

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

December 27, 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
- 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

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

Questions? info@HighlandsBibleChurch.org

worship guide

December 27, 2020

Our sermon passage today is from Matthew 2:13-23. As you prepare your heart for worship in song, in His Word, and in the fellowship of the saints, please consider:

COMPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURE

“Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”

Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country.”
(Jeremiah 31:15-17 ESV)

CONSIDER - DISCUSS - PRAY

- Think about the concept of God’s sovereignty. What does it mean? What is comforting to you and what is troubling?
- How does slavery to sin impact our evangelism? [See Romans 6]
- What do we do with tough passages of the Bible? How can we help non-Christians understand them better?
- How does the gospel shape our hope in grief now and for eternity?
- How does the gospel shape our shame?
- Note the sovereign redemptive plan of God and how he kept Jesus alive during these times - how can this fact increase our faith today?
- NEXT WEEK’S PASSAGE: Matthew 3:1-12

SING

Come, Now is the Time to Worship | The Wonderful Cross |
God With Us | He Will Hold Me Fast | His Mercy is More

sermon notes

December 27, 2020

MATTHEW 2:13-23

Three Prophecies, Two Road Trips, One Tragedy

1. Prophecy 1/Back on the Road [2:13-15; Hosea 11:1; Romans 6:16-18]

God is sovereign over the slavery of sin.

2. Prophecy 2/Weeping in Ramah [2:16-18; Jeremiah 31:15-17; Revelation 21:1-4]

God is sovereign over grief.

3. Prophecy 3/Madman, Jr. and an Exegetical Pickle? [2:19-23; Isaiah 53:1-4]

God is sovereign over shame.

VERSE 1

**Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come**

CHORUS

**One day ev'ry tongue will confess you are God
One day ev'ry knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose you now**

Verse 1

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

Verse 2

**See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

Chorus 1

**O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die and find
That I may truly live.**

**O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace
Draw near and bless Your name.**

Verse 3

**Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul my life my all!**

Chorus 1

**O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die and find
That I may truly live.**

**O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace
Draw near and bless Your name**

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

**When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.**

Chorus

**He will hold me fast He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast!**

**Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.**

Chorus

**For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied;
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life,
He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight,
when He comes at last**

Chorus

VERSE 1

**What love could remember
no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing,
He counts not their sum.**

**Thrown into a sea
without bottom or shore,
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more.**

**Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

VERSE 2

**What patience would wait
as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender,
is calling us home?**

**He welcomes the weakest,
the vilest, the poor.
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more.**

**Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

VERSE 3

**What riches of kindness
He lavished on us,
His blood was the payment,
His life was the cost.**

**We stood 'neath a debt
we could never afford,
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more.**

CHORUS

**Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

**Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.**

**Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more**