



***HIGHLANDS UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

“Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper”

DECEMBER 3, 2017

1ST Of ADVENT

“ADVENT SURPRISE!”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor

Laura Sambito, DCE

Gibson Dixon, Director of Music

Anneliese Robbins, Church Admin

10900 McCormick Road

Jacksonville, FL 32225

904-641-9622

hupc_jax@bellsouth.net/hupcjax.org

Mark 13:37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

You are invited to get a Christmon from the ushers to bring forward and place on the tree.

Music for The Time of

Preparation today is a Celtic strings rendition of "People Look East" which we will also be singing during the service. This is a song of Advent which invites us to watch, through the signs of nature, for the coming of God in our midst.

Advent, a season of four Sundays, opens the church year. The observance of Advent originated in France during the 4th century. The word, Advent, consists of two Latin words: ad - venire, "To come to." Advent's message is that God in Christ is coming to the world. Advent is therefore a season of preparation for us, for nature, for the world as we celebrate Christ's coming and pray for Christ's return. "Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"

The Advent wreath, with its four candles representing Hope, Peace, Joy and Love serve to remind us of the coming into the world a light which will dispel the darkness. Each week in Advent we will welcome a different family to share the Advent wreath reading.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A Celebration of Worship
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
December 3, 2017 – 1st Sunday of Advent -- 10:00 a.m.

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

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. As we come to table let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive the gift of God's grace in the cup and loaf.)

"WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP"

WELCOME, GATHERING & SHARING NEWS OF LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Wolfson Family

INTROIT "Shine on Us, O God of Justice"

(Tune: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence")

(Dr. Dave sings through 1 time, congregation joins on the second:)

**"Shine on us, O God of justice;
Guide our path through gloom of night;
Bear within us Wisdom's glory;
Come to us, O Christ the Light."**

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH 64:1 - 9

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God. As we begin our journey to the light, we know that our lives have not always been lived in ways pleasing to God. Our shame has left us feeling distant from the One who is both Mother and Father to us all, the One in whose hands we are like clay. Yet even now, our longing for the One who tears open the heavens and comes down, kindles like a fire in our soul. Even now as we wait, we dare to hope.

We who are pregnant with anticipation feel hope rise up within us. We know that "The Time Is Near" and so we light this first candle and name it Hope.

ADVENT PRAYER

Our cry is one of longing, O God, for a restored relationship with you. As we enter the Season of Advent the longing is at its greatest. It can be hard to find you in our world, yet we believe you are here with us, renewing all that is broken. Come among us and, in flesh, abide with us, that we may witness your presence around us, and be filled with a new vision for your world. Amen.

*- Those who are comfortable, please stand

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 40 "Joy To The World"**

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

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 "People Look East" (vs. 1) Hymn No.12**

"People, look east. The time is near Of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love the guest is on the way

"SEEK FORGIVENESS AND FELLOWSHIP"

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Where brokenness and blessing collide, where pain and promise tangle together, where longing and love run into each other, we find the place to confess, and seek God's healing. For in this place of confession we are shaped by hope:

In our brokenness, we know your blessing;

in our pain, we touch your promise;

in our longing, we discover your love;

making all things new,

in our lives and this world,

making real our Advent longing of renewal. Hear us, Lord.

Where hurt and healing touch,

where protest and praise seek each other,

where suffering and salvation join hands,

we find the place to confess, and seek your healing.

For in this place of confession we are shaped by that hope:

in our hurt, we recognize your healing;

in our protest, we hear your praise;

in our suffering, we are held by your saving love,

calling us to life,

reshaping all things,

making real our Advent longing of renewal.

Hear us, Lord. Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us.

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

As we have confessed and offered our longings to God,

God has heard.

God's face shines and lightens our way in the world.

God calls us now to be awake,

to be alert to hear the promise of a love that restores our living.

In Christ coming to us, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

We add color and life to our Sanctuary with the "Processional of Poinsettias" as we sing "Joy to the World." Sanctuary decorations, the evergreens and other symbols including the Christmons remind us of the call to 'prepare the way of the Lord.' Heaven and nature come together in Advent singing God's praises for coming to us. In Advent we celebrate his becoming 'flesh and dwelling among us.'

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 worshiping community with the first verse of the Advent Hymn, "People Look East"

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 scripture for the day.

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

(sung) "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 heavenly angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!"

THE SHARING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" Manz

"Peace be to you and grace from Him, Who freed us from our sin.
Who loved us all, and shed his blood, That we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord. The Lord almighty God;
Who was and is, and is to come,
Sing holy, holy Lord.

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein. Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, Is coming soon, For Christ is coming soon.
E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come, And night shall be no more.
They need no light, no lamp, nor sun. For Christ will be their All!"

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Glo-ry be to God the Fa-ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son, glo-ry
to the Ho-ly Spir-it, glo-ry to the Three-in-One. Here we of-fer to you
glad-ly all the gifts that you im-part, as we
glo-ry in your Pre-sence, giv-ing from a grate-ful heart.

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

(NT: p. 166)

*Mark 13:24-37

(NT: p. 50)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"Advent Surprise!"

*HYMN AS WE COME TO TABLE

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus/How Long We've Waited"

(Stuttgart)

"Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.

Today's Offertory
Anthem is "E'en So,
Lord Jesus, Quickly
Come."

The 'heart' of our
worship which is "The
Proclamation of God's
Word."

(We stand for the
reading of the gospel in
a very old tradition of
the church. In response
to the Word read there
is the 'preaching of the
word for our living
today.' This includes
words for 'the young
church' and all who
gather. On Communion
Sundays we invite the
young church to remain
with us. There is a
nursery for the
youngest of us.

The remainder of the
service is "Sharing
Our Response to
God" which is our
opportunity to respond
to the Word read,
preached and heard.
Which today also
includes our gathering
at the Table for the
Sacrament of the Lord's
Supper.

Our Hymn of
Preparation For the
Table is two hymns in
one, "Come, Thou
Long Expected Jesus
and How Long We've
Waited."

**Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.**

**Strength and Comfort for your people, life and hope are yours to give.
You are Joy to all who seek you; You have come that we might live.**

**You are born to bring salvation, humbly born, though so divine!
You are King, always, forever, Son of God, of David's line.**

**Bring your Kingdom to our hearts, Lord we'll be ruled by you alone!
You are all that we have needed; by your Spirit, guide us home!"**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE (RESPONSIVE)

(The Lord's table is open to all who confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.)

With blessing in hand Christ our God to earth descends and comes to us at the table.

**We gather in his presence here at his invitation our full
homage to offer him.**

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of Advent wonder be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hopeful hearts.

We lift them to the One who fills us with all joy and peace.

Blessed be the One who comes to speak for the poor, to set free those imprisoned by despair.

**May the glory of the One who welcomes all to this
Table fill our sisters and brothers throughout creation.**

God of Wonder:

your Spirit did not rest, but transformed chaos into creation, the mountains crying 'Glory!' with one voice, the hills echoing the glad refrain. You welcomed us into your garden of peace and hope, but we flocked to sin and death, those entertainers who seduce us with their temptations and tricks. The prophets were sent to help us understand our brokenness, but we turned our backs when they sang of your hopes for us. And so, you prepared Jesus to come to us, so we might know the very nearness of your kingdom. Therefore, we would join our voices with those of every time and place, who sing of the glory of your world:

**(sung) "King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood, He will give to all
the faithful His own self for heavenly food."**

Holy are you, God of all creation, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Child, who became our servant to save us. He came, so that those who could only speak in anger to one another, might sing songs of peace at your Table. He came, to shower the living waters of grace upon our hope-parched souls. He came, to sweep death from the bottoms of our hearts, so we might dance in your life forever.

Even now, surrounded by the love and light in this place decorated in your honor and for your glory, even as we prepare with all creation to celebrate his birth, we ache for his return, we sing of that mystery we call faith:

In the Presbyterian Church all who confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome to come to the table. We will receive the Sacrament in our seats today.

."The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving" is shared from the table and acts as a 'blessing' or 'grace' as we gather. This prayer recounts God's gracious creative power, our sinfulness and Christ's coming to redeem us and make us whole.

The 'table' is not an altar for sacrifice, but a table upon which are symbols of Christ's body and blood given freely for us. We believe that Christ is the 'lamb of God' sacrificed for us once and for all on the cross.

It is in Christ that we have HOPE in the fulfillment of Christ promise and presence with us.

The Words of Institution are scriptural evidence of the sharing of the Lord's Supper in the very early church. "Instituted" means in this case to be established as the norm for future use. These words with some variation have been used throughout the history of the church to bring the present-day table into the context of Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

We are a 'communal' fellowship of believers, therefore we will receive and hold the elements and 'commune' (eat and then drink) together. As we wait, we will be offered concerns for our silent prayers.

We share our "Prayer of Dedication" as we acknowledge the presence of Christ in the meal and the spiritual nourishment offered us in the sacrament.

As we 'go into the world' we are charged and blessed with words of encouragement to take with us into our week ahead.

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

After worship we invite you to our time of Fellowship in the Dining Hall. Join us!

(sung) **"Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away."**

Come to us in these moments, God of Advent, pouring your Spirit upon the bread and the cup that we might be drenched by your grace and peace. Then, when we are filled with your justice and righteousness, send us forth into the wilderness of despair and loneliness, to bring joy and hope; to be servants to the poor; to be voices for those silenced by oppression; to become a bumper crop of reconciliation in a world strewn with the stumps from the violence of war and fear.

Then, when all time has ended, all pain and hurt is gone, you will welcome everyone to your Table, where we can sing 'Glory!' with one voice to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God in Community, Holy in One.

(sung) **"At His feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!"**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(Elders will bring the elements and it is our tradition to receive them, hold them, and commune together. When passing the bread, please say, "This is Christ's Body for you," and when passing the cup please say, "This is Christ's blood for you.")

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

"God of tender mercy, of overwhelming love, of infinite grace, we who have been fed on your Word and Sacrament this day are blessed to be strengthened for your Advent in our midst. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen."

***CHARGE AND BLESSING (responsive)**

Surprise! O that God would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at God's presence--

Now that's something we would stay awake for!

People, look East, the time is near for the crowning of the year.

**We have made this house fair as we are able;
we've trimmed the tree and shared this table;**

People, look East, and sing today: "Love the guest is on the way."

***PARTING HYMN No. 12 "PEOPLE, LOOK EAST" (vss. 2 – 4)**

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE HYMN No. 12 "PEOPLE, LOOK EAST" (vss. 5)**

"Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way."

* - Those who are comfortable will please stand

HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
This Week at Highlands
Week of December 3, – December 9, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Service
Monday:	7:00 p.m.	Committee Meetings
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group Advent Study
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Wellness (Yoga at 10 and Adult Logos at 11) Logos continues its 25 th year at Highlands Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday:	7:30 p.m.	Adult Handbell Rehearsal
Friday:	8:30 a.m.	Lifeline Screening at HUPC

"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

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER... AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU! TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT! We begin this new liturgical year surrounded by the hopeful presence of greenery and decorations that mark the first opportunity for the celebration of our Lord Jesus' Advent. We embrace hope that God's presence in our midst affords us as we have trimmed the hearth and set the table with reminders of the grace of our God who has come to us and will come once again. Thanks to the many who have helped in these preparations.

OUR ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET WILL BE SHARED TODAY AND NEXT SUNDAY! Does Aunt Joyce really need another bottle of Eau de Parfum? Does Uncle Donnie really want a tie that lights up? Does Micah's Backpack and Family Promise and other local missions need support? Are there 30 children in Haiti whose lives are sustainable with our help? Maybe it would honor Aunt Joyce or Uncle Donnie to be the recipient of a card that says, "Family Promise or Micah's Backpack or a child (or more) in Haiti is cared for in YOUR honor!" Alternative gifts means impactful giving! We NEED sponsors for 30 children in Haiti at \$25.00 per month (\$300.00 for the year.) Dr. Dave and Susan are sponsoring three. That leaves only 27. PLEASE help a child in Haiti. Alternative Gifts are set up in the Dining Hall. Thanks!

DR. DAVE INVITES YOU TO JOIN OUR ANNUAL ADVENT STUDY on Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. This should be a fun study that will mix Advent scripture lessons with an enduring story of Christmas, "A Christmas Carol" by Dickens. It is called "The Redemption of Scrooge." We'll watch clips and discuss the story as it relates to Advent. Please join us.

WELLNESS IS ON WEDNESDAY: 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 having a great time at LOGOS! All of our children and you are invited so please bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors to join us. Our theme this week is "John Says..." and you are invited to bring a Christmas card or two to write a member.

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS -The final Family Promise family of 2017 will move into their new home on December 1. This means that Highlands **will not** be hosting guests the week of December 17. As soon as the 2018 rotation is finalized we will let you know our weeks for next year. **MORE NEWS...**Family Promise's "Wheels on the Bus" campaign was a huge success! A new bus will be purchased and there are funds for transportation needs in 2018. Thanks so much for your support of this very important mission.

Eat more chicken! FUNDRAISER OPPORTUNITY. The Preschool is having its annual fundraising opportunity with the Chick-fil-A 2018 Calendar. Each calendar features 12 months of beautiful cow artwork as well as monthly offers for **FREE** Chick-fil-A food. HPGP is now selling the 2018 calendars for \$10, cash only. You can come by the Preschool office any day Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 6:00pm or catch me after worship on Sundays. Thank you for your support to the Church Preschool and the children we serve. We appreciate it – Michele!

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS will study "Atheism: A Christian Response" next Sunday, December 10th.

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. Seven 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!**

YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP. We are looking for items for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance kits. We recently sent 50 kits to help people after Hurricane Harvey's destruction. So, we are starting all over with another group. We need 16 X 26-inch hand towels, wash cloths, individual toothbrushes, tooth paste, fingernail clippers, standard size band aids, individual bars of soap, combs and gallon sized clear storage bags.

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:

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: Nancy Moewe (staying with family) Don Hall, Kit Fink, 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, 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: Louise Keen, the Kleppen family and Lidia Knouse.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: the Prewitt family.