



THE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WE ARE A CITY ON A HILL, FOR THE CITY IN WHICH WE LIVE;
SHINING THE LIGHT OF JESUS, FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

We are:

A city on a hill...

In Matthew 5, Jesus uses the illustration of a city set on a hill, which casts light out into the darkness for others to see and guide their journey. Jesus is teaching his disciples, both then and now, that God has shone the Light of Life into our lives, bringing salvation to us,¹ and that we are to shine that light into the darkness of the fallen world around us. At Heights Presbyterian Church, we are a people of God set apart by the forgiveness of our sins by the blood of Jesus and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which transforms us from the inside out. Therefore, we will worship God, read and teach His Word, and practice a deep reliance upon the Spirit moving within us. We are just one local manifestation of God's people, united together throughout time and space in Christ. We long for the day when His Church will inhabit the New Jerusalem, *the city on a hill* that is lit by the light of the Lamb of God who was slain.²

For the city in which we live...

Just as the exiled Israelites were encouraged by the prophet Jeremiah to seek the welfare of Babylon while awaiting the restoration of God's people³, so too Heights Presbyterian Church will seek the welfare of our city, while awaiting God's great renewal of all things. We believe that God is at work in Cleveland bringing lost sons and daughters back to himself, as well as bringing restoration to culture, community, and creation. We are committed to loving our neighbor, whomever that may be, and however that might look. We love

¹ 2 Cor. 4:6

² Rev. 21:22-23

³ Jer. 29: 7

Cleveland, and want to see the people here flourish. We know that eternal and abundant life, life that is flourishing, is found in the person of Jesus⁴ and therefore we will grow in our pursuit of Jesus as well as invite others to follow Him with us.

Shining the light of Jesus...

At Heights Presbyterian Church we shine the light of Jesus into the darkness that surrounds us. We believe that apart from the work of Jesus, we would ourselves be left to stumble in the darkness of our own sin. Sin is like a stain that cannot be washed away, a disease which has no cure, a darkness that swallows everything up. But the Light of Life entered the world in the person of Jesus, and the darkness cannot overcome the Light.⁵ By the sacrificial life and death of Jesus on the cross, and by his powerful resurrection from the dead, Jesus gives us his own life, the Light of the world, to guide our path to the Father for eternity. Because we have been given such an undeserved gift of love, we will generously share that love with all who are around us. Through speaking the message of God's love in the gospel, and through our actions which tangibly demonstrate the love of God, we want the world to see our good works, our gospel works, and give glory to God.⁶

For the glory of God...

Jesus promises that *He* will build His church⁷, and so we rely upon Him and the Spirit in all that we do. We are a church with various gifts and passions that God has given us so that we can do the work of ministry He has laid before us.⁸ We labor in all of these ways for the purpose of bringing praise and glory to God, from whom we have received everything. He is our creator who gives us life and breath. He is our Savior who gives us forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. He is our Sustainer who strengthens us to fight the good fight of faith each and every day. At Heights Presbyterian Church, we are devoted to God in all that we do. *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be GLORY, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*⁹

⁴ John 14:6

⁵ John 1:5

⁶ Matthew 5:16

⁷ Matthew 16:18

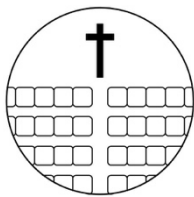
⁸ Ephesians 4:11-12

⁹ Jude 1:24-25

Because we have been transformed by the gospel of Christ Jesus, we have been gathered into the people of God, which is the church. The Heights Presbyterian Church will seek to primarily do these three things:

Love God.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16



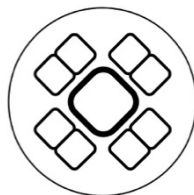
We were created for worship. At Heights Pres. we consider worship together as the people of God to be a crucial aspect of who we are. Our worship service is centered around the Word of God. We sing praises to him, pray to the Lord, confess our sins, participate in the sacraments, and hear instruction from God's Word. We are a dynamic group of worshipers, drawing on various traditions and styles to express our worship. We expect those who worship with us to be both edified and challenged by gospel truth.

Worship is not confined to the four walls of our gathering space on Sunday. We want to see our people worship the Lord throughout their lives, through fellowship with one another, through studying the Bible in their homes, and through serving their neighbor in His name.

We value our children greatly at Heights Pres. – children of school age are invited to go into their own time of worship during the sermon, and are invited to participate in the main worship for the rest of the service, with age-appropriate bulletins that help them engage with the service.

Love Each Other.

“There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:4-6



We don't have to go it alone. In fact, we are commanded to do this together. The letters to the churches in the New Testament, are just that – letters to churches, the collective body of Christ. Individual Christianity is a foreign concept to the Bible, and we take that truth seriously. We are to care for

one another, to encourage one another, and to speak the truth to each other in love. We, through our relationships within the church, will achieve the goal of presenting each other mature in Christ (Col. 1:28).

As is true in any family, there are hills and valleys on our journey together. But we are united to one another in Christ, and we consider being part of the family of God to be a great honor, carrying with it the call to love each other as Christ has first loved us (1 John 3:16). We cultivate these relationships through community groups, regular gatherings of men's and women's groups, and pub nights. Our involvement in the greater Shaker Heights/Cleveland Heights community displays Christ's love as we invite those who don't yet believe into our community so that they might experience the gospel in their own lives.

Love This City.

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Jeremiah 29:7



The gospel of Jesus Christ isn't something we just take for ourselves and keep it hidden. But instead we're to be a shining light of God's grace, showing the world his love through our message and through our lives. This starts right here in our city, in our community.

God's people have always been called to invite others to follow Jesus through loving the poor, welcoming the stranger, and loving their neighbor. Through our actions and our words, we tell the good news of Jesus Christ. This will look different from person to person in our church – but make no mistake, all Christians are called to join the mission of God.

At Heights Pres., we encourage everyone to find ways to join God's mission in their everyday lives-- among their neighbors, colleagues, friends, and families. In addition, members of our church contribute their specific passions as they minister to international students, seek reconciliation and justice among vulnerable populations in our city, and love their neighbors through hospitality. You may be called to serve in one of these areas, or in something different. All we ask is that you go and be the light of Christ in our community.