



HIGHLAND HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

A Place for Families to Grow

The Worship of God
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024

The Chiming of the Hour

The Organ Prelude

“This Is My Father’s World”

Stephen Nielson

The Call to Worship

We come, for God gathers us here,
with that community called faith:
**where the hungry are served first,
where the thirsty drink life’s water.**

We come, for God welcomes us here
into that home called grace:
**where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;
where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost
prodigal.**

We come, for God reunites us here,
sisters and brothers in that family called love:
**where the imprisoned model justice,
where the sick are cradled in God’s peace.**

Mark Spivey

The Invocation

Ethan Brown

The Welcome to Worship

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Ethan Brown

*The Hymn of Praise 332

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

AZMON

A Reading from the New Testament

Matthew 25:31-46

Ben Browne

A Liturgy for Partnering with Brittany and Casey Ramirez

Minister: Today Highland Hills begins a new partnership through our mission partner, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, with field personnel, Casey and Brittany Ramirez.

Church: The Gospels tell us to go and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We covenant with Brittany and Casey as they prepare to move to the Philippines to share the love of Christ with all persons they meet.

Brittany and Casey: We are grateful for the call to come alongside the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary and serve among the Chinese community in partnership with Highland Hills.

Church: As your Encourager Church, we covenant to pray for your transition to the field, and that doors are open for you as you build relationships and share the love of Christ with those you meet. May our financial gifts to your ministry make it easier for you to see where God is at work and be a part of what God is doing.

Brittany and Casey: We take your prayers, love, and gifts with us to the Philippines and will stay in close contact as you are part of our team.

Minister: We pray for Finnley and Juniper who are eager to begin this new journey. May you make friends easily and quickly feel at home.

Finnley and Juniper: We will pray for you and the children of Highland Hills.

Church: When we work together, God is honored. May God’s light shine through us all here in Macon, Georgia, and in Baguio, Philippines.

All: To God be the glory for the calling of us all to bear witness to Jesus as we cultivate beloved community and seek transformational development together.

The Signing of the Encourager Church Covenant

*The Hymn of Offering 474	“Softly and Tenderly”	THOMPSON
*The Prayer of Giving		Anne Heath
The Offertory	“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”	Kenneth Kosche
*The Doxology 706	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	OLD 100 TH
The Anthem	“For the Beauty of the Earth”	John Rutter
A Reading from the New Testament	Mark 10:46-52	Megan Turner Doud
<p>They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.</p>		
<p>This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.</p>		
The Message	<i>What if Jesus Was Too Busy? What if Jesus Wasn't Vulnerable?</i>	Megan Turner Doud
*The Hymn of Response 587	“Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound”	NEW BRITAIN
The Opportunities for Service		Ethan Brown
The Organ Postlude	“Fugue in G Minor”	Johann Krebs
The Benediction		Megan Turner Doud

This morning we welcome Rev. Megan Turner Doud. Megan serves as Coordinator of Young Baptist Ministries for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia where she coordinates, resources, and supports ministries, ministers, and programming for youth, children, college and young adults among Georgia congregational partners. Prior to CBF Georgia, she served as missions and student minister at Aiken's First Baptist Church in Aiken, South Carolina, and student ministry resident at First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama. She and her husband, Brian, and their daughter Caroline and son Carson, live in Macon, Georgia. Megan has a Master of Divinity degree from McAfee School of Theology. She was ordained at Johns Creek Baptist Church in Alpharetta and grew up in First Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tennessee.

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