

leadership

ELDERS

Pastor Mike Ruel

John Lisa [Chairman]
Len Baxter [Treasurer]

DEACONS AND STAFF

Building and Grounds
Fellowship
Benevolence
Technology
Finance
Kingdom Kids
Worship
Operations Manager

Len Baxter
Kerry Westpy
Piero DiClemente
Ray Westpy
TJ Walsh, Chris Deming
Alyssa Myhren
Ron Vreeland
Tina Nause

CARE GROUPS - ZOOM Video/In-Person

CONTACT LEADERS FOR NEW INFO

Vernon

Pastor Mike
Mondays • 7pm - at HBC
info@HighlandsBibleChurch.org

Vernon/565

Len & Doreen Baxter
First Friday monthly
201-230-7372

Branchville/Newton

Ray & Kerry Westpy
1st and 3rd Fridays
862-266-8699

TwentySomethings

Chris & Alyssa Deming
201-819-0327



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

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

January 3, 2021

MATTHEW

Truly I Say To You



welcome

our purpose

We are delighted that you joined us today! 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 two ways: repent/turn from our self control and sin [Mark 1:15], and believe in the gospel [John 3:16-18]. We are then given new life in Christ, forgiven, justified, adopted into God's family, and we persevere in the faith. [1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Matthew 24:13; Ephesians 4:1]

calendar

- See the Events Page on our website or app for more info!
- Monday Night Care Group - every Monday 7pm at church
- Men's Bible Study - 7am Wednesdays - Zoom - resumes Jan 6th
- **January prayer meeting - TONIGHT - 6pm**
- MidWeek Study - Wednesdays @ 6:30pm - resumes January 20th
- Annual Member Meeting - Sunday, January 24, 2021
- Next Steps membership class - Sunday, February 14, 2021

finances

General Offering - Nov '20	\$22,326.41
Designated Gifts - Nov '20	\$350.50
YTD General Offering thru Nov '20	\$243,013.39
2020 Budget	\$322,562.00

Thank you so much for your generous gifts to the ministry of the church at Highlands. During this unprecedented time you can still continue to give online at www.HighlandsBibleChurch.org/Resources/Give

Or you can mail a check to Highlands Bible Church, 307 Route 94, Vernon, NJ 07462.

Questions? info@HighlandsBibleChurch.org

worship guide

January 3, 2021

Our sermon passage today is from Matthew 3:1-12. As you prepare your heart for worship in song, in His Word, at the table, and in the fellowship of the saints, please consider:

COMPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURE

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

(Malachi 4:5-6 ESV)

CONSIDER - DISCUSS - PRAY

- What comes to mind when you think of John the Baptist?
- What do you think most people think of when they hear the word “repent?” Is it a good perception or a negative one? [See Mark 1:15]
- Have you been baptized? Share what that was like...
- What are the dangers of an inward-only faith?
- Why does John [and Jesus] react so strongly against the Pharisees and Sadducees? What does it look like to act like them today?
- When we think about the final judgement at Christ’s return, how can we prepare for that now - in our own hearts and externally in the world?
- NEXT WEEK’S PASSAGE: Matthew 3:13-17

SING

How Great is Our God | Grace Unmeasured |
O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer |
Nothing But the Blood | In Christ Alone

sermon notes

January 3, 2021

MATTHEW 3:1-12

John the Baptist

1. Soul Roadwork [3:1-3; Luke 1:11-17; Malachi 4:5-6; Isaiah 40:3; Mark 1:14-15]

Repentance paves the way for the work of God.

2. A Different Kind of Baptism? [3:4-6; Romans 6:1-3]

External actions reflect internal changes.

3. That Escalated Quickly [3:7-12]

Big Idea: Repentance brings salvation, rejection brings judgement.

Verse 1

**The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice**

**He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice**

Chorus 1

**How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God**

Verse 2

**And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End**

**The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb**

Chorus 1

**How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God**

Bridge

Name above all names

Worthy of all praise

My heart will sing

How great is our God

Name above all names

Worthy of all praise

My heart will sing

How great is our God

Chorus 1

How great is our God

Sing with me

How great is our God

And all will see how great

How great is our God

Verse 1

**Grace unmeasured vast and free
That knew me from eternity
That called me out before my birth
To bring You glory on this earth**

**Grace amazing pure and deep
That saw me in my misery
That took my curse and owned my blame
So I could bear Your righteous name**

Chorus 1

**Grace paid for my sins
And brought me to life
Grace clothes me with power
To do what is right**

**Grace will lead me to heaven
Where I'll see Your face
And never cease
To thank You for Your grace**

Verse 2

**Grace abounding strong and true
That makes me long to be like You
That turns me from my selfish pride
To love the cross on which You died**

**Grace unending all my days
You'll give me strength to run this race
And when my years on earth are through
The praise will all belong to You**

Chorus 1

VERSE 1

**O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God, like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone**

**Your grace, a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom
My highest good and my unending need**

VERSE 2

**O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts**

**My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night**

VERSE 3

**O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Savior of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died**

**You rose, the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame**

**You rose, the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name
May all my days bring glory to Your Name**

Nothing But the Blood

Verse 1

To the sinners ears it may sound strange
That freedom could be found
through death and pain
Why sinless perfection took the blame
But hallelujah

Verse 2

For our pardon it would take the cross
Salvation paid for at the highest cost
Our redemption gained at Heaven's loss
Oh hallelujah

Chorus 1

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood
Nothing but the blood
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood

Verse 3

There is nothing strong enough to stand
Against what love has done
With outstretched hands
For now salvation flows for every man
Oh hallelujah

Verse 4

Whosoever calls upon this name
Will find their guilt and burden rolled away
They'll rise up to their feet forever changed
Singing hallelujah

Chorus 1

**What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood
Nothing but the blood
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood**

Bridge

**Every chain and fetter broken
Just one drop can make us clean
There is nothing it can't rescue and redeem**

**It has triumphed over darkness
Crushing every enemy
Bringing healing bringing freedom
bringing peace**

Chorus 1

**What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood
Nothing but the blood
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood**

Chorus 1

**What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood
Nothing but the blood
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood**

Verse 1

**In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the
Fiercest drought and storm**

**What heights of love
What depths of peace
When fears are stilled
When strivings cease**

**My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

Verse 2

**In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save**

**Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live**

Verse 3

**There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again**

**And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

Verse 4

**No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny**

**No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

**No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**