

leadership

ELDERS

Pastor Mike Ruel
Paul Fehrenbacher [Secretary]

Rob Downs [Chairman]
John Lisa [Treasurer]

DEACONS

Building and Grounds
Fellowship
Benevolence
Technology
Kingdom Kids

Len Baxter
Kerry Westpy
Jeff Lukawski
Ray Westpy
Alyssa Myhren
Kim Bennett
Pastor Josh Barlow
Steve and Ally Gunther
Pastor Jesse Morgan
Ron Vreeland

Jr & Sr High Youth

Worship

CARE GROUPS

Highland Lakes
Family Focused Dinner
Marc & Stacey Bray
2nd Sunday • 3pm
973-477-9340

Sussex/Augusta
Rob & Anna DeJulia
Every Other Friday • 7pm
973-919-6782

Branchville/Newton
Ray & Kerry Westpy
Every Other Friday • 7pm
862-266-8699

Lafayette
Andy & Amy Bennett
2nd & 4th Sundays • 4pm
973-886-4679

Vernon/565
Len & Doreen Baxter
1st Friday • 7pm
201-230-7372

Vernon Center/HBC
[off 12/24 and 12/31]
Pastor Mike Ruel
Mondays • 7pm



307 NJ-94, Vernon, NJ 07462
(973) 764-7506
Highlandsbiblechurch.org
Info@highlandsbiblechurch.org

For Prayer Needs - Send Email To:
PrayerChain@HighlandsBibleChurch.org

The King
is
Born

Matthew's Advent Narrative

The graphic features the text "The King is Born" in a mix of serif and cursive fonts. To the left of "The King" is a stylized sunburst or starburst symbol. Below the main text is the subtitle "Matthew's Advent Narrative". The background is a light beige color with a dark wooden plank texture at the bottom, and some dried straw or hay is scattered across the middle.

DECEMBER 30, 2018

welcome

our purpose

Our purpose is to glorify God by making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ. Our ministry vision is to love God with all that we are, and love others as much as we love ourselves.

As you worship with us today, you'll notice how often we reference the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We don't have it all figured out, but we know that God saves sinners through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Please join us as we exalt God by singing about his greatness and as we seek to know more about him from the Bible.

the gospel

You will hear us talk about the gospel a lot. Actually it is the center of everything we do here at Highlands.

1. **God** - the only all-knowing, all-powerful King and Creator of all things. He created us to enjoy and glorify him forever. [Psalm 19:1-2; Romans 1:18-32]
2. **Sin** - Yet, we rejected God, and established ourselves as gods of our lives, separating ourselves from Him, and becoming objects of His wrath. In so doing we also unleashed sin, sickness, death and evil. [Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 5:12-14]
3. **Christ** - In God's unparalleled mercy and grace, He already had a plan to reconcile us to Himself. The entire Old Testament points to the coming of the Messiah - revealed in the New Testament as Jesus Christ. [John 1; Ephesians 2:4-7; Romans 3:21-26]
4. **Response** - None of this is effective for us unless we respond in three ways: repent/turn from our self control and sin [Mark 1:15], believe in the gospel [John 3:16-18], persevere [Ephesians 4:1; Matthew 24:13]. We are then given new life in Christ, forgiven, justified, and adopted into God's family forever! [1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17]

kingdom kids

We encourage you to worship as a family, however we provide nursery care [infants - 2.5 yrs] if desired. Kids will be dismissed downstairs before the sermon. Please see one of our security team at the check-in desk by the coffee table for more info.

Explorers	Newborn - 2.5 yrs
Discoverers	2.5 yrs - 3 yrs
Adventurers	Pre-K [4yrs] and Kindergarten
Navigators	Grades 1-5

calendar

Men's Bible Studies

6:30am Wednesdays @ Sussex Sit N Chat [off 12/26]
7:00pm Thursdays @ Highlands [off 12/27]

Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group

7:00pm Thursdays @ Highlands Roadside Building

Corporate Prayer Meeting

Sunday, January 6, 2018 [First Sunday Monthly]

First Highlands Member Meeting!

Sunday, January 20th 2019
5pm • Bring a dish to share!

Youth Group - Winter Retreat

February 15-17, 2019

worship guide

December 30, 2018

Our passage today is from Malachi 2:17-3:6.
As you prepare your heart in prayer, please consider:

COMPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURE

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

[Romans 3:23-26 ESV]

PRAY/CONSIDER

- What things do you go throughout life thinking you deserve? Do you realize that many of these things haven't been guaranteed to you in Scripture?
- Do you think your worship of God suffers when you don't get what you think you deserve?
- Consider the ultimate justice and mercy of God in Christ. He gave us mercy that we didn't deserve and brought the justice that we did deserve upon Christ. How might you worship God better in light of that?

SING

How Abundant | O Fount of Love | Lord Have Mercy
Great is Thy Faithfulness | Behold Our God

sermon notes

December 30, 2018

MALACHI 2:17-3:6

When God Addresses Our Doubts

1. What happens when we think we're right [2:17]

When our vision of God suffers, our worship of God suffers

2. When God Sets Us Straight [3:1-5]

God's justice takes care of our deepest problems

3. Unexpected Grace [3:6]

God's faithfulness brings hope amidst failure

Main Point: When in doubt, look to Jesus to see true justice and mercy at work for you