



Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 29, 2018

***HIGHLANDS UNITED  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**APRIL 29, 2018**

**5<sup>TH</sup> OF EASTER**

**CHAPLAIN JENNIE THOMAS**

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**“ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing...” ( John 15:4-5)**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Jesus reminds us that he is 'the vine' and we are the branches. We are called to 'abide' in him so that we can bear fruit.

As we prepare for worship we'll listen to an old New Orleans Jazz rendition of "Abide With Me." Even though "Abide With Me" is an 'evening' hymn it reminds us of Jesus desire to unite with us and to 'abide' with us in the entirety of our living. Seva Venet in an album titled 'Revisiting Old New Orleans' presents this rendition.

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'.

# HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## A Celebration of Worship

April 29, 2018 – 5<sup>th</sup> 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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says to us: "I am the vine and you are the branches."

**May we get ourselves 'tangled' in the vine as we worship today.**

This is the day the Lord has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

We come to this place where God pours out love on us,

**we join our voices in praise, as our fears are left behind.**

We gather with these people, those who seek to follow Jesus,

**so we might walk the paths of service hand in hand.**

We open our hearts to the gifts of the Spirit,

**so that grace and peace might be the fruit we bear.**

### \*GATHERING PRAYER (responsive)

Like a parent sending children off to school each day,  
**you watch us walk down the streets of the kingdom,  
keeping an eye on us while giving us freedom,  
trusting and believing we will bear fruit;**

like a nursery keeper gently rocking a baby,

**you let us snuggle into your lap,  
as you softly lullaby us with songs of grace and hope;**

like a friend warmly welcoming a neighbor over for coffee and a chat,

**you invite us into your heart,  
so we may whisper to you of our deepest longings.**

God in Community, One in Abiding Love,

**hear us as we pray as we are taught, "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."**

\* - If you are comfortable, please stand

**\*GATHERING HYMN NO. 376 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

**\*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 AND PARDON"**

**\*CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsive)**

There come those moments when we stand exposed, our failings, our hurtful words, our harmful ways open for all to see. But God takes these moments, and these sins, redeeming them through compassionate love, making us new people, children of the Living God. Let us come, in these moments, with our prayers to the One who waits to forgive us and make us whole. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

Lord of Compassion:

**called to be one body, we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces; your children of love, we insist on the right to despise our sisters and brothers; though your Perfect Love was broken for us, we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world.**

Abide in us, Vine Grower.

**Forgive us of our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.**

**“Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us,  
Christ Have Mercy Upon Us,  
Lord Have Mercy Upon Us.”**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us!

**As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others, so that love, hope and joy might touch all people. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

Our gathering hymn is “Love Divine All Loves Excelling” which is one of the best known and loved hymns of Charles Wesley.

*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 worshiping 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.

Our anthem **“Go Ye Into the World”** by Natalie Sleeth is a post-Easter kind of hymn that calls us to go into the world and tell what we know. For today we note the verse which begins, “I am the vine and you are the branches” which comes from today’s gospel from John.

We are glad to welcome Chaplain Jennie Thomas to our pulpit today. (You will find some biographical information in the announcements for today’s service. WELCOME Chaplain Thomas!

Our Hymn of Response is a favorite, “Help Us Accept Each Other.” Fred Kaan wrote the hymn in an effort to help us be as open and accepting of others as Jesus is. If we ‘abide in Jesus’ we should ‘love one another’ and it follows that we should also, ‘accept each other.’

## “THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

### HISTORY LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

(OT: p. )

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be To God.**

### ANTHEM

**“Go Into the World”**

Sleeth

*“Go ye, go ye into the world and make disciples of all the nations.*

*Go ye, go ye into the world, and I will be with you there.*

*Go ye, go ye into the world and take the gospel to all the people,*

*Go ye, go ye into the world, and I will be with you there.*

*I am the vine, you are the branches, ever the fruit to bear;*

*I am the light, you, the reflection everywhere.*

*Go ye, go ye into the world and tell them all that I have commanded.*

*Go ye, go ye into the world, and I will be with you there.*

*Go ye now and make disciples of all the nations,*

*Go ye now, and I will be with you there.*

*Go ye now and take the gospel to all the people Go ye now,  
and I will be with you there.*

*I am the vine and you, the branches I am the light for you to share*

*So go ye now and tell them all that I have commanded.*

*Go ye now and I will be with you there.”*

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

1 John 4:7-21

(NT: p. )

\*John 15:1-8

(NT: p. )

### TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

#### INTERLUDE

(In the 11 a.m. service, all children, ages 4 through 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 #207.)

### SERMON

Chaplain Jennie Thomas

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 358 “Help Us Accept Each Other”**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (The Apostles’ Creed in Unison)

**“I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen”**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This day we gather with eager hearts, hungry for your Word, yearning for the joy you promise in love. O God, together we hold a vision of your kingdom, a people of prayer and open hearts, a loving Body of Christ eager to learn and eager to share.

### **Abide with us, Lord, with your blessings.**

You bless us, O God, and shine upon us with the mercy of your salvation. And your Good Earth has yielded its increase through those who have brought us great blessing.

### **Abide with us, Lord, with your blessings.**

Teach us to love one another with that passion which comes from your overflowing heart, Vine Grower, so those around us will recognize us as sisters and brothers, bound together by your love not divided by our fears.

### **Abide with us, Lord, with your blessings.**

Teach us to serve one another with that compassion which comes from our broken heart, Vine of our lives, for the hungry are our brothers, the immigrants are our sisters, the homeless are our families.

### **Abide with us, Lord, with your blessings.**

Teach us include others with that embracing welcome which comes from your inviting heart, Fruit-bearing Spirit, offering forgiveness to those who hurt us, peace to all filled with hate, hope to those burdened by despair.

### **Abide with us, Lord, with your blessings.**

Enable us, Lord, to rely on our living connection to you in our care of those who are less than whole and in need of some tender loving care. For those who are being pulled away from the vine by illness, or heart ache, or despair, or anxiety, Lord, help us to abide with them.

### **Abide with us, Lord, with your blessings.**

Nurture us, Lord, helping us to bear fruit for you. Helping us to be willing to use the living nutrients of your love, grace and mercy to be emboldened to go into the world and tell the story of your abiding presence.

### **Abide with us, Lord, with your blessings.**

We praise you, Lord of the vine, for keeping us connected to your love. May we on this and all days live fully aware of your connection to us.

### **Abide with us, Lord, with your blessings. Amen.**

## GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY

“”

### \*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 "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.

Our 'parting hymn' is "We Are Your People." Brian Arthur Wren (b. 1936) wrote this text for the 1973 hymnal of the United Reformed Church of England and Wales, New Church Praise. As revised by the author in 1993, the text is in the form of a corporate prayer to the Holy Spirit by the church, which is Christ's body.

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**

Go to love others as Christ loves you and to celebrate God's goodness with all of creation.

**We go surrounded by God's Spirit.**

The former things have gone away; God is making all things new. God dwells among us even now.

**We go to help make God's dream come true**

Christ is the vine and we are the branches,

**We go, abiding in him, to bear fruit in the world!**

**\*HYMN OF PARTING NO. 436 "We Are Your People"**

**We are your people: Lord, by your grace, you dare to make us  
Christ to our neighbors of every nation and race.**

**Called to portray you, help us to live closer than neighbors,  
open to strangers, able to clash and forgive.**

**Glad of tradition, help us to see in all life's changing  
where you are leading, where our best efforts should be.**

**Joined in community, breaking your bread, may we discover  
gifts in each other, willing to lead and be led.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE**

**Lord, as we minister in different ways, may all we're doing  
show that you're living, meeting your love with our praise.**

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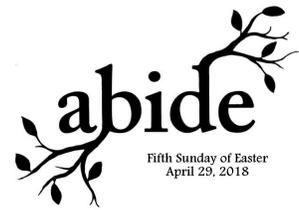
**\*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so**

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Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 29, 2018

**HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS**  
This Week at Highlands  
Week of April 29<sup>th</sup> - May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018



**This Week's Calendar of Events:**

<b>Today:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Crafty Ladies</b>
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Session Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Quilting and Sewing Group</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Wellness (Yoga at 10 and Adult Logos at 11)</b>
	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch Bunch – Cinco de Mayo (Atlantic and Kernan)</b>
	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>LOGOS</b>
	<b>7:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Micah's Backpack Packing</b>

**“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 1<sup>ST</sup>** 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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the Season of Easter and Jesus greets us as "the vine."** We gather to hear the challenge of abiding with Christ and producing fruit.

**WE WELCOME Reverend Jennie Thomas to our pulpit today.** Our guest preacher is The Rev. Jennie Thomas, MDiv, MSW. Jennie joined Baptist Health in 2016. She serves as the Lead Chaplain/CPE Clinical Educator for Baptist South. In addition to her leadership in Professional Education for Ministry, she has experience and expertise in clinical ethics, end of life education, and staff support. Chaplain Thomas has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama, a Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, and a Master of Social Work from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. She completed her Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia and her supervisory education at The McFarland Institute in New Orleans, Louisiana. Chaplain Thomas is certified as an ACPE Clinical Educator with the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education and a Board-Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains. She is ordained and endorsed for ministry with the Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of St. Augustine (PCUSA). **We joyfully welcome Chaplain Jennie Thomas to our pulpit!**

**WELLNESS AND LOGOS** - 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 morning.

**ONLY 3 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 "Water for Everyone". You are invited to wear clothes that can get wet.

**THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS** studies many different topics and looks forward to lively conversation. They will be studying "Books That Didn't Make the Bible and Why" the next two 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 this interesting and informative classes.

**UPCOMING PYC EVENT:** Please mark your calendars for May 6<sup>th</sup> TBD for our End of School Party and Summer Covenant Meeting.

**BLESSING OF THE BUS!** Our friends at Family Promise will be "Blessing the Bus" Thursday, May 3 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. We will gather in the Church Street parking lot of First United Methodist Church which is located at 225 East Duval Street. There will be the blessing of the bus, tours of Family Promise and light refreshments. Please RSVP to Beth Mixson at [bethmixson@familypromisejax.org](mailto:bethmixson@familypromisejax.org) or at (904) 537-3645.

### **OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE**

**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. **Thanks for your help with a big Micah's Challenge.** We need 'rolling wire storage shelving units' that will help with our storage problems and support to build a partition wall in one of our classrooms. Your donations for "Micah's Storage" would be greatly appreciated!

**HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL WILL BE 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 Petterson, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://hupcjax.org) under "Contact Us") or by notifying your Shepherd.

**FAMILIES WE ARE PRAYING FOR THIS WEEK:** John and Bev Smith, Joanna and John Sorrell and the Sorrells Family.

**OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE:** Greeter: Charlie Obedia. Children's Church Leader: Jessica Sorrells.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE** are given to the glory of God by Sarah Shepherd in loving memory of her husband, James Shepherd.