



***HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH***

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

APRIL 30, 2017

3rd Sunday of Easter

“A Post-Easter Hike”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor
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When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. (Luke 24:30-31)

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 "The Road to Emmaus" written by Newton Allen, a Nashville physician/songwriter and a Presbyterian.

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'.

We welcome the Highlands Handbell Choir to our worship this morning. They share today's prelude, "We Have Met to Worship" which is the classic hymn tune "Holy Manna" which is an Appalachian folk melody.

Our opening hymn makes the Easter declaration "Christ Is Alive, let Christians Sing! The Cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die." The tune is the dynamic 'Truro.' Hymn writer, Brian Wren is one of the best modern hymn poets with many hymns to his credit.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship
April 30, 2017 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

"A WALK TO EMMAUS"

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.)

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

"We Have Met To Worship" arr. Roth
The Highlands Handbell Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Where shattered hearts are made whole, where wounded souls are healed, where life is stronger than death:

there, the stone has been rolled away.

Where the lonely become our friends, where a stranger is welcomed home, where hope is stronger than despair:

there, we find Jesus walking.

Where closed hearts are opened, where the anxious find serenity, where love is stronger than hate:

there, Jesus is opening our eyes.

The stone has been rolled away! Jesus is our companion on the journey!
Our eyes are opened to the needs of others!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia! Christ is with us!

*OPENING PRAYER (Responsive)

Splattering the black-blue night with the twinkling stars and spinning fluffy clouds out of the fabric of your hope, you raised creation out of chaos, Gracious God,

giving life and calling it good.

Walking with disciples down grief's lonely road, you sang of how God had raised you from the dead, so that listening, they might believe; believing, they might understand; understanding, they might obey,

going forth to invite all to follow you, Bread of Life, to feast on your love forever.

Hear us as we pray, saying, "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."

*GATHERING HYMN NO. 108

"CHRIST IS ALIVE"

***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 FELLOWSHIP

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Unison)**

Here! Christ is here! In our hearts, in our lives, and in our midst. As on that road to Emmaus, Jesus is with us--teaching, loving, leading, feeding. Let us confess how we have overlooked the presence of the living Christ, and ignored the words he whispers to our hearts, as we pray, saying,

**We become comfortable, Joyous God, with our lives, with our faith,
with our friends and family. We are so secure; your gospel jars us with
your hopes for us. We know we should tell your story, but doesn't
everyone who matters know it already? We could invite others to your
table, but then we might have to share. We could welcome the
strangers, but worry they might feel uneasy among so many unfamiliar
faces. Forgive us, God of Easter. Walk with us, so we can become
companions to the lost. Welcome us, so we can include the hopeless
and the homeless. Love us, so we can share that love with everyone
we meet on our journey, as we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and
Savior, into life with you. Amen.**

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God loves us so much, God will listen to our cries, our prayers, our hopes, and our dreams. God's promises are for all, those who are right beside us, as well as those who live on the other side of the world.

What can we give to God for his grace?

**We lift our hearts to God, giving thanks for the mercy
that has been given to us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

“THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON from Psalms 116 (Responsive)

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

**Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him
as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray, save my life!”

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.

Our Old Testament lesson for the day is taken from the 116th Psalm. This is a Psalm of deliverance from distress and speaks to us, in Easter, of resurrection, reclamation, and redemption as God cares for us in our need.

Our Anthem for the day is "Clarion Call" and will be played by our Handbell choir. A comment by the composer: This phrase can mean an urgent call to action; a direct public request for people to take action, a very clear message about what action is needed; a call to something that is hard to ignore.
- Michael Joy

"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.

We are glad to welcome our Highlands Precious Gifts Singers and their families! The children will sing "My God Is So Great." Welcome!

Our Hymn of Response is a hymn written for the day by Carol Winfrey Gillette, "Emmaus Bound on Easter Day."

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

The LORD protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant. You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst,

O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

ANTHEM

"Clarion Call"

Joy

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

(NT: p.119)

*Luke 24:13-35

(NT: p.90)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"My God Is So Great!"

HPGP Singers

A TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

(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 #205.)

SERMON

"A Post-Easter Hike"

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE "Emmaus Bound On Easter Day"

(Tune: O Waly Waly)

**"Emmaus-bound on Easter Day, Two travelers walked along the way.
They'd once had hope, but hope had died. When you, O Lord, were crucified.**

**When you appeared beside the two, They could not see that it was you;
But as they talked and shared their pain, You gave them hope and joy again.**

**For as you spoke to them God's word, Explaining all they'd seen and heard,
They understood what God had done and that a new day had begun.**

**They shared their home; you broke the bread. They saw you, risen from the
dead! That moment's grace helped them to see The gift of God's eternity.**

**And for today we pray, too, O Risen Lord, may we know you.
And may your presence give us grace To share God's love in every place."**

*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!

Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! AMEN!

BEING THE CHURCH IN MISSION, PRAYER AND GIVING

As We Come to Prayer

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (responsive)

Gracious One, walk with those who need you this day.

**Those who are caught up in the events of their living
and need your eye opening presence.**

Gracious One, walk with those who need you this day.

**Those who cry from depths of heart and soul longing
for answers.**

Gracious One, touch lives by your presence this day.

**Lifting the saddened to embrace hope,
the broken of body and spirit to a place of joy.**

Gracious One, stay with those who do not recognize you this day.

**They who are lost,
or reject your love,
or doubt you,
or cannot feel your ever present spirit,
or who have never known you.**

Gracious One, who loves us as friend, old or new.

**Startle us, beckon, guide, push and awaken us to
your presence.**

Gentle One, gift us with love as you act and our eyes are opened.

**Help us to move swiftly to tell your story and to be
your disciples.**

Gracious One, reveal yourself to us;

be with us, live in us. Go with us. Amen.

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"Stay With Us"

Pelz

"Stay with us, till night has come: our praise to you this day be sung. Bless our bread, open our eyes: Jesus be our great surprise. Walk with us, our spirits sigh: hear when our weary spirits cry. Feel again our loss, our pain: Jesus, take us to your side. Walk with us, the road will bend: make all our weeping, wailing end. Wipe our tears, forgive our fears: Jesus lift the heavy cross. Talk with us till we behold a joyful life you will unfold: Heal our eyes to see the prize: Jesus take us to the light. Stay with us till day is done: no tears nor dark shall dim the sun: cheer the heart your grace impart. Jesus bring eternal life."

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.'

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.

As we share our Tithes and Offerings the choir will sing an anthem that speaks of the theme of the day and the greater theme of our need for God to come and be with us – to 'Stay With Us.'

Another verse from the Hymn "God Is Here" is our song of dedication after the offering.

Our "Charge and Blessing" reminds us that when the two walking the road to Emmaus heard and recognized Jesus they immediately ran back to Jerusalem to share the news of Christ's appearance with them and what they had seen and heard. We, too, as disciples are called to take what we see and hear from this place into our world to share the good news, "Jesus is Alive, We have seen the Lord!"

Our Hymn of Parting is the ultimate challenge to us to take this good news from this place to the places we go in the world around us. The title is a 'clarion call' to us -- "**Come, Christians, Join To Sing**"

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.

***RESPONSE AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Hymn. No. 461, vs. 4)

**"Lord of all, of church and kingdom, In an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel, Help us work Your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, All we have to give, receive:
We, who cannot live without You, We adore You! We believe!"**

***THE CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Go from this place, enriched to serve, graced for another chance.

We go, eyes open, hearts on fire, into the world.

Go blessed and fed and upheld by the love of God.

We are God's Easter people clothed in faith.

Take the good news with you, share it as you run to life:

Jesus is alive. We have seen the Lord!

***HYMN OF PARTING NO. 150 "Come, Christians, Join To Sing"**

**Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!**

**Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend;
To us He'll condescend; His love shall never end.
Alleluia! Amen!**

**Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore, His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

**"Lord, make us more holy, Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy, Until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy, Until we meet again."**

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



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of April 30 – May 6, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

<p>Today:</p> <p>Monday:</p> <p>Wednesday:</p> <p>Thursday:</p> <p>Friday:</p>	<p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>10:00 a.m.</p> <p>4:00 p.m.</p> <p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>7:00 p.m.</p> <p>10:00 a.m.</p> <p>12:30 p.m.</p> <p>4:00 p.m.</p> <p>7:00 p.m.</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Sunday School</p> <p>Worship Service</p> <p>Confirmation Class/PYC</p> <p>Crafty Ladies</p> <p>Committee Meetings</p> <p>Wellness @ 10 am / Adult Logos @ 11 am</p> <p>Lunch Bunch @ Castillo de Mexico</p> <p>Logos</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p>Quilting and Sewing Group</p>
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“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 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER AND WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE WORSHIPPING WITH US! This morning we continue the Easter story as Jesus appears to two disciples on their way to the small village of Emmaus. We have begun that period of the church year called "The Great Fifty Days" which is literally the fifty days between Easter and the Day of Pentecost. Our scripture lessons in these days are primarily stories of the early church and stories of 'calling.'

THANK YOU FOR SUCH EXCELLENT SUPPORT FOR Navy Chaplain Lieutenant Commander Nathan Solomon who was our guest preacher last Sunday. Thank you, Chaplain Solomon, for being with us!

WE'RE HAVING A GREAT TIME ON WEDNESDAYS! Our theme this week is "A 'Pool' of Believers". Please wear clothes that you can get wet. We're having a great time at Logos this year – Come and check it out before we take a break this summer! Don't forget Wellness begins at 10 a.m. and Adult Logos is at 11 a.m.

HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL IS ENROLLING for the Fall 2017 school year 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. Stop by for a tour and meet the staff anytime Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 6:00pm. Tell your family, friends and neighbors about our great pre-school.

FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS RETURNING: Our Family Promise guest will be at Highlands May 21-28, and there will be many volunteer opportunities! We will need helpers to prepare meals as well as serving as evening, overnight and Saturday hosts. Evening and Saturday hosts will only require two to three hours of your time! We hope you will consider this important mission...the sign-up sheet will be in the Dining Hall after worship today. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Mission Committee or call Sue Heckler at 891-6034. Thanks!

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

THE MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE is looking for additional persons to serve as Shepherds so that this program of our church can be maintained. The responsibility of a shepherd is to keep in touch with and support 5 – 7 families and/or individuals. This is a rewarding way to know your fellow members better and does not require a great deal of time. For information or to volunteer call Nancy Marsh at 645-3108 or 635-7582.

MICAH'S BACKPACK UPDATE: Thanks to generous donations, Micah's pantry is well stocked with oatmeal and granola bars! A need at this time is toothbrushes. Each child receives a toothbrush at the beginning of the school year, before Christmas break and at the end of the school year. We are packing for 41 kids here at HUPC. Also, contributions of little boxes of raisins make a nice change in the snack menu. Thanks for all your help and encouragement!

THANKS AGAIN for all your support for the **Highlands Baby Shower Mission Project**. Our goal was 20 gift bags and we were recently able to meet that goal. We are already working on our next twenty gift bags, can you help? Thanks Again!!!

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES: ACS needs the following items: toothpaste – **critical need**, powdered milk, canned milk, canned pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, canned tomatoes, canned potatoes, peanut butter, jelly- HUPC's specialty, and toilet tissue. Eighteen jars of jelly were collected this week. Every grocery order going out of ACS has a jar of HUPC jelly!

YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE IS LOOKING for a few items for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance kits. They are in **desperate need** of 16 X 26-inch hand towels. They also need nail clippers but no nail files now. Thanks for your continued love and support of this very basic and much needed program.

THANKS FOR YOUR EXCELLENT SUPPORT OF HAITI!!! 30 sponsored children mean sustaining care for the children and staff of the Grace of Mercy orphanage in Haiti. Please remember your monthly pledge and **BE SURE YOUR CHECKS ARE MARKED "SPONSOR FOR HAITI CHILDREN"** to ensure the money goes into the right account.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY'S SERVICE

SPECIAL PRAYERS: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK: Lenwood Lee (Dr. Dave's father), JoAn Ewing, Don Hall (Home), Jo Carmichael, Bill Byers, Nancy Hoot, Marilyn Reed, Al Hummel, Bill Duval, Pat Strader, Cathy Pate's son, Hank Greene, Rufus Taylor's brother, Fay Sweeney (9960 Atrium Way, Unit 529, 32225), Linda Youmans (c/o Teri Grimm, 4206 Harbour Island Dr. 32225), Kit Fink, Kenneth Moon, and Bruce and Annette Marley, Justin Marley (grandson), Louise Keen is residing at Brookdale Southside -9601 Southbrook Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32256 along with Al and Pat Hummel. Al and Pat's address is 9601 Southbrook Dr., Apt E315, Jacksonville, FL 32256. Jacob Loerop's email is Loerop.Jacob@CVN68.navy.mil, Jacob's address is IT3 Loerop, Jacob CVN 68 USS Nimitz Unit 100103 Box 1771 FPO AP 96620. Amelia Powell's address is: AT2 Powell, Amelia N., VAQ-140, Unit 200107 Box 142, FPO AP 96601. You can also reach Amelia through her email. Her email address is: amelia.powell@cvw7.navy.mil.

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

MEMBER CARE: Nancy Moewe is our Prayer Ministry Contact. Nancy's information is: Email: nmoewe48@gmail.com. Her cell phone number is 904-707-8064. Email requests can be sent directly to Nancy, but please also call her or the church office if it is an emergency request. As always, prayer requests can be made as well by completing the gray slips in the church pews, calling the church office, using the church website (hupcjax.org under "Contact Us") or by notifying your Shepherd.

FAMILIES WE ARE PRAYING FOR THIS WEEK: The Trombly Family, Dennis and Donna Vach and Mark and Bonnie Vanderberg.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Paul and Sarah Wubbena. Children's Church Leader: Chad Sambito. Nursery Attendant: Audrey Regnier.

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