



HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

APRIL 15, 2018

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

“We’ve A Story to Tell”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**“You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”
(Luke 24:48)**

Today is the 3rd Sunday of Easter. The post-Easter Sundays are marked with resurrection stories and history lessons from the early church in Acts.

As we prepare for worship we'll listen to "Abundant Peace" from the jazz album "The Psalm 119 Experiment." Jesus appears to us once again today and says, "Peace be with you."

Our Service begins with a **WELCOME** to all who are gathered to worship together.

We share news of our life together as a church in our service because what we do, outside of worship, is a very vital portion of our 'service to God'.

Our opening hymn is an Easter proclamation, "The Day of Resurrection" and we are called to 'tell it out abroad.'

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

April 15, 2018 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

MUSIC AND TIME OF PREPARATION

(Enter reverently. Before the service, speak to God. During the service, let God speak to you. After the service, speak to one another. We listen quietly to music in order to help us make a living transition to worship.)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace stands at the door and knocks.

He's here to take away our doubts and fear.

This is a holy place. God's peace is whispered here, challenging every fear.

This is a holy place.

This is a holy place, where grace is freely given, wrapped up in strands of heaven.

This is a holy place.

This is a holy place, where heaven, breaking through, offers new life.

This is a holy place.

This is a holy place. God's word is opened, the gospel spoken.

This is a holy place.

Come! Let us worship God together.

*GATHERING PRAYER

Loving God, when we are frightened and filled with doubts...

open us to the gospel of peace.

When we think we understand everything and our minds are closed to new teachings...

open us to the gospel of peace.

When we do not understand, and our fears turn into anger or mistrust...

open us to the gospel of peace.

When we want to hide behind laws, regulations, and traditions that can hurt and exclude...

open us to the gospel of peace.

As the risen Christ came to be with the disciples and show them new possibilities...

open us to the gospel of peace.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray the prayer you taught us,

"Our Father who art in heaven Amen."

*EASTER HYMN NO. 118 "The Day of Resurrection!"

*- please stand if you are comfortable doing so

***PASSING THE PEACE** (Please Remain Standing)

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And with you.

(At this time you are invited to share a sign of peace: a hug, a handshake, a kiss...)

***CHORAL RESPONSE:** (Hymn. No. 461, vs. 1)

***“God is here! As we Your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.”***

"SEEK FORGIVENESS "

***PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

If our actions mirrored our words, if our hands were mentored by our hearts, if we walked the talk - we would be God's children. But too often, it is our silence, our doubts, our fears which tell others who we truly are. Let us confess to God how we have not been as faithful as we hope, as we pray, saying,

God of empty tombs: Peter speaks with power and clarity of his faith, while we remain silent. We do not live in love and righteousness evades us. Jesus is ready to come and grace us with peace, but our fears keep our hearts shuttered and locked.

God of full hearts: your love can change us from scared people to children of grace. You can weed doubts from our hearts and plant seeds of joy in their place. You can silence the panic of our souls with the peace Jesus offers to each of us. Transform us into Easter people, through the power of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior.

(moments of silent confession.

These are the spoken and silent prayers of your people,

Hear our prayers, O Lord, Amen.

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

What marvelous love, what wondrous grace, what abundant mercy God offers - to us! We really are God's people - that is exactly who we are! We are God's children - those whose lives have been changed by the One who loves us and forgives us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

“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.”

In our final ‘gathering act’ we “Pass the Peace” as an act of caring, welcome, and mutual love. In any language, the love of God is translated into peace as we join hands and hearts together. We are re-gathered as a worshipping community with a verse from the Hymn “God Is Here”

Corporate Confession:
In the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition, we do not offer individual confession save for that which we offer in our silent prayers. Our prayer today reminds us that we are not simply individuals but citizens of the world seeking the kingdom of God. Our prayer and the “Assurance of Forgiveness” echo themes present in our Epistle lesson for the day.

“The Proclamation of God’s Word” is central in the life of the worshipping community. This ‘proclamation’ includes the reading of scripture, the sharing of an anthem or musical expression of the day’s theme, the Time With The Young Church and the preaching of the Word.

Preaching in The Great Fifty Days centers around the theme of ‘telling the news’ of resurrection and of the emergence of the new church in the world then, and the re-emergence of the church in the world now.

Our Affirmation of faith is “An Easter Affirmation” which reminds us two Sundays removed from Easter that we are ‘an Easter people’ and have much to declare in our ‘alleluias.’

“THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

HISTORY LESSON

Acts 3:12-19

(NT: p. 120)

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

***Luke 24:36b-48**

(NT: p. 91)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

INTERLUDE

(In the 10 a.m. service, all children, ages 3 through 1st grade are invited to attend “Children’s Church” after “A Time with the Young Church.” Their leader will meet them in the back of the sanctuary. They may be picked up after worship in the Family Life Center, room #210.)

SERMON

“We’ve A Story to Tell”

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE “We Walk By Faith”**

(Tune: No. 386, "O For A World")

- 1. We walk by faith and not by sight; No gracious words we hear
From Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke; But we believe Him near.**
- 2. We may not touch His hands and side, Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise, we rejoice, And cry, "My Lord and God!"**
- 3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near And seek where You are found:**
- 4. That, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are, With full and endless sight.**

***AN EASTER AFFIRMATION**

There was darkness over the earth before creation;

there is darkness in the womb before birth;

the seed grows in darkness before it meets the light;

there is darkness in the tomb before Resurrection.

But now Christ is risen!

The dawn has come, sight has been restored to us!

A new creation has commenced! The world is born anew!

Christ is Risen.

He is risen indeed!

Now is the time for the nations to know:

He is risen indeed!

Thanks be to God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

BEING THE CHURCH IN MISSION, PRAYER AND GIVING

As We Come to Prayer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"When it seems that no one will listen,
**we find you at our side, leaning over to catch every faltering,
stumbling, fearful word spilling forth from our hearts.**

When it seems that the world rushes past us,
**leaving us behind, we find you waiting just ahead of us,
ready to light the way into the future you have prepared.**

When we worry about yesterday and all the tomorrows to come,
**you gather us up in your arms, gently rocking us in your
hope.**

We are Easter people with faith and hope and trust in you,
**make us bold in that faith, assured in that faith,
and grounded in that trust.**

You come and offer us peace for our living,
and we wonder if you are real.

We are still confused about life and death,
so you eat with us, walk with us, and lead us along the way.

Lord of compassion, we offer you
**those among us who are weary,
those who are ill and who face uncertain futures,
those who doubt and find faith fleeting,
those who are saddened by loss,
those for whom life has no certainty,
those for who faith, hope, and trust are merely words.**

We need you in our living, risen Lord, so that we might
be your disciples today just like your disciples long ago.

Give us the courage to be witnesses for you in our living,
**to lift up your name, offer your love,
and be living reminders of your grace.**

Bless your church, O Lord, as we celebrate with great joy a Jubilee of
gladness in our life as your church and in the week to come.

**Bless all of us who will gather in celebration of your call to
us to be Highlands United Presbyterian Church.**

Be with these faithful folk and those who will travel to be with us as we
gather to give you thanks and praise, almighty and everlasting God,
creator, redeemer and loving Spirit. Amen.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"Go Forth and Tell"

Ogden

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**"Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."**

In our prayers we ask for God's presence with and intervention for those we list each week on the back of the bulletin. We have many who are in ongoing situations of treatment, others who are saddened by loss, and still others who face uncertain futures. We keep these in our prayers today and every day.

Our Tithes and Offerings are another opportunity for us to respond to God's presence in our midst. Our Offertory is:

*Go forth and tell!
O Church of God, awake!
God's saving news to all
the nations take. Proclaim
Christ Jesus, Saviour
Lord and King, That all
the world his worthy
praise may sing.*

*Go forth and tell!
God's love embraces all;
He will in grace respond
to all who call How shall
they call if they have
never heard The gracious
invitation of his word?*

*Go forth and tell Where
still the darkness lies, In
wealth or want, the sinner
surely dies: Give us, O
Lord, concern for heart
and mind, A love like
yours which cares for
humankind.*

*Go forth and tell! The
doors are open wide:
Share God's good gifts --
let no one be denied. Live
out your life as Christ
your Lord shall
choose; Your ransomed
powers for his sole glory
use.*

*Go forth and tell! O
Church of God arise! Go
in the strength which
Christ your Lord supplies.
Go till all the nations his
great name adore
And serve him, Lord and
King, for ever more.*

Our "Charge and Blessing" reminds us that we are called to be the church, not just in this room as a worshiping body, but as the body of Christ released in the world.

As we go into the world we are reminded in the old hymn that "We've A Story To Tell To The Nations: For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light."

The 'Benediction' offers the final 'good words' said over God's people as they continue to worship in their living day by day.

Please join us 'across the way' in the Dining Hall for a time of Fellowship.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Where people are afraid to question or wonder,
for fear of being laughed at, or discredited, or punished, or imprisoned,
send your Spirit of life into our world.

For all of those who are hurting and hiding, not sure that the gospel is for them,

send your Spirit of life into our world.

To all of those who need forgiveness, healing, comfort, and hope,
send your Spirit of life into our world.

For your church, that we might always work for justice for all people,
seek the truth, and welcome questions and wonder,

send your Spirit of life into our world.

Listen to God's breath within:

it is the stirring of belief.

Voice those questions and doubts:

it is the making of faith.

Touch those scars and feel those wounds:

it is the place of resurrection.

We go to be a witness to the love that binds us to the risen Lord.

We go with good news of great love.

Let the breath of God sustain you.

***HYMN OF PARTING "We've A Story To Tell To The Nations"**

**"We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.**

**Refrain: For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright,
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.**

**We've a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword. [Refrain]**

**We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above has sent us His Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love. [Refrain]**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

**We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow has trod,
that all of the world's great peoples may come to the truth of God,
may come to the truth of God. [Refrain]**

*- please stand if you are comfortable doing so



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of April 15th – April 21st, 2018



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday:	9:00 a.m.	Crafty Ladies
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m.	Wellness (Yoga at 10 and Adult Logos at 11)
	4:00 p.m.	LOGOS
	7:15 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday:	5:30 p.m.	Micah's Backpack Packing
	6:00 p.m.	First Aid and CPR Training
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Handbell Rehearsal

"WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, AS CHRIST WELCOMES US!"

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU! We are so glad that you are here and worshipping with us this morning. We are privileged to have you with us and would invite you to a time of Fellowship in our Dining Hall after worship. Please do us a favor by signing the Friendship Register and mark appropriate boxes. There are also visitor cards in the pew racks. **FIRST TIME VISITORS – WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU!** Thanks!

MEMBERSHIP AT HIGHLANDS is open to all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives and who wish to join in the worship and ministry of this church. The pastor or any member of the Session would be more than happy to discuss this with you.

A NURSERY IS PROVIDED IN THE FAMILY LIFE building for those who wish to have their children cared for during worship. Parents receive a 'silent pager' for peace of mind and will be paged in case of any need. Highlands takes great care in caring for your children.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH FOR AGES 3 THROUGH 1ST grade is in the Family Life building after "A Time with the Young Church," except on Communion Sundays. A nursery is provided for infants through two years of age in the Family Life Center. Worship folders for young Highlands' worshipers can be found at the usher's stand. PARENTS please help your children with their worship experience. **WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN AT HIGHLANDS** and want to keep them safe! Please help us with this goal by ensuring that **all children are supervised by an adult while on the playground at all times.**

DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEARING ASSISTANCE AT THE USHER'S STAND.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TODAY IS THE 2nd Sunday in the Season of Easter which last for 50 days. While the church moves toward our celebration of Pentecost we become a living example of a church living in the 'good news' of Easter. We seek to tell the story of resurrection to new life as we 'go and tell' in our community through our efforts in caring and mission. We "Tell" about Jesus, not just in what we say but in what we do as Christ's church.

FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING – HPGP will be hosting this vital training on Thursday, April 19 at 6pm. If you would like to join them, please contact Jennifer Terrell at (321) 231-0104.

WELLNESS AND LOGOS ARE BACK! Please join us for the mid-week revitalization of body, mind and soul! Wellness begins around 10:00 am with chair yoga (this can easily be adopted to anyone's physical level). Bible study, with John Smith as our leader, begins around 11:15ish. Everyone is welcome to join us for this fun and engaging morning.

ONLY 5 MORE LOGOS ARE LEFT! Come and join the festivities as we learn about God's love for all of us! Our theme this week is "Jesus had a little lamb". You are invited to bring a friend.

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS studies many different topics and looks forward to lively conversation. They will be studying "Did Jesus Always Preach Non-Violence" for the next few weeks. We have two other Adult Sunday School classes that are oriented more towards Bible study. We have Sunday School for ALL ages at HUPC. Please join us for any of these interesting and informative classes.

UPCOMING PYC EVENTS: Please mark your calendars for these dates: **Today**, April 15th 6:00 – 7:30pm for PYC, April 21st 6:00 – 8:00pm for a mission project to help Micah's Backpack, April 29th 6:00 – 7:30pm for PYC, and May 6th TBD for our End of School Party and Summer Covenant Meeting.

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

Highlands Annual Spring Blood Drive is coming next week, April 22nd. Please see Sharyn' if you would like to donate.

MICAH'S BACKPACK is working hard. We provide weekend food for 100 children in 4 schools. Since August, Micah's Volunteers lifted, carried, dragged, packed and delivered 2,032 bags of food and those bags weighed in at 15,240 POUNDS! HUPC is making a big difference in our community. **WANT TO HELP** with a big Micah's Challenge? We need 4 'rolling wire storage shelving units' that will help with our storage problems. The cost for each unit is about \$120.00. Your donations for "Micah's Storage" would be greatly appreciated!

HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL IS ENROLLING for the Fall 2018 school year. Open Enrollment is now in progress for ages 15 months to 4 years old. We are excited to be an outreach of all the great Mission work at Highlands. Providing for a community of children on the campus of Highlands, you truly know God's blessings. Tell your friends and family to stop by for a tour and meet the staff anytime Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 6:00pm

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES: ACS needs the following items: toothpaste, powdered milk, canned milk, canned pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, canned tomatoes, canned potatoes, peanut butter, jelly- HUPC's specialty, and toilet tissue. Ten jars of jelly were collected this week. Every grocery order going out of ACS has a jar of HUPC jelly. **Don't forget your jelly next Sunday!**

UPDATE FROM YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE. We need 15 more 16 X 26-inch hand towels, and especially fingernail clippers without files or tweezers in order to have another "batch" of kits ready to go. Thanks for your help!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED LOVE AND SUPPORT FOR THE CHILDREN OF HAITI. Please make sure your payments are marked "HAITI CHILDREN" to ensure the money goes into the right account.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY'S SERVICE

SPECIAL AND ONGOING PRAYERS: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

IN THE HOSPITAL THIS WEEK: Justin Marley (Bruce and Annette's grandson) is in the hospital at UF Health.

OUR FRIENDS IN CARE FACILITIES: *At Brookdale Southside:* (9601 Southbrook Dr., Jax, FL 32256), *Hank Green (N-122); At Clare Bridge:* Louise Keen; *At the Atrium (9960 Atrium Way, 32225):* Boyd and Doreen Harris (#528) , Doris Ruby (#219), *Others:* Fay Sweeney (# E10 A) at Cypress Village, 4600 Middleton Park Circle East , Jacksonville, FL 32224).

AT HOME: Joy Patterson, Don Hall, Kit Fink, Jo and Hoagy Carmichael, Kinzey Reeves, Patty Strader, Marilyn Reed, JoAn Ewing, Bruce and Annette Marley, Gwen Brown, Barbara Ash and Carolyn Starkweather.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Kenneth Moon (Barbara's son), Lenwood Lee (Dr. Dave's father), Ashley Parsons (DCE at Orange Park PC), Ed Mallard.

IN THE MILITARY: Jacob Loerop (Jacob.Loerop@CVN68.navy.mil), IT3 Jacob Loerop CVN 68 USS Nimitz Unit 100103 Box 1771 FPO AP 96620. Amelia Powell (amelia.powell@cvw7.navy.mil) AT2 Powell, Amelia N., VAQ-140, Unit 200107 Box 142, FPO AP 96601.

PRAYER BEARS: Prayer Bears and Caring Critters are available in the Fellowship Hall after each service.

MEMBER CARE: **Bev Connell** is our **Prayer Ministry Coordinator**. Bev's number is **(904) 868-9659**. Her email address is bevconn2016@gmail.com. Please contact Bev with your prayer request. As always, prayer requests can be made as well by calling the church office, completing the gray slips in the church pews, using the church website (hupcjax.org under "Contact Us") or by notifying your Shepherd.

FAMILIES WE ARE PRAYING FOR THIS WEEK: Sarah Shepherd, The Sholar Family and Diane Sibila.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeter: Jean Collins. Children's Church Leader: Chad Sambito.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by The Robbins Family.

THE ROSE ON THE ORGAN TODAY is in honor of Meg Linda born April 11th. This gift from God is the child of Chad and Abby Norton, the granddaughter of Tyler and Candy Cole and the baby sister to Kaelyn.