restored relationship with God where nothing can separate us from his love. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

# Thursday, December 5

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion"

## **READING**

**Isaiah 40:9–11**

<sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. <sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

## **PRAYER**

**Will Craine**

Lord, thank you for the hope that we have in you. As plants were made for soil and fish were made for the sea, so we were made to abide in you. Without you there is no life. Lord, cause us to raise our voices and exalt you from our position. Wherever you have placed us, cause us to lift our voices and worship you. We pray that this Christmas season, you will prepare ways for us to exalt you and share the Good News that we have received: that you came from heaven to earth and didn't come to be served but to serve and to give your life as a ransom for many.

Amazing love, how can it be, that you my God would die for me!

Thank you, Lord, for the truth of the Gospel. Please embolden us to exalt your name and the Gospel from our rooftops. We also pray that you will prepare a way for us to share the Good News this Christmas season.

Amen.

# Friday, December 6

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"For behold, darkness shall cover the earth"

## **READING**

**Isaiah 60:1–3**

<sup>1</sup> "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. <sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

## **PRAYER**

**Charlie Davis**

Heavenly Father, you are our loving and sovereign Lord. You are the architect and perfecter of all creation. We praise your steadfast love for us and come before you this day with grateful hearts.

We come before you, drawn by the light of your presence. Just as you called your people to "arise and shine", we, too, rise in the hope of your glory. Even though our world and its people are often cloaked in darkness we know the truth of your promises. You have sent your Son Jesus to be the light of the world—a light which has overcome the darkness of death and illuminates every heart with peace, love, and truth.

Lord, by the power of your Spirit, make us to shine with the love of Christ, reflecting the brightness of Christ to those around us. Guide us and use us as vessels of Christ's mercy, leading others toward the light of Jesus. Fill us with courage to shine boldly, knowing it is not our light but your light that draws others into the fullness of Christ.

Father, on this day let our hearts be filled with true hope in knowing that your light breaks through the darkness and reveals the glory of your kingdom to all in the world.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Amen.

# Saturday, December 7

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"The people that walked in darkness"

## **READING**

### **Isaiah 9:2**

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

### **Matthew 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

## **PRAYER**

### **Justin Eastburn**

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the gifts you gave to the prophets and the hope that you revealed through them. Through Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection, you fulfilled your promise described in Isaiah's prophecy—truly bringing light to people walking in darkness and bringing hope when there was despair!

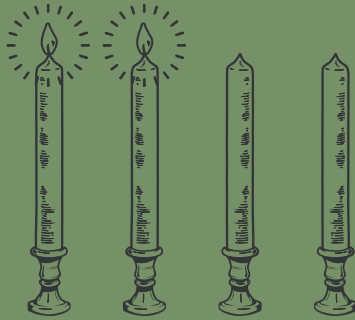
We also know how difficult it can be to focus on this miracle of miracles right now. We invite the Holy Spirit in to provide us calmness in this time of busyness, so that we have an opportunity for reflection and rejoicing in the light you've brought upon us. We ask for strength and peace in what for some of us can be a time of great pain, for an opportunity for healing, and for assurance of hope. Most of all, we pray that during this Advent season, our hearts can be open to a growing relationship with you, God.

It's in your holy name we pray.

Amen.

WEEK TWO

# Peace





# Sunday, December 8

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"For Unto Us a Child is Born"

## **READING**

**Isaiah 9:6–7**

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

## **PRAYER**

**Cameron Beaty**

Father, in Isaiah's vision, there's coming a day when all-is-right-with-the-world peace will be our new reality, not a wish-dream. It's hard to believe that day is coming because throughout the city, among the nations, and even within our own selves, peace seems to be on scarcity, not "increase." So, in the week ahead, would you re-center our hearts on the promise that your Son, the Prince of Peace, will return to make all things right (i.e. justice) and to make all things new (i.e. righteousness)? May our longing for that day keep us steady and hopeful on this day.

Father, you've never promised us a pain-free life or better circumstances, but you have given us Jesus, and that is better than the pain-free life. He is our peace because he is a King of unparalleled clemency and grace. Never was any kingdom ruled by a government so mild and gentle and gracious. May his kingdom come, may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

In your name we pray, Jesus.

Amen.

# Monday, December 9

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"There were shepherds..."

## **READING**

**Luke 2:8–9**

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

## **PRAYER**

**Cole Evans**

Our Father in Heaven, at Christmas, we are often filled with a sense of coziness and warmth. The images of kids reading favorites like Rudolph and Frosty, and the sounds of holiday parties with Nat King Cole playing in the background make us feel calm and safe.

There was likely a similar calmness with the shepherds as they watched over their sheep underneath the night sky. However, your Word says that as soon as your glory shone around them, they were terrified.

God, if we are honest, we are often terrified of the thought of you shining a light on our lives. We are afraid that you will see us as we really are—full of pride, selfishness, brokenness and unbelief. But the incredible message of Christmas is that we don't need to be afraid if we behold the Gospel of Peace. Because the Lord Jesus stepped into our broken world at Christmas, our fear can melt away.

We take heart in the words of O Holy Night: Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Amen.

# Tuesday, December 10

## MESSIAH SCENES

"And the angels said unto them," "And suddenly..." "Glory to God"

## READING

### Luke 2:10–14

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

## PRAYER

### Larry Glasscock

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the joy and excitement found in Luke Chapter 2—news that Jesus will soon arrive—perfectly delivering on your promise to send a Savior, your Son, Jesus. Thank you for the hope of peace and for the comfort made possible by knowing you are with us and, through the gift of Jesus, among us.

Regardless of the circumstance, the place, the time, the battle, you are with us. May everyone accept your invitation. May peace reign throughout the world.

May the child in the manger remind us to be as children: filled with purity of heart and spirit, filled with unconditional hope, peace, joy, and love. Let us remember what Jesus shared: the actions and intent of children can instruct us. Thank you for the blessing of children.

May we all experience and be reminded in everyday life of the glory of God, giving you praise. May the understanding of your will and intent lead to cohesiveness and universal commitment to peace and tolerance. May we never forget the importance of advancing and extending the hope, peace, joy, and love of God.

Thank you for the greatest gift ever given—your Son, Jesus—the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed.

Amen.

# Wednesday, December 11

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"Rejoice greatly..."

## **READING**

### **Zechariah 9:9–10**

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

### **Matthew 21:5**

<sup>5</sup> "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey!'"

## **PRAYER**

### **Brett Krause**

Heavenly Father, we come before you with hearts yearning for peace—the peace that surpasses all understanding. We thank you for your Word, which promises the coming of a King who brings peace to the nations. Just as Zechariah prophesied, "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey." We see this fulfilled when your Son, Jesus Christ, humbly enters Jerusalem, offering peace to the world.

We rejoice greatly, O Lord, as Handel's Messiah reminds us, for you are the Prince of Peace. We ask that you fill our hearts, our homes, and our world with this peace. Remove the strife that divides us and bring unity through your Spirit. May we humbly follow in the footsteps of our Savior, seeking peace and reconciliation in all things. In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

# Thursday, December 12

## MESSIAH SCENE

"Then shall the eyes of the blind"

## READING

Isaiah 35:3–6

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; <sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." <sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. <sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

## PRAYER

Lauren Langley

Heavenly Father, praise be to you God of gods and Lord of lords. Praise to you who was and is and is still to come. Let us continually give thanks for the gift of your Son Jesus, the light in the darkness and the Savior of the world. Father, when we turn away from you, you come running after us. Let us confess our sins to you and surrender our way to your ways. Father, you remind us in this passage from Isaiah that you are coming back for us, exile is not the end of the story! You are coming to set us free, heal the sick, the blind, the deaf, the lame, and the mute. You are encouraging your people to remember all of your promises, especially the promise that Jesus will come to save us. May the coming birth of Jesus, Emmanuel open your eyes to his goodness and bring you peace this Advent season.

As we close this prayer, we are reminded of the familiar carol, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

Amen.

# Friday, December 13

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"He shall feed his flock"

## **READING**

### **Isaiah 40:11–14**

<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

<sup>12</sup> Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? <sup>13</sup> Who can fathom the Spirit of the Lord, or instruct the Lord as his counselor? <sup>14</sup> Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?

## **PRAYER**

### **Tom Leiser**

God, we see in Isaiah that the people of Israel longed for the Messiah. These verses are a comforting vision of our loving Savior, Jesus Christ!

Jesus, you love us so much that you were willing to lower yourself from heaven to earth and be born as a human in a manger where you were laid in a trough for feeding sheep.

And after becoming a living example of how we should live in the Kingdom of God, you ultimately sacrificed yourself on the cross for our sins before demonstrating your absolute power by rising from the dead. In your final words to Peter, the future leader of the church, three times, you asked him if he really loved you and three times you responded with the instruction to feed your flock. You instruct us to do the same in the Great Commission.

Baby Jesus, as we celebrate your birth and the love, hope, peace, and joy that your birth has given us, let us never forget your final words on earth which commands us to share this gift of the Good News so that everyone throughout Dallas, throughout Texas, and throughout the world will know you Jesus!

Amen.

# Saturday, December 14

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"His yoke is easy"

## **READING**

**Matthew 11:28–30**

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

## **PRAYER**

**Jen Melson**

Dear Jesus, you say we can come to you when weary or burdened. So here we are, Lord. We are desperate for the rest and peace only you can provide. We don't want to continue in our own strength anymore. You are the rest we desire.

We want to walk beside you. Your yoke is easy, your burden is light. We need that lightness, Lord. We need to feel your presence, your comfort, and your gentleness. Teach us to find rest for our souls.

Right now, we surrender our worries, our fears, and our burdens to you, Lord. We lay them at your feet. We rest in knowing you are with us in this moment. Help us sense your peace surrounding us and calm our hearts.

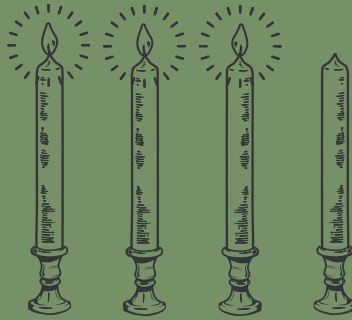
We desire to follow and abide in you, to put on the yoke and walk with you. We pray that our dependence and rest in you will grow. We delight in you because of the work of Christ in us. Thank you for your faithfulness to us.

In the gracious and gentle name of Jesus, we pray,

Amen.

WEEK THREE

# Joy





# Sunday, December 15

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"Glory to God in the Highest"

## **READING**

**Luke 2:8–14**

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

## **PRAYER**

**Charlie Dunn**

Our Glorious God, we marvel that you would choose shepherds—considered unclean, unreliable, and unrespectable—to be the recipients of the "good news that will cause great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10). Yet you are the God who loves to confound the world's wisdom and to do the unexpected (1 Corinthians 1:27–29). In our insecurity and inadequacy, discouragement and hopelessness, help us to remember that it is in these very places that you love to do your amazing work. May the fact that you delighted to send your angels to announce your message to unlikely shepherds be an invitation for us to put our hope afresh in you today. And may your unexpected grace to the shepherds remind us of your undeserved grace to us. May it "cause great joy" for us that would well up in praise.

In the name of our Savior, the Messiah Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

# Monday, December 16

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"Behold the Lamb of God"

## **READING**

**John 1:29–34**

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

<sup>32</sup> Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. <sup>33</sup> And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

## **PRAYER**

**Craig Murray**

Father, you are a God of unmatched love. In a world driven by fear of scarcity, you are the God of superabundance. You proved this forever in sending your One and Only Son.

John's cry to "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" was like a hyperlink for those with him. They would immediately remember the story of Abraham preparing to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac. But you stayed Abraham's hand. In Isaac's place, you provided the sacrifice.

In this context, the full extent of your love comes into focus. You are the loving Father who loves your own Son infinitely more than anyone could love their own child. Yet your love is so great it can't be confined even within the perfect infinity of the Trinity. Its superabundance overflows toward us, finding its ultimate expression in Jesus. In Him, Son and Sacrifice are united so that our sins can be taken away and we can experience your love forever.

What other God is like this? This Advent, may we look beyond the familiar words of John to their deeper revelation of your infinite love. May our voices add to the eternal chorus that stands amazed beholding your love revealed in the Lamb!

# Tuesday, December 17

## **MESSIAH SCENES**

"He was despised," "Surely He hath borne our griefs," "With his stripes..."

## **READING**

### **Isaiah 53:3–6**

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. <sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

## **PRAYER**

### **David Murray**

Father, this passage provides a picture of the suffering your Son endured for our sake. The Messiah faced unmerited rejection, pain, and punishment. How could it be so that your sorrow brought about our joy? For "the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." In the midst of the darkness and brokenness of our world, you bring light and healing by entering in.

Hebrews 2:2 reminds us that "for the joy set before him [Jesus] endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." You teach us that joy and sorrow can go hand-in-hand.

As we face the darkness of the world around us, remind us of the joy we can experience because of your suffering. As we anticipate Christmas, remind us of our need for the Messiah—a light within the darkness.

We pray in the name of Jesus—Man of Sorrows.

Amen.

# Wednesday, December 18

## MESSIAH SCENES

"All that see him..." "he trusted in God"

## READING

### Psalm 22:7–8, 22–26

<sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. <sup>8</sup> "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him..."

<sup>22</sup> I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you.

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! <sup>24</sup> For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. <sup>25</sup> From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows. <sup>26</sup> The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord will praise him—may your hearts live forever!

## PRAYER

### Kelsey Phillips

Dear Jesus, amidst the tinsel, gingerbread, twinkling lights and beautifully wrapped gifts, Christmas so easily magnifies our tender spots: the unhealed places, the unmet expectations, and the unresolved fears. Can we really bring to you those hard things? Can you handle our desperation? Our friends and foes shame us for believing you can mend our broken pieces.

Help us learn to trust you with them like King David does in this psalm, resulting in a heart rejoicing. Like Hannah did in her barren state, resulting in a face of radiance.

As we confront real sorrows this Christmas, your Word says we can simultaneously walk in joy because you came to handle our hurts, heal our broken, and free our fear. Help us today receive the best gift of all that came wrapped in a manger under a twinkling star—the deep joy found in your presence as you alone are the only way to a satisfied heart and radiant face.

In your powerful name we pray,

Amen.

# Thursday, December 19

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"But though didst not leave his soul in hell"

## **READING**

### **Psalm 16:9–11**

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, <sup>10</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. <sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

## **PRAYER**

### **Robin Pou**

Lord, in this season, I desire the joy you've set before me. I will listen for how you are calling me to you:

What do you want me to see?

What do you want me to know?

What are you inviting me to do?

In this season, give me eyes to see what cannot be seen. Help me...

See beyond the busyness of my schedule

See past the sorrow of my heart

See through the adversity of my circumstances

In this season, strengthen my belief in your promises. Help me...

Believe that you did not abandon me to the death I deserve

Believe that you set me on the path of life and righteousness

Believe that you have provided me eternal pleasures at your right hand

In this season, give me courage to trust your calling. Help me...

Commit to our relationship daily with glorious praise

Rejoice in the circumstances of my life all of which you have provided

Rest in the assurance that you are God, and that you are in control

Thank you for renewed vision, strengthened belief, and emboldened trust. My heart is glad. My tongue rejoices. My body can rest secure. In this season, bless me with the fullness of your joy.

Amen.

# Friday, December 20

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"Lift up your heads"

## **READING**

### **Psalm 24:7–10**

<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. <sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty—he is the King of glory.

## **PRAYER**

### **John Rain**

Dear Lord God, two thousand years ago the Jews longed for a king, a righteous and powerful man like David who would set them free from Roman oppression. But the true King is you, the King of Glory. And instead of sending the king they wanted, you came yourself. You came to free them—and to free us—from the ultimate oppression of sin and death, winning your decisive victory over sin and death on the cross.

You are the Lord, mighty in battle, the King of Glory! You are the victor, the King of kings and Lord of lords! You are the only Savior.

Let us open the doors of our hearts to you this season, putting away all false gods and false kings and trusting and following you. We rejoice in you, great God and Savior, and we trust you alone to be our light and our life and the source of all our joy!

Amen.

# Saturday, December 21

## **MESSIAH SCENES**

"Unto which of the angels," "Let all the angels of God"

## **READING**

### **Hebrews 1:5-9**

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?  
<sup>6</sup> And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."<sup>7</sup> In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire."<sup>8</sup> But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom."<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

## **PRAYER**

### **Karl Rathjen**

Heavenly Father, as this week comes to an end and we transition from the Advent theme of joy to love, we give thanks that you love us so unconditionally that you sent your Son to relentlessly pursue us.

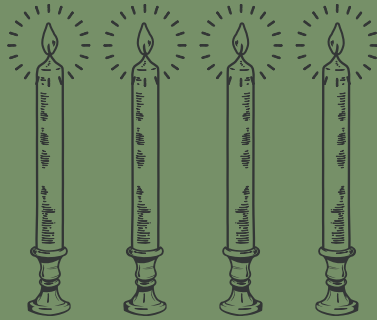
Father, this time of year can be a harsh reminder of all the darkness in the world and in our lives. Father, lift up our hearts so that we can find the joy you intend for us. Help us find joy in how you redeem the sorrow in our lives. Sustain us as we work to transform our lives.

Father, as we "Hail the Heaven born Prince of peace" we ask that you give us strength like angels to proclaim "Glory to the Newborn King" in both word and deed. Father, we pray a hedge of protection around all whom we love and ask that you make us responsive to the needs of those who you put in our paths so that our interactions reflect your perfect love.

Amen.

WEEK FOUR

# Love





# Sunday, December 22

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"Hallelujah Chorus"

## **READING**

### **1 John 4:7–12**

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

## **PRAYER**

### **Andrew Franklin**

Father, our prayers today join the multitudes in heaven and on earth who look at the arrival of the Messiah and proclaim—"Hallelujah! All glory and honor and praise to you, for you have done a wonderful thing, you have demonstrated love perfectly."

We thank you for the reminder of your word that tells us you showed your love by sending your one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. Father, in this Christmas season, help us to fix our eyes on the love of Jesus: how he treated others, how he spoke, how he was gentle and patient and full of grace, yet full of bold truth. Ultimately, we praise you for the love that lived as our teacher, died as our Savior, and was resurrected as our King.

Give us the courage to love others sacrificially as Christ loved us, so that our lives will continue to demonstrate your love to a weary world around us, and that the great "hallelujah" will continue to resound.

In the name of the praiseworthy we pray,

Amen.

# Monday, December 23

## *MESSIAH SCENE*

"How beautiful are the feet"

## *READING*

### **Romans 10:15**

<sup>15</sup> And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

## *PRAYER*

### **Tim Roberts**

Heavenly Father, we worship you and bring you all the glory, honor, and praise for your presence here on earth. You are the Almighty Creator of the universe, and yet you hear the confessions and prayers of sinners like us.

We attempt to control the outcome rather than trusting in your plan. We place our self-worth and identity in the expectations of this material world. We hurry. We ignore.

And yet, time and again, you accept us into your loving arms when we call on your name. And it's in this undeserved grace that our hearts are pierced, and lives are changed for generations. In the waiting, in the searching, in the healing and the hurting, there is Jesus. Thank you, Lord Jesus.

Gracious Father, bless us with courage in word and action this Christmas to extend the glad tidings and love of Jesus to our neighbors—a love that surpasses all knowledge and understanding, a love that changes everything.

In your Son's holy and precious name we pray,

Amen.

# Tuesday, December 24

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"Their sound is gone out"

## **READING**

### **Romans 10:17–18**

<sup>17</sup> Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. <sup>18</sup> But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

## **PRAYER**

### **Alisa Sell**

Heavenly Father, you are abounding in love. You are faithful to an unfaithful people. You are persistent to call people to yourself, to move in hearts, and to advance your message. In your loving-kindness, you invite us—your beloved children – to be carriers of your message. We depend on you for wisdom, strength, and boldness. Make us more aware of your love, so that it might overflow within us and pour out to those around us.

As we spend time with family and community members in celebration of the birth of the Son, we ask you to birth in us the same love you have for them that moved you to come to earth, to be limited to a human body and surrounded by brokenness. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear opportunities to love as an extension of you—both in quiet, small ways and in big, extravagant ways. May we participate in sharing your love to the ends of the world for your glory, not our own. We pray in the beautiful name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.

# Wednesday, December 25

## **MESSIAH SCENES**

"Why do the nations?" "Let us break their bonds," "He that dwelleth..." "Thou shalt break them"

## **READING**

### **Psalm 2:1–9**

<sup>1</sup> Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> "Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles." <sup>4</sup> The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. <sup>5</sup> He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, <sup>6</sup> "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain." <sup>7</sup> I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father." <sup>8</sup> Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. <sup>9</sup> You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

## **PRAYER**

### **Terese Stevenson**

Holy Jesus—Immanuel—you came into the world—a light beam of love—a baby, but also a mighty King. As we have contemplated all that you are this Advent season, with all our hope and expectation, this day of celebrating your birth has finally come. We have been anticipating Christmas with all the delights that it entails, and we ask that you bless this day, as we enjoy festivity and loved ones. Remind us to be thankful that our greatest delight is you.

We sing praises today: that through the Father's great love, he gave you all authority and power. The nations are your inheritance to rule. We have comfort in your omnipotence and sovereignty, that as nations rage even on this Christmas day and as we might also have unrest in our own hearts, you are in control. You bring all things to order, and you shall reign forever and ever.

As we enjoy this day, inspire us to contemplate how we might follow you in making all peoples, all nations your heritage. Encourage us to use your gifts of love that we might reflect your great light in order to bring others to you.

We join today with the angels singing—to praise you Jesus Messiah—who was and is and is to come.

Amen.



*A very merry Christmas  
to you from the Session  
& Staff of HP Pres.*

# Thursday, December 26

## MESSIAH SCENES

"I know my Redeemer liveth," "Since by man came death," "Behold, I tell you a mystery," "Then shall be brought to pass," "O death, where is thy sting," "But thanks be to God..."

## READING

### 1 Corinthians 15:20–22, 51–57

<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive...

<sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—<sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." <sup>55</sup> "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER

### Angie Vaughan

Lord, hallelujah, Jesus has come. He is sent from you, for us. Simple. Born in finite surroundings for infinite purpose. Do we fully grasp the why, the how, the depth of the what for? Never fully, as we see through the glass dimly, but we trust you. We trust in the wonder, the miracle, the mystery—we trust you. Simple.

Father, amidst the wrapping paper, the overflowing fridge of leftovers, and the afterglow of an earthly Christmas, may we sit today and dwell on your most precious gift. May we meditate on the glory of Christ with full awareness that our Redeemer liveth. May we accept your gift, even if we do not yet fully understand it. Theology can be complicated, but faith is simple. It is music to our ears.

May our hearts not be carried away in the pomp, but may they turn towards you with a lasting humility. May our hearts model your greatest gift. May we simply become more like Christ. Hallelujah.

Amen.

# Friday, December 27

## MESSIAH SCENE

"If God be for us"

## READING

**Romans 8:31–39**

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## PRAYER

**John Walsh**

Our Father, we worship and adore you. You love us even in our unfaithfulness. Your love is always with us, even when we do not love. In this season, we are distracted by so much. We forget that it is on you and your love that we should focus. We forget that the advertising, the parties, the lights, and the celebrations of this season can distract us from the abiding love you give us. Remind us of the power you have given us to love through you and with you.

Let us share that love with your children, especially those that are desperate and feel unloved. We know that your love for us exceeds all by providing life over death through the death of your Son. As we move through this season of waiting for you to come again, keep us mindful of your birth as a baby, your life on earth with us, your death and resurrection, and especially your return when you come again. You have promised that until then we cannot be separated from the love you have for us. Be with us, Lord Jesus, as we lovingly await your arrival.

In the loving name of your Son Jesus,

Amen.

# Saturday, December 28

## **MESSIAH SCENE**

"Worthy is the Lamb"

## **READING**

### **Revelation 5:11–14**

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" <sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" <sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

## **PRAYER**

### **Maddie Wilkins**

Lord Jesus, you alone are worthy of our worship. You alone entered into our world, fulfilled the promises made to your people, and now reign as the promised Messiah. To you alone, we give praise and honor and glory and power. Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we worship the things of this world and fail to grasp the magnitude of both your glory and your sacrifice on the cross. It is your never-ending, never-failing love that allows us to stand united, as one body, and sing your praises.

Lord, we yearn for a redemption where your vision is realized and your light illuminates the darkness of our fallen world. This Christmas season, may we slow down, take a deep breath, and reflect on this beautiful vision of angels boldly singing, "Worthy is the Lamb!" May this glimpse of heaven encourage us to not settle for the empty promises of this world, but instead, focus our eyes and our worship to him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.

Amen.



Wishing you the  
gifts of God's  
*hope, peace,*  
*joy, and love* in  
the new year.



# Advent Events

Registration and more info at [hppres.org/advent](http://hppres.org/advent)

## **CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE** Through Dec. 12

Join us in helping Community Partners of Dallas provide Christmas presents for children and teens currently in the foster system. Visit the Angel tree in the Hunt Lobby, or online donation options are available.



## **ADVENT FAMILY EXPERIENCE** Wednesday, Dec. 4 6 pm, Elliott Hall

Families, join the Highland Kids team as we celebrate the Advent season and prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus as we enjoy a meal, an Advent lesson, and a special time of worship.



## **FISH & LOAVES GIFT MARKET** Through Dec. 22

Contribute to local and global ministries in honor of your loved ones. Purchase online or on Sundays in the Hunt Lobby or Wight Garden.

## **HIGHLANDER CONCERT: CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS** Friday, Dec. 6 7 pm, Sanctuary

Celebrating the joy of the Christ-child, the Highland Park Chorale and Orchestra perform the incomparable Christmas Oratorio of Johann Sebastian Bach, along with some beautiful a cappella songs to celebrate the season.

## **CHRISTMAS WOMEN'S ENCOUNTERS**

**Saturday, Dec. 7  
8:30 am, Sanctuary**

The Women's Ministry is hosting a morning of worship and guided prayer to give you time to be quiet with the Lord and settle your heart and soul before entering this frenzied season.



## **FILMS WITH FRIENDS**

**Monday, Dec. 9  
1:30 pm, Elliott Hall**

Enjoy a private screening of "Miracle on 34th Street." We'll have popcorn and movie snacks along with classic Coke and Dr. Pepper. Registration is not required, but will help us plan for seating.



## **PLAY & LEARN: EXPLORING ADVENT**

**Tuesday, Dec. 10  
10:30 am, Room B**

Join the Early Childhood team for a fun morning of parent-child play, stories, snacks, and crafts to help you and your little ones learn more about the season of Advent. Friends are always welcome!

## **ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS PARTY**

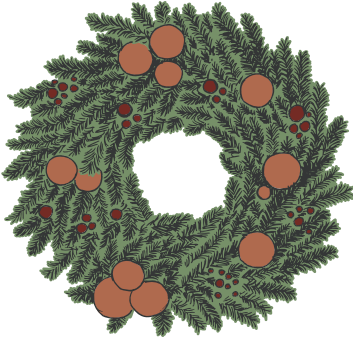
**Wednesday, Dec. 11  
6–7:30 pm, Alexander Hall**

1st–4th graders, come have a merry time with fellowship, games, and food. Bring all your friends!

## **5TH & 6TH CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Wednesday, Dec. 11  
6–7:30 pm, Bell Center**

All 5th and 6th grade kids are invited for a fun Christmas celebration in the Bell Center. Wear your best Christmas attire!



### **YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Friday, Dec. 13 | 7 pm**

The Young Adult annual Christmas Party is back! Dinner provided, bring a friend and BYOB!

### **HIGHLANDER CONCERT: FAMILY CHRISTMAS**

**Friday, Dec. 13  
6 pm, Sanctuary**

Bring the entire family for our annual Family Christmas Concert. There's no better place than our church for you to sing along with familiar Christmas Carols accompanied by a full symphony orchestra.

### **THIRD THIRD LIGHT TOUR**

**Friday, Dec. 13 | 8:30 pm**

Join us for a bus tour of the beautiful Park Cities Christmas Lights following the Highlander Christmas Concert.

### **TREASURES OF HOPE**

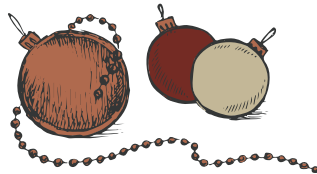
**Friday, Dec. 13  
Saturday, Dec. 14**

Dallas Leadership Foundation will be creating gift boxes and distributing food boxes for families this holiday season. Volunteers are needed to help assemble gift boxes and prepare them for distribution.

### **PARENTS' MORNING OUT**

**Saturday, Dec. 14  
9 am–12:30 pm**

Enjoy a morning out while we care for your children ages 2 months–4th grade! For free! We will provide lunch for children ages 3 and older as well as games, crafts, movies, and fun. Register by Sunday, Dec. 8, to secure a spot.



### **LESSONS & CAROLS**

**Sunday, Dec. 15  
11 am, Sanctuary**

Come to a special worship service where children's choir members lead with Christmas carols alongside key Scripture passages. There will also be other fun activities throughout the morning.

**ALL NATIONS  
CHRISTMAS LUNCH  
CELEBRATION**

**Sunday, Dec. 15  
12 pm, Room L**

Following the All Nations 11 am worship service, join together for a celebration lunch and fellowship as we celebrate the Christmas season as a community.

**HIGHLAND STUDENTS  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Sunday, Dec. 15  
6–7:30 pm, Bell Center**

All 7th–12th grade students are welcome to join us as we close out the year with food, gifts, and Christmas cheer! Invite your friends and get ready to rock around the Christmas tree!



**THIRD THURSDAY  
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**Thursday, Dec. 19  
11:30 am, Elliott Hall**

December's Third Thursday Luncheon and Christmas celebration features entertainer Dave Tanner who will be presenting his Christmas program, "The Stories Behind the Songs of Christmas."



**HIGHLANDER CONCERT:  
HANDEL'S MESSIAH**

**Friday, Dec. 20  
7 pm, Sanctuary**

The Christmas holiday season is most fulfilling when you experience the Highland Park Chorale live performance of Messiah in December.

**CHINESE CHRISTMAS  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

**Saturday, Dec. 21  
7 pm, Elliott Hall**

Join the Chinese Mandarin Community for a candlelight service to celebrate the birth of our Savior.



# Christmas Eve



## HIGHLAND PARK PRES



**12 & 2 PM**

Sanctuary

Carols Led by Our Worship Team,  
Children's Story, & Candle Lighting

**6 & 8 PM**

Sanctuary

Carols Led by our Choir  
& Candle Lighting



**4 PM**

Sanctuary

Carols Led by Our Choir, Children's  
Story, & Candle Lighting

**10 AM-6 PM**

Front Lawn

Petting Zoo &  
Button Man



**Elliott Hall**

Carols Led by Our Worship Team,  
Children's Story, Candle Lighting

*Nursery available for 12, 2, and  
4 pm services with registration.*



## FAMILY OF CHURCHES

**GOOD SHEPHERD OAK CLIFF**

5 pm, 610 N Tyler Street • [goodshepherdOakCliff.org](http://goodshepherdOakCliff.org)



**GRACE CHURCH LAKE HIGHLANDS**

4 & 6 pm, 10101 Walnut Hill Lane • [gracelh.church](http://gracelh.church)

**PEAK STREET CHURCH**

5 pm, 4301 Bryan Street #201 • [peakstreet.church](http://peakstreet.church)





**Highland Park**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH