



# COUNT THE STARS

**Sunday, August 10, 2025**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

—Genesis 15:1-6 NRSVUE

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of thing not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

—Hebrews 11:1-3 NRSVUE

# *-Highland, A Place to be Seen, Known, and Loved-*

**Greeters:** Rebecca Frick, Mary & Joel Apol, Denny Davish, Joan Alexander

**Ushers:** Randy & Anita Heller, Phyllis Thompson, Sara Shank, Rachel Reist, Jennifer Funck, Diana Ludwig

## **The Chancel Flowers are presented by:**

In loving memory of Chuck Gross by Ann Gross  
Andrew & Dana Mead in celebration of their 39th Wedding Anniversary

## **Gathering in God's Name**

Chimes

Prelude

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Matt Drumheller

**Leader:** This is the day the Lord has made.

**People:** **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

\*Call to Worship (from Psalm 33)

Rev. Matt Drumheller

**Leader:** The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.

**People:** **Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.**

**Leader:** Our soul waits for the Lord;

**People:** **God is our help and shield.**

**Leader:** Our heart is glad in him because we trust in his holy name.

**People:** **Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.**

\*Song

*Promises*

Ignite Band

Silent Prayer of Confession

Sarah Hostetter

Prayer of Confession

**God of hope and promise, we confess that our faith sometimes falters. Acknowledging our doubts and our grievances often overwhelms us. We struggle to comprehend our own suffering and that of others. Forgive us when we lose faith in you and in ourselves. Guide us back to right relationships with you and with one another. Encourage us to stay engaged and committed to meaningful dialogues filled with grace. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison #572

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon

Sarah Hostetter

**Leader:** God's grace is freely given, and God's love is steadfast. People of God, believe the good news:

**People:** **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\*Passing of the Peace

Sarah Hostetter

**Leader:** As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

\*Gloria Patri 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Children's Blessing

Sarah Hostetter

Children: God be with you here.

**Congregation: God be with you there.**

### **Proclaiming God's Word**

Song for Illumination

*Spirit of the Living God*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-3

Rev. Matt Drumheller

Sermon

"Count the Stars"

Rev. Matt Drumheller

### **Responding to God's Word**

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Offertory

*Evidence*

Ignite Band

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Matt Drumheller

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

### **Going in God's Name**

\*Song

*Hymn of Promise*

Ignite Band

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Matt Drumheller

\*Benediction Response

Postlude

\*PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

*MUSIC: IGNITE BAND  
A/V: GUS BEAULIEU*

Please be advised that services are recorded and you may be incidentally captured on video as part of the recording of the service. The back of the right side of the sanctuary as you enter is out of the range of the camera.

*A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.*

**FM sound devices are available.** Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.  
**Cell Phones** should be silenced during the worship service.

*In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.*