



**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**DECEMBER 31, 2017 – 10 a.m.**

**1<sup>ST</sup> OF CHRISTMAS**

**“Seven Swans A Swimming or Hogmanay”**

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor  
Laura Sambito, DCE  
Gibson Dixon, Director of Music  
Anneliese Robbins, Church Admin.

**"O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!"**

**Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the Season of Christmas.** Also known as 'The 12 Days of Christmas' which lasts from Christmas Day until the Day of Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Music for The Time of Preparation** today will be an instrumental version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Today our Advent, now Christmas wreath, with its four candles representing Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, is spread out in the sanctuary. With the Christ candle holding central position in the wreath we are reminded that the task of the church, born on Christmas, is to take into the world those Advent ideals of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Our gathering 'Carol' is "O Come, All Ye Faithful" set to the festive tune "Adeste Fidelis" which means "Come Faithful" in Latin. The church, experiencing great joy is called to come together 'Joyful and Triumphant' to come and adore Christ, the Lord.

# HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

### 1<sup>st</sup> of CHRISTMAS --- DECEMBER 31, 2017

#### **MUSIC AND TIME OF PREPARATION**

*(Take this opportunity to pause for a moment and pray for God's presence among us today, our worship leaders, those who worship with you and for yourself.)*

#### **"WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP"**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **"We Three Kings"**

Barbara Ruby, piano

#### **\*CHRISTMAS SEASON CALL TO WORSHIP & WREATH LIGHTING**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only son from the father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

**In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

Let us pray:

**On this first Sunday of Christmas, loving God, we gather to celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, born long ago and still today, child of the universe present among us. May we, in the things we do and say, continue to give birth to the presence of the living Christ in our world today and always. Amen.**

#### **\*GATHERING CAROL NO. 41 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!**

**Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!**

**Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing!**

**3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! (Refrain)**

#### **\*CHRISTMAS INVOCATION**

Each year the Child is born again.

**Each year some new heart finally hears, finally sees,  
finally knows love.**

And in heaven there is great rejoicing!

**There is a festival of stars!**

There is a celebration among the angels!

**For in the finding of one lost sheep,**

The heart of the shepherd is glad, and Christmas happens once more...

**..and together we rediscover Joy for all the world. Amen.**

**\*CAROL OF CHRISTMAS JOY NO. 40 "Joy To The World!"**

**1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

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

**And Also With You.**

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

**\*Choral Response:**

**"Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Come ye one and come ye all, embrace the faith that does enthral;  
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ will come to save! Christ will come to save!"**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

**"Here we are, Lord Jesus, already torn from the loveliness of  
your birthing to the urgency of a new year coming. We peered in and  
saw you in those 'swaddling' clothes and felt the promise of the  
'prince of peace' stir in us. But almost as soon as the last verse of  
"Silent Night" is sung we are shocked back into a world in which few  
nights are 'silent,' fewer still are 'holy,' and still fewer find your  
children 'sleeping in heavenly peace' or even 'earthly peace.'**

**We want to be faithful, like the shepherds, to go and tell what  
we've seen and heard, but in spite of the angels declaration of 'do not  
be afraid,' we remain terrified. Help us, Lord, to find the boldness to  
defy the "Herods" of our day and to find 'another way' to live and to  
be faithful to you. Help us to step from the safeness of darkness into  
the light of your presence so that we might boldly declare in words  
and actions, 'Christ the Savior is Born!'"**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**"Christ comes, we are loved!**

**We are forgiven. Amen!**

Our "Carol of Christmas Joy" is "Joy to the World" which is perhaps the most loved of all carols with the possible exception of "Silent Night." We revisit "Joy to the World" which we use on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent to remind us that not only people, but all of creation join in as 'heaven and nature sing!"

*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 the first verse of the Christmas Carol "Good Christian Friends Rejoice!"*

**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.

Our "Hymn of Response" is another one of our Christmas favorites, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." Let's bring 'glory to our new born King"

**\* RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS (sung)**

**"No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found!"**

**"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

(OT: p. 692)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be To God!**

**ANTHEM**

**"Love Came Down At Christmas"**

*"Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign.  
Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?  
Love shall be our token, Love shall be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign"*

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS**

Galatians 4:4-7

(NT: p. 189)

\*Luke 2:22-40

(NT: p. 59)

**TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH**

**INTERLUDE**

(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 #207.)

**SERMON**

**"Seven Swans A Swimming or Hogmanay"**

**"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"**

**\*CAROL OF RESPONSE NO. 31 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!"**

**1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"**

**Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.**

**Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!**

**Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.**

**Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

## \*A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**“Emmanuel is come,  
our long-expected Jesus is born this day;  
Joy to the world and come all ye faithful,  
Hark the Herald Angels from the realms singing sweetly o’er the plain,  
Gloria In Excelsis Deo!  
Away in a manger, in the little town of Bethlehem,  
Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger,  
This Infant Holy, Infant lowly, No crying he makes.  
So that we can sing forevermore:  
Noel, Noel, born is the king in Israel, and  
Rise up shepherds and follow,  
To Go and Tell it on the Mountain,  
Joy to the World, the savior reigns, so  
Good Christian Friends, REJOICE!  
Christ the Savior is Born! Christ the Savior is Born!”**

## CHRISTMAS PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Most gracious and loving God, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of the beloved Child, Jesus the Christ.  
**Grant that Christ may be born anew in our hearts. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips that we too may sing with joy the angels’ song.**  
**All: (sing) Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**  
God of mercy, by the birth of your holy Child Jesus,  
**you give a great light to dawn on our darkness.  
We confess to you the darkness of our lives,  
the times when we have refused the gift of your love  
Forgive us. Bestow upon us the gift of your peace  
that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us.**  
**All: (sing) O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us,  
we pray, cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great, glad tidings tell,  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**  
O God of love, by the mystery of the word made flesh,  
**you draw near and dwell among us.**  
Open our hearts that we may receive the gift of your Presence in the birth of Jesus.  
**Fill our lives with your love that we might care for the earth’s children with the love you have for us all.**  
**All: (sing) Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

We ‘say what we believe’ as another corporate act in the Presbyterian Church. Today we share a ‘responsive’ declaration of faith as part of our response to the Word as it is preached and heard that is especially mindful of this Christmas Season.

The “Prayers of the People” are intended to draw us closer to God, to one another, and to all of God’s children in the world. We offer God praise, we give God thanks, we lift up our brothers and sisters and finally we pray for ourselves. Today our prayer is interspersed with verses from familiar carols.

The "Morning Offering" is another way that we respond to God in thanks for God's Word, Jesus Christ, and for the multitude of God's blessings in our living. (If you give 'electronically' we thank you and encourage you to place one of the 'cards' in the plate as a symbol of that giving.)

Having been a part of the Christmas story we are now called upon to Go and tell the story of our Savior's birth. Our Charge to Go and Serve and our Hymn of Parting call us o "Go, Tell It On The Mountain, over the hills and EVERYWHERE!"

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.

O God of peace, send the love of Jesus the peace maker  
**into our hurting and troubled world. Strengthen those who work for peace, give courage to those who seek justice, and touch us all with the hope of your reign. May your Holy Spirit be with those who are ill, alone, and anxious about life. Direct our steps that we may walk in the glory revealed to us in Jesus Christ.**

**All: (sing) Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**"GIVING AND GOING"**

### **BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS OFFERTORY**

#### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERTORY RESPONSE (SUNG IN UNISON)**

**"So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.."  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!"**

#### **\*CHARGE TO GO AND SERVE**

Let's go out and proclaim it on the mountains,  
**in the valleys,**  
in the city streets,  
**beside the oceans and streams,**  
in the forests and the open fields,  
**in schools and parks and workplaces.**  
Let's go out and tell the good news:  
**Jesus Christ is born!**

#### **\*HYMN OF PARTING NO. 29 "GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN"**

**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. (Refrain)**

**The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)**

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE "Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn." (Refrain)**

**\* - Please stand if comfortable doing so**



**HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS**  
 This Week at Highlands  
 Week of December 31, – January 6, 2018



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

**Today:**

**9:00 a.m.**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School**  
**Morning Worship**

**"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**

**WELCOME ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU!** Today is the First Sunday of Christmas. It is also the 7<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas in the 12 Days of Christmas that begin on Christmas Day. The 'season' of Christmas extends to January 6 which is the day of "Epiphany." On Epiphany we celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12).

**THANKS!:** Thanks to all who helped create another season of wonder for Advent and Christmas here at HUPC. With special thanks to our Worship team: the Committee, the Choirs, Soloist, and leaders! And to our Fellowship team who helped 'make the season bright.' And to all for keeping Christmas alive and well in our hearts, minds and actions in the life of the church!

**THANKS 2!:** Your church staff would like to thank you for your love, care, and support throughout 2017. Being 'called by God' to do the work we do we need your love and support to continue serving God and HUPC in 2018. We are deeply grateful for your most generous and gracious 'gift' to at Christmas this year. Thank you and may God continue to give us a heart for ministry together.

**URGENT REQUEST:** We NEED sponsors for 30 children in Haiti at \$25.00 per month (\$300.00 for the year.) We are IN URGENT NEED OF 10 more sponsors. Please consider helping these children who are truly in a kind of need even needy children in the U.S. do not experience. We need more sponsorships to assure our ability to meet our commitment to the Grace of Mercy children. Thanks!

**YEAR END GIVING:** Today is our final opportunity to make your yearend gifts to HUPC and/or to catch up on your 2017 pledges. It has been a great giving year in the life of our church and your gifts are surely appreciated and have been used for ministry and mission in Christ's name. God now blesses us with a new year and in 2018 we will do our best to continue the excellent record of both giving and good stewardship in the use of our gifts. (If you have not made a 2018 pledge, your Resources and Finance Committee would greatly appreciate your doing so. Thanks HUPC!)

**WELLNESS WILL RETURN ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH:** Our program begins with seated yoga at 10:00 a.m. and Adult LOGOS follows around 11:00 am. Seated yoga can easily be adapted to anyone's physical interest and we are looking forward to John Smith's usual presentation making Bible study amusing and informative.

**WE'RE CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF LOGOS AT HUPC!!** We're taking a short break, but will be back on January 10<sup>th</sup>. We're having a great time at logos – learning a little and laughing a lot; come and join us on January 10<sup>th</sup>!

**FAMILY PROMISE:** Highlands **will** be hosting guests the week of February 4. Thanks so much for your support of this very important mission. We appreciate it – Sue!

### OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

**THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS** will study “Being Green in Daily Living” January 7, 2018. Come and join us for this fun and informative class.

**HIGHLAND'S BABY SHOWER:** Matthew 25:40 – just as you did it to one of the least of these.... you did it to me. Thanks to all of you who answered your call to discipleship with your generous contributions to the Highlands Baby Shower. This ministry shows care and support to many new mothers and babies of our community via your contributions of new baby clothes, blankets and more. You are a blessing. Highlands Mission Committee – for more information contact Susan Lee at 887-4661.

**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. Eleven 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, individual toothbrushes and fingernail clippers 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.

**YOU MAY TAKE YOUR POINSETTIAS** home today after our worship service. Thank you for making the sanctuary look special and festive during Advent. This Spring, you can plant your poinsettia in the yard and have beautiful blooms next year.

### PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY'S SERVICE –

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

**IN THE HOSPITAL THIS WEEK:**

**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) and Kit Fink who is in Rehab. *Others:* Fay Sweeney (# E10 A) at Cypress Village, 4600 Middleton Park Circle East , Jacksonville, FL 32224).

**AT HOME:** Richard Marsh, Don Hall, Jo and Hoagy Carmichael, Nancy Hoot, Kinzey Reeves, Patty Strader, Marilyn Reed, JoAn Ewing, Bruce and Annette Marley, Gwen Brown, Barbara Ash and Carolyn Starkweather.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Debbie Douget's dad, Don Seay, Justin Marley (Bruce and Annette's grandson), 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.

**AS A CHURCH FAMILY WE EXTEND OUR LOVE AND CARE to the family of Bruce Hays** on the occasion of his physical death . Thank you for your prayers, your support and your love for them in this difficult time.

**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:** Bruce and Anette Marley, Julie Marley and Richard and Nancy Marsh.

**OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE:** Greeters: Susan Lee. Children's Church Leader: Erika Conner+.

