

# 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](mailto: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](http://Highlandsbiblechurch.org)  
[Info@highlandsbiblechurch.org](mailto:Info@highlandsbiblechurch.org)

**For Prayer Needs - Send Email To:**  
[PrayerChain@HighlandsBibleChurch.org](mailto:PrayerChain@HighlandsBibleChurch.org)

December 20, 2020

# 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
- Christmas Eve Service - 5:00pm
- January prayer meeting - Sunday, January 3, 2021 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](http://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](mailto:info@HighlandsBibleChurch.org)

# worship guide

**December 20, 2020**

Our sermon passage today is from Matthew 2:1-12. As you prepare your heart for worship in song, in His Word, and in the fellowship of the saints, please consider:

## COMPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURE

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:10-7 ESV)

## CONSIDER - DISCUSS - PRAY

- The nativity scene is a famous depiction of the birth of Jesus - which aspects of it have you appreciated and why?
- Consider the extremes of being merely religious or merely spiritual? Which do you think is more prevalent? Which are you more like?
- What should we do if we find ourselves more one or the other? How do the spiritual disciplines help us in balancing this?
- What does sincere worship look like as a lifestyle?
- Have you initially responded to Jesus, revealed to be the Son of God? If you have, who can you be praying for who hasn't?
- NEXT WEEK'S PASSAGE: Matthew 2:13-23

## SING

Blessed Assurance | O Holy Night | All I Have is Christ |  
Behold Our God | God With Us

# sermon notes

**December 20, 2020**

## MATTHEW 2:1-12

*The Paranoid, The Religious and the Spiritual*

1. Wise Men and a Crazy King [2:1-6; Luke 2:1-7; Micah 5:2; 2 Samuel 5:2]

**It's not about merely being religious or spiritual, it's about**

**Jesus being Lord.**

2. Divine Storm Chasers [2:7-12; Romans 1:20; Hebrews 13:15]

**Big Idea: The right response to divine revelation is sincere worship.**

**Verse 1**

**Blessed assurance Jesus is mine  
O what a foretaste of glory divine  
Heir of salvation purchase of God  
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood**

**Chorus 1**

**This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Verse 3**

**Perfect submission all is at rest  
I in my Savior am happy and blest  
Watching and waiting looking above  
Filled with His goodness lost in His love**

**Chorus 1**

**This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Hallelujah Hallelujah  
Hallelujah Hallelujah**

**Chorus 1**

**This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Hallelujah Hallelujah  
Hallelujah Hallelujah**



**Verse 1**

**O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!  
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.**

**Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!**

**Verse 2**

**Humbly He lay, Creator come as creature,  
Born on the floor of a hay-scattered stall.  
True Son of God, yet bearing human feature,  
He entered earth to reverse Adam's fall.**

**In towering grace, He laid aside His glory,  
And in our place, was sacrificed for sin.**

**Fall on your knees! O hear the gospel story!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!**

**Verse 3**

**Come then to Him Who lies within the manger,  
With joyful shepherds, proclaim Him as Lord.  
Let not the Promised Son remain a stranger;  
In reverent worship, make Christ your Adored.**

**Eternal life is theirs who will receive Him;  
With grace and peace, their lives He will adorn.  
Fall on your knees! Receive the Gift of heaven!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, when Christ was born!**

**Verse 1**

I once was lost in darkest night  
Yet thought I knew the way  
The sin that promised joy and life  
Had led me to the grave  
I had no hope that You would own  
A rebel to Your will  
And if You had not loved me first  
I would refuse You still

**Verse 2**

But as I ran my hell-bound race  
Indifferent to the cost  
You looked upon my helpless state  
And led me to the cross  
And I beheld God's love displayed  
You suffered in my place  
You bore the wrath reserved for me  
Now all I know is grace

**Chorus 1**

Hallelujah all I have is Christ  
Hallelujah Jesus is my life

**Verse 3**

Now Lord I would be Yours alone  
And live so all might see  
The strength to follow Your commands  
Could never come from me  
O Father use my ransomed life  
In any way You choose  
And let my song forever be  
My only boast is You

**Chorus 1**

**Verse 1**

**Who has held the oceans in His hands?  
Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice  
All creation rises to rejoice.**

**Chorus 1**

**Behold our God seated on His throne,  
Come let us adore Him.  
Behold our King, nothing can compare,  
Come let us adore Him.**

**Verse 2**

**Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of His words?**

**Who can teach the One  
Who knows all things?  
Who can fathom  
All His wondrous deeds?**

**Chorus 1**

**Behold our God seated on His throne,  
Come let us adore Him.  
Behold our King, nothing can compare,  
Come let us adore Him.**

**Verse 3**

**Who has felt the nails upon His hand,  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?  
God eternal humbled to the grave  
Jesus Savior risen now to reign!**

**Chorus 1**

**Behold our God seated on His throne,  
Come let us adore Him.  
Behold our King, nothing can compare,  
Come let us adore Him!**

**Bridge**

**You will reign forever**

**(Let Your glory fill the earth)**

**Chorus 1**

**Behold our God seated on His throne,**

**Come let us adore Him.**

**Behold our King, nothing can compare,**

**Come let us adore Him.**

**Behold our God seated on His throne,**

**Come let us adore Him.**

**Behold our King, nothing can compare,**

**Come let us adore Him.**



**Verse 1**

**You've come to bring peace,  
To be love, to be nearer to us**

**You've come to bring life  
To be light, to shine brighter in us  
Oh Emmanuel, God with us**

**Verse 1**

**You've come to bring peace,  
To be love, to be nearer to us**

**You've come to bring life  
To be light, to shine brighter in us  
Oh Emmanuel, God with us**

**Chorus**

**Our Deliverer, You are Savior  
In Your presence we find our strength**

**Over everything, our redemption  
God with us  
You are God with us**

**Verse 2**

**You've come to be hope  
To this world  
For Your honor and name**

**You've come to take sin,  
To bear shame,  
And to conquer the grave  
Oh Emmanuel, God with us**

**Chorus**

**Our Deliverer, You are Savior  
In Your presence we find our strength**

**Over everything, our redemption  
God with us  
You are God with us**

**Our Deliverer, You are Savior  
In Your presence we find our strength**

**Over everything, our redemption  
God with us  
You are God with us**

**Our Deliverer, You are Savior  
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**Over everything, our redemption  
God with us  
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