

# LEADERSHIP

LOVING GOD AND LOVING PEOPLE

## ELDERS

Mike Ruel, **PASTOR**  
John Lisa, **SECRETARY**

Paul Fehrenbacher, **CHAIRMAN**  
Bob Fieldhouse, **TREASURER**  
Piero DiClemente

## DEACONS AND STAFF

Kerry Westpy, **FELLOWSHIP**  
Tom Worts, **BENEVOLENCE**  
Laurie Rivera, **CARING**  
Tina Nause, **OPERATIONS  
MANAGER**

Cyndi Hochstaedt, **KINGDOM KIDS**  
Ron Vreeland, **WORSHIP**  
Brad Wilson, **FINANCE**  
David Baxter, **BUILDING & GROUNDS**  
Ray Westpy, **TECHNOLOGY**

## CARE GROUPS

**WHERE:** Highlands Bible Church  
**WHEN:** Mondays at 7PM  
**HOSTED BY:** Ken Menzel

**WHERE:** Highlands Bible Church  
**WHEN:** 2nd & 4th Sundays at 4pm  
**HOSTED BY:** Pastor Mike Ruel

**WHERE:** Vernon/565  
**WHEN:** First Friday, Monthly  
**HOSTED BY:** The Baxters  
**CALL:** 201-230-7372

**WHERE:** Highlands Bible Church  
**WHEN:** Varies  
**HOSTED BY:** Brad & Taylor Wilson  
**CALL:** 973-600-0826 [Brad]  
Family Friendly Group!

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**FACEBOOK:** HighlandsBibleNJ

**INSTAGRAM:**

HighlandsBibleChurch

**TWITTER:** @HighlandsBible

**YOUTUBE:** Highlands Bible Church



For Prayer Needs, Please Email Us at  
[PrayerChain@HighlandsBibleChurch.org](mailto:PrayerChain@HighlandsBibleChurch.org)  
General e-mail: [info@HighlandsBibleChurch.org](mailto:info@HighlandsBibleChurch.org)  
[www.HighlandsBibleChurch.org](http://www.HighlandsBibleChurch.org) | 973-764-7506  
307 NJ-94, Vernon Township, NJ 07462



# ADVENT 2023

## PORTRAITS OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 24, 2023



# OUR PURPOSE

MAKING AND MATURING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

We are delighted that you joined us today! Our ministry vision is to love God with all that we are, and love others as much as we love ourselves.

## CONNECT WITH US!



Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. Please scan the QR code above to fill out a Connect Card and keep up to date on all our news and events.

## THE GOSPEL

THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING WE DO AT HIGHLANDS

**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]

**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]

**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]

**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]

# KINGDOM KIDS

WE LOVE KIDS AT HIGHLANDS!

Kids will be dismissed to downstairs before the sermon. Please see one of our security team at the check-in desk for more info.

**CURRENT CLASSES:** Explorers (0-2) Discoverers (2-3) and Adventurers (4-Kindergarten) and Navigators (1st-3rd grade). Infant nursery care is available for the full service, see Check-In Team!

## HIGHLANDS HAPPENINGS

EVENTS, CARE GROUPS, AND MORE



**TODAY 4pm - Christmas Eve Family Service! Carols and Candles!**

**TUESDAY LADIES BIBLE STUDY:** No study this week

**WED MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** - 7am @ Cystal Cafe

**WED NIGHT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** - 7:30pm in the Loffice

**FAMILY CARE GROUP** - Sunday, December 31st 3pm at Wilsons

**MEMBER MEETING & DINNER** - Sunday, January 21, 2024, 5pm

**ELDER MEETINGS:** 2nd Tuesday Monthly - Prayers Appreciated!

## FINANCES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING



<b>GENERAL OFFERING</b> , Nov 2023	\$31,272.34
<b>NEHEMIAH FUND</b> , To Date	\$402,235.59
<b>BENEVOLENCE</b> , To Date	\$21,339.12
<b>CEAF</b> , To Date	\$1,745.37
<b>YTD GENERAL OFFERING</b>	\$286,116.73
<b>2023 BUDGET</b>	\$350,670.00

Our giving box is in the back at the welcome table. You can also give anytime online at [www.HighlandsBibleChurch.org](http://www.HighlandsBibleChurch.org)

Questions? Email us at [info@HighlandsBibleChurch.org](mailto:info@HighlandsBibleChurch.org)!

# WORSHIP GUIDE

December 24, 2023

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** Today our sermon passage is **Luke 1:67-79**. As you prepare your heart for worship this morning, please consider reading and prayerfully reflecting on the following:



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Call to Worship: Isaiah 7:14
- Old Testament Reading: Exodus 34:1-8
- Sermon Passage Reading: Luke 1:67-79
- Benediction: John 3:16



## CONSIDER - DISCUSS - PRAY

- What do you love the most about Christmas? Why?
- What parts of Christmas do you not like? Why?
- Think of all the prophecies of the coming of the Messiah - does that increase your faith?
- Consider the compassion of God. What other Scriptural promises come to mind about his mercy, compassion, and forgiveness?
- Next Week's Passage: Romans 13:8-14



## SING

Joy to the World | Hallelujah! What a Savior! | He Who is Mighty |  
O Come All Ye Faithful

# SERMON NOTES

Luke 1:67-79 | The God Who Saves

1. The Horn [1:1-4; 30-37; 67-69; 2 Samuel 22:2-3; Psalm 18:2-3; 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Exodus 27:1-2]

Jesus is strong enough to save.

2. The Prophets of Old [1:70-75: Genesis 3:15/Galatians 4:4; Genesis 49:10/Matthew 1:1-17/Luke 3:23-33; Micah 5:2/Luke 2:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:24]

Jesus is legitimate enough to save.

3. Preparing the Way [1:70-75; Matthew 3:1-3; Luke 3:2-3; Exodus 34:6-7; Mark 1:15]

Jesus is compassionate enough to save.

Big Idea: Christ's coming provides salvation for his people.