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**Highland
Park**

MIRROR
WIBBOB

Vol. LXV Issue I Jan 2021

**May the Light of
Christ guide you
in the New Year**

Photo by Alana Mallard

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As we enter this new year, let us continue to pray this prayer offered by Rev. Kimble on January 6, 2021.

A Prayer for Safety and Peace

As I sit here this afternoon watching the news, my heart is heavy. Events are happening in our country that I only imagined could happen in other parts of the world, not here! I find myself at a loss for what to say, at a loss for what to think, and at a loss for what to do.

I look up and see a hanging on my living room wall that recounts a favorite Bible verse of mine: "act justly, love mercy, walk humbly". What does that mean for me today as I'm watching my country in danger?

We're called to act justly and today's actions were not just. Innocent people harmed, property damaged, people scared to be in their places of work. How do we pursue justice today? What can I as an individual do?

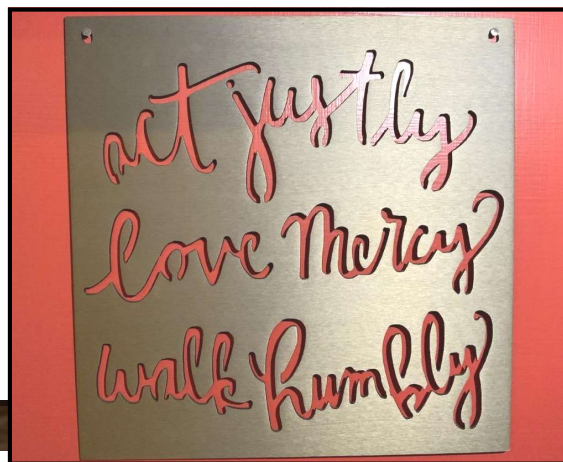
We're called to love mercy. There is surely some mercy needed today! Does that mean we forget the actions today? Does mercy mean we just turn our backs and forget the way people were violated today?

We're called to walk humbly with our God. That's just about all I can do today. To find time to be on my knees praying for our country & for our world.

God give us clarity; help us know how to proceed. God give us words to speak that don't incite violence but bring peace. God help us to love people who think differently than we do, but help us hold each other to justice. God help us to do what is right, to not find violence as an answer to a problem. God help us to find safety in Your arms. May those who've been violated today, those who have been called into service today to protect and defend our country, those who've been forced into locations to protect them, may they all feel Your presence and know that You walk with us, even in the darkest of times.

I invite you all to join me in praying this.
Amen.

Rev. Cheryl Kimble



Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Walt Shelton
Held on Zoom

11:00 AM Morning Worship
Live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook

6:00 PM Youth Sunday School
Held on Zoom

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases and the Stage 5 designation, church leadership has decided to stop holding outdoor services at this time. A small group of clergy and participants will hold the service in a socially-distant way from the Highland Park Sanctuary. Please join us online each Sunday morning. We look forward to beginning the outdoor services again when the time is right.



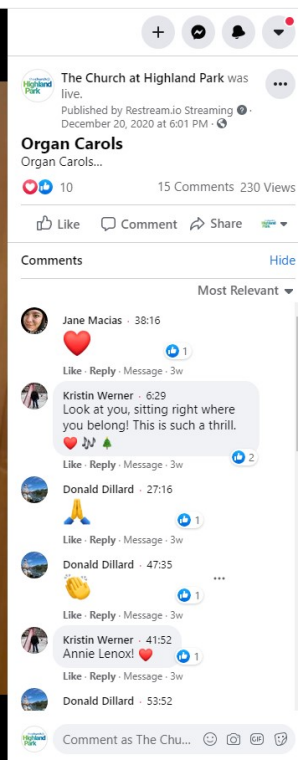
Find us on these platforms and tune in Sundays at 10:55 a.m.



Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches from the Highland Park Sanctuary on our Sunday morning live-stream, with Dustin Struhall on the organ.

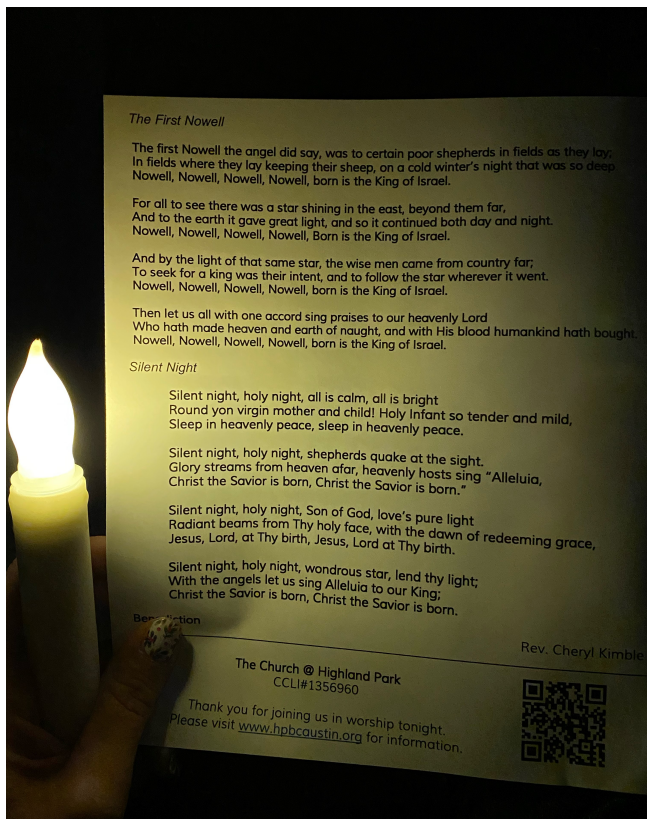


Thanks to all who led and participated in our Advent Worship “God Will Find A Way”: from sharing Advent moments and special music on Sundays, to writing a devotion that was shared on email and Facebook, to our clergy and staff who led beautiful times of worship from outside the Teague Chapel. And a special thank you to Dustin Struhall who live-streamed an amazing organ concert of Christmas Hymns from our Sanctuary. It was a beautiful and meaningful Advent season @ Highland Park.





Photos by Meredith Bewley



Here at Highland Park, we had a Christmas Eve service to remember! I think it may have been my favorite one yet. The lights were twinkling in the trees, the cool breeze rustled the leaves and made us pull our blankets and jackets around us tightly, and we got to be together. There was something so calming about all of it. Especially when we "lit" our battery-powered candles and sang the medley that we always sing at the end of the service, ending with Silent Night heralding Jesus' birth. The music was beautiful, God was present, and we managed to pull off one more safe, socially-distant service before we went back to virtual. I don't know about y'all, but I would love to do it again next year and hopefully have our whole church family gathered together for it.

~ Abby Byrd, Children's Ministry Coordinator

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Since we couldn't be together for the Plum Pudding Festival, we were so excited to produce a virtual edition of one of our treasured Highland Park traditions: The 12 Days of Christmas! A BIG thank you to all of the participants who got in the spirits to video their verse, including two classes from Paragon Prep. And a HUGE thank you to Kay Greenhaw for editing it all together into a hilarious, special video treat. We hope watching it brought you much cheer.

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Presents

The 12 Days of Christmas



A partridge in a pear tree: Ella Byrd



Two turtle doves: Masyn and Brandon Evans-Clemens



Two turtle doves: Mason and Juliet DeCleene



Three French hens: Kristin Werner, Alan Werner, Ryan Martinez



Four calling birds: (Byrd), Abby, Joe, Alex, and Ava Byrd



Five golden rings: Roy, Logan, Hayley, Blaine, and Keller Kimble



Six geese a-laying: Walters' Turtle, Brian Walters, Karen Nelson Walters, Kyle Nelson, Jaedyn Walters, and dogs



Seven swans a-swimming: Dillard-Prasek families



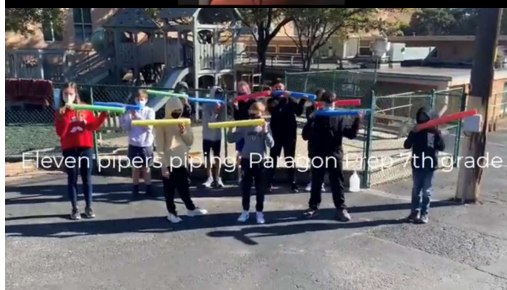
Eight maids a-milking: Alana Mallard, Kay Greenhaw, Nancy Osgood, Susan Magee, and Kelley DeCleene



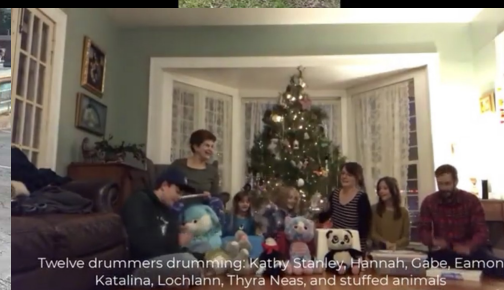
Nine people dancing: Paige, Luke, Brady, Sadie Shelton, and ducks



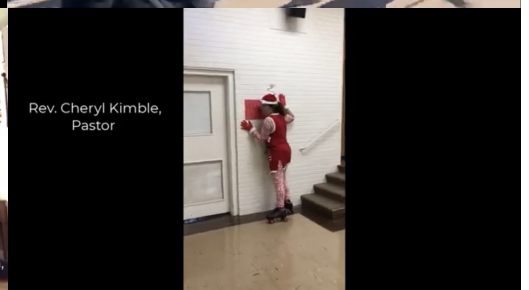
Ten lords a-leaping: Paragon Prep 6th grade



Eleven pipers piping: Paragon Prep 7th grade



Twelve drummers drumming: Kathy Stanley, Hannah, Gabe, Eamon, Katalina, Lochlann, Thyra Neas, and stuffed animals



Rev. Cheryl Kimble, Pastor



Friend of Highland Park, John Hudspeth, who often played postlude, prelude, and offertory during our pre-pandemic services, has been able to keep up his piano playing while living at Westminster Assisted Living Facility.

Westminster has uploaded and shared John's piano performances on their YouTube channel. Just type John Hudspeth in the search bar at the top to find all of John's videos.

our ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES for LEARNING & FELLOWSHIP



Our educational opportunities will continue online through the Zoom platform. Links to these classes are emailed privately to ensure online safety, so please email office@hpbcaustin.org if you would like to know more or would like to receive the Zoom information.

Adult Bible Study, with various topics
led by Walt Shelton
9:00 a.m. on Sundays over Zoom

Youth Sunday School Class
led by Masyn Evans-Clements
ages 6th-12th grade
6:00 p.m. on Sundays over Zoom

Young Couples Class
led by David and Kim Balkum
bimonthly over Zoom

Current topics for the Adult Sunday School Class with Walt Shelton

January 3 - 24
"Faith and Life Auditing: The Importance of Periodic Self Analysis and Reflection"
utilizing Luke 3 - 4

January 31
"Book Club" Day to share about good books you've read this past year

February 2021
A study of the Book of Colossians.

From Alana Mallard, Missions Service Group Chair:

Thank you so much to Sheila Allee Kershaw for doing the shopping, fixing, and delivering for our meal for **Micah 6 Street Youth Drop-in Center on Sun. January 3**, and to all the women of SIS who donated to the purchase of food. The kids at the center enjoyed beef lasagna, salad, homemade bread, chocolate cake, and mandarin oranges. Thanks to your generosity, we collected about \$200 for food and as a donation to Micah 6. I am always humbled by the generous spirit of the congregation of Highland Park. Our next opportunity to provide this meal will be Sunday, April 25, and our Micah 6 Board Chair Michelle Poncik will coordinate the meal.



In 2020, Drive a Senior West Austin merged with Drive a Senior North Central to form **Drive a Senior Austin (DAS ATX)**.

The two agencies had functioned separately for over 30 years with very similar cultures and philosophies. They felt that one large organization could do a better job at expanding services to meet the needs of all Austin aging adults. Volunteers are always needed and services are all free. Visit their website at www.driveasenioratx.org to Register as a Volunteer or Client.



Brooke Ostrom was asked to serve as the 2021 Board Chair of the new merged organization, having served as Board Chair for Drive a Senior West Austin in 2020.

Looking ahead... On Sunday, March 7, we are participating in the 2021 CROP Hunger Walk to support Church World Services and help families who are struggling with hunger. The Austin CROP Hunger Walk will be virtual this year: we will walk together in **spirit** but not in body. We're asking you to join us - with your steps and your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world.



Visit: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/the-church-highland-park>

PERSONNEL

The Highland Park Staff will have a daytime retreat on Friday, January 22 to talk about vision and goals for the new year. Church Council Chair Rusty Shelton has provided immense insight into team-building & staff organization for this retreat, and the staff will also hear from Enneagram expert Meghan Becker about understanding Enneagram and how to work best as a team. Please be in prayer as the staff comes together to dream about the future of the church and fulfilling God's mission here.

This month, Director of Church Operations, Kelley DeCleene celebrates her 10th Anniversary of work & ministry at Highland Park.



BUILDING

Keeping the stage 5 designation and guidelines in mind, the building continues to be closed to all outside groups, except our long-term tenant, Paragon Prep. At this time, the students of Paragon Prep are learning virtually, but many of the teachers and staff lead their Zoom classes from their classrooms in the church building.

With approval from the Property and Administration Service Groups, Paragon Prep moved forward with the first stage of big project in the back. The swing-set & castle were not used much by either school or church, so they were removed & a concrete slab was poured on the entire area to create a "Sport Court." The concrete slab will be covered with a special surface over Spring Break and eventually outfitted with court lines and nets. With the wooden playground working well for younger children, this project is designed with older kids in mind, and will be available for church use on the weekends.



Kelley DeCleene is in close communication with the school, scouting groups, and other groups about current and future use of the building. Church leadership will continue to monitor the Central Texas numbers, making decisions with everyone's safety at forefront.

We may not be able to meet together in our building,
but The Church @ Highland Park is still a loving community.

Do you have a prayer request, update on yourself, or celebration from your family that you'd like to share? Photos are welcome, too! Please [email the church office](#) and we can share with everyone by email, in hopes to keep us socially-connected in this socially-distant world. Please be sure to mention if you are okay with it being shared over the church-wide email, or if you prefer for it to only be shared & prayed over during the Monday staff Zoom meeting.



CELEBRATION

Dan St. John proposed to Holly Eades over the Christmas holidays. The couple plans to wait to have their wedding at a time when it is safe for their family and friends to gather together.

Our congrats to the happy couple!

Rev. Cheryl Kimble, Pastor
Masyn Evans-Clements, Minister for Youth & Outreach
Abby Byrd, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Kelley DeCleene, Director of Church Operations
Becky Dillard, Ministry Assistant
Carolyn Doolittle, Church Bookkeeper
Childcare workers: Maddy Bewley and Amanda Haley
Church janitor: Marcia Melendez

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