



HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

5TH OF ORDINARY TIME

"So Close to Super"

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2: 9-10)

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
February 4, 2018 – 5th of Ordinary

“WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP”

(This column and these notes are intended to enhance our worship with some inspiration and information.)

The Music and Time of Preparation is provided for us to transition from the outside world, to settle in for worship and to enjoy an diverse selection of music. Some will be contemplative and calm, and some, like today's selection will be more lively and motivational. Remember “Put Your Hand in the Hand of the Man From Galilee?” We've got a delightful jazz version today. Enjoy!

Today is the 5th Sunday of Epiphany.. Traditionally Epiphany is the Celebration of the coming of the light. It also represents the stories of the ‘good news’ going into all the world.

Our ‘Gathering Prayer’ invites us to enter into a ‘sacred place’ with God who calls us and invites us to worship.

Our 1st Hymn, “There’s A Spirit In The Air” is descriptive of our life together as a church. Written by Brian Wren who is one of the most prolific hymnists of the century, this hymn calls us to embrace our life and calling as the church of Jesus Christ led by the Holy Spirit.

MUSIC AND TIME OF PREPARATION *Mission Yearbook – P.*

(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. May we also prepare our hearts as we come to the table.)

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME AS WE GATHER & SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

When we look at the night sky, speckled with stars,
we discover the never-ending imagination of our God.

When we pick those not chosen on life's playgrounds,
we join Christ in the ministry of healing and hope.

When we set aside the time for prayer, as well as wonder,
we meet the Spirit who is at our side in every moment.

Let us worship God.

***GATHERING PRAYER (Responsive)**

On this Super day when superlatives dance off of our tongues we come here to this place of worship looking for Jesus. We are called to tell what we know! We are seekers of truth who know the value of person is not found in who they are, but in whose they are. Let us pray:

Creating God, it has been told to us since the very beginning that you are truly the Lord of all that is and ever shall be. You are the God of both the prince and pauper, of feast and famine, of the mighty and the weak — and yet, you do not favor the strong over the powerless. Remind us of your love as we hear your Word and feast at the table of your love. Open our eyes – open our hearts – that we may be strengthened and renewed by the living Word in our midst. And hear us as we pray: "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."

***HYMN NO. 433** **“There’s A Spirit In The Air”**

**1. There's a spirit in the air, Telling Christians everywhere:
"Praise the love that Christ revealed, Living, working in our world."**

**2. Lose your shyness, find your tongue, Tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!**

* -- Those who are able and comfortable will please stand

3. When believers break the bread, when a hungry child is fed,
Praise the love that Christ revealed, Living, working in our world!
4. Still the Spirit gives us light, Seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!
5. When a stranger's not alone, Where the homeless find a home;
Praise the love that Christ revealed, Living, working in our world.
6. May the Spirit fill our praise, Guide our thoughts and change our
ways. God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!
7. There's a Spirit in the air, Calling people everywhere;
Praise the love that Christ revealed, Living, working in our world.

***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:**

**"I come with joy to meet my Lord, Forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me."**

"SEEK FORGIVENESS AND FELLOWSHIP"

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

Blessings abound around us from God who loves us. God gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Jesus comes to us healing and proclaiming God's love. But we sometimes withhold what God so freely and lavishly pours out on us. May we be forgiven. Let us pray:

When we hoard things and do not share,

forgive us, loving God.

When we think we have it made and do not need others,

forgive us, loving God.

When we laugh at others' misfortune, and say "it serves them right,"

forgive us, loving God.

When we care more about what others think of us, than in doing what is right,

forgive us, loving God.

When we would rather follow our own way than yours,

forgive us, loving God.

**Lord, Have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

In our final 'gathering act' we "**Pass the Peace**" as an act of caring, welcome, and mutual love. Please remain standing as we sing the final two verses of "I Come With Joy."

A portion of our preparation for receiving God's Word and coming to the table is our willingness to come confessing our sin. We believe that we are a community of faith and as such share in the sins of all. We are "Called to Confession" as a reminder of our individual and communal sin. Our "Confession and Pardon" gives expression to our desire to know forgiveness. The "Kyrie Eleison" is a choral bridge between our prayers and the "**Assurance of Forgiveness**" which declares our forgiveness. Finally, we give praise to our triune God for the assurance that we are, by grace, forgiven.

Having Confessed our sin and realized God's forgiveness the church gathered is prepared to hear the Word of God read and proclaimed.

"The Proclamation of God's Word" is central in the life of the worshipping community.

(We use the 'common lectionary' which is a guide that assigns readings over a three-year cycle. God's people are given the opportunity to hear and read along in God's Word from the Bible).

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.

In the Reformed Tradition the portion of worship that follows the Proclamation of the Word is how we, having heard the Word read and preached, respond to that word in the remainder of worship, as in our Offering, and also as we go into the world.

Today we also respond to the Word in the Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

No matter how many times it is said, it bears repeating: God loves us, God forgives us, God heals us, God restores us to new life.

This is Good News! God listens to our words, fills us with grace, and sends us forth to proclaim the gospel to others. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen."

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee"

"Jesus, the very thought of thee, With sweetness fills my breast.
But sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest. No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
nor can the memory find a sweeter sound than Jesus' name, the Savior of mankind.
O hope of every contrite heart! O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, How kind thou art!
How good to those who seek! But what to those who find? Ah! This nor tongue nor pen can show:
the love of Jesus, what it is, none but who love him know. Jesus, our only joy be thou,
as thou our prize wilt be, in thee be all our glory now, and through eternity."

"WORD AND SACRAMENT"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:21-31 (OT: p.)
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks Be To God!

***NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS**

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (NT: p.)
* Mark 1:29-39 (NT: p.)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

COMMUNION MEDITATION "So Close to SUPER"

***HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR THE TABLE NO. 510**

"I Come With Joy ..." (vss. 2 & 3)

**"I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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

We find Jesus in the quiet place, in the busy avenues of life, and in a calling place.

We have heard his calling in our lives.

Along the way he pauses with us here, at the table of grace, so that we might be fed.

We gather, forgiven, in the blessing of his presence in our midst.

Come and eat! Come and drink! The master calls us to be nourished so that we can call others.

We embrace the call and gather at the table.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the Lord of the Feast be with you!

And also with you!

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

Even the young will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

It is God's love that made us; God's presence that sustains us; God's power that creates and recreates; God's grace in the sending of Jesus Christ who saves us. So, we join our voices with those who call out to you in every age, singing of your hopes for us:

(sung) ” **And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near, is in such friendship better known: We see and praise Him here, We see and praise Him here.**”

We are God's people who weary ourselves in the pursuit of so many things that sap our energy, our creativity, our imagination and our strength. Jesus comes to us and joins is in the business of living and then invites us to come seeking him. Away from the crowd. Away from the noise. Away from the pain. Away from the sorrow. Away from that which the world calls "Super" to a simple place, for supper.

We seek the one whose light shines on all, as we celebrate his spirit which enhances our lives, we speak of that mystery of faith:

Pour out your Spirit upon the gifts of the bread and the cup, prepared for those who love you. May we blessed and nourished take your word into the world.

(sung) ” **Together met, together bound, We'll go our different ways, And as His people in the world, We'll live and speak His praise, We'll live and speak His praise.**”

In the Presbyterian tradition all who claim and call upon Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited and encouraged to gather with the church at the table in a communal act of acknowledging the saving grace of Christ.

“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 for the PEACE that is to come in the fulfillment of Christ promise and presence with us.

The Words of Institution area 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.

Today Communion will be brought to our pews. As you remain in your seats, Elders will bring the elements to you. It is our tradition to receive the bread and say as you pass it, "The body of Christ, given for you." And likewise as you receive and pass the cup say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." We invite you to hold the elements, bread and then the cup. We commune together as the Pastor says, "Take and Eat..." and "Take and drink..." [In the tray the inner circles are wine and the outer circles are grape juice.]

After Communion and the Prayer of Dedication we will convene a short meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing new officers to the Sessional Class of 2020.

As we filled by Word and Sacrament go into the world our parting hymn is "Christ For the World We Sing."

All are invited to come 'across the way' to our Dining Hall for a time of Fellowship following our Service of Worship.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE MEAL

(Elders will bring the elements and it is our tradition to receive them, hold them, and commune together. Cups with Wine are offered in the center rings)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

"Loving God, source of all blessing, we give you thanks for inviting us to share this meal as your family. We rejoice that we find you here amongst us, and not 'out there' somewhere. Strengthen us to be a blessing to one another and a blessing to all the world, glorifying you in all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

WE ARE THE CHURCH HERE AND THERE

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF HUPC

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Whenever disciples find Jesus they say to him,
"Everyone is searching for you."

He answers, "Let's go -- into the streets, into your neighborhoods, to your places of work and leisure, to your school, to Super Bowls with "Souper Bowls" of caring -- so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do."

Let's go with him! To the weak and to the strong, so that by all means some will hear his call. Let's go for the sake of the gospel, so that we may share the blessings.

*HYMN OF PARTING "Christ For The World We Sing"

"Christ for the world we sing, The world to Christ we bring, with loving zeal, The poor and them that mourn, the faint and overborne, Sin sick and sorrow worn, whom Christ doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing, The world to Christ we bring, with fervent prayer; The wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed, Redeemed at countless cost, from dark despair.

Christ for the world we sing, The world to Christ we bring, with one accord; With us the work to share, with us reproach to dare, With us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Christ for the world we sing, The world to Christ we bring, with joyful song; The newborn souls, whose days, reclaimed from error's ways, Inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong."

HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS

This Week at Highlands Week of February 4 -- February 11, 2018

This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Service SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Quilting and Sewing Group
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m.	Wellness (Yoga at 10 and Adult Logos at 11)
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Logos is celebrating 25 years at HUPC Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday:	5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Packing for Micah's Backpack Handbell Rehearsal

"WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, AS CHRIST WELCOMES US!"

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

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU! Today is the 5th Sunday in the Season of Epiphany and we will share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in our worship. At the end of worship today we will have a short congregational meeting for the election of four new Elders for the Sessional Class of 2020. After worship we will be collecting what we hope to be at least \$1.00 per person and then in the Dining Hall we will dedicate the wonderful offering of food items for ACS and Micah's Backpack.

TODAY IS 'FAMILY PROMISE' arrival day. Our guests will arrive in the early afternoon and be with us until next Sunday, Feb. 11. Volunteers are still needed in many areas. Please make sure that all volunteer spots are filled! May God bless our guest and HUPC as we host families this week.

WELLNESS IN ON WEDNESDAYS: 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 – learning a little and laughing a lot; children of all ages are welcome to come and join us! The theme for this week is "Souper Bowl Wednesday", and you are invited to bring soup to donate to ACS.

DR. DAVE AND LAURA will be away in different directions this week. Laura will be in Charlotte for continuing education and Dr. Dave is making a trip to NC. Prayers for both as they go.

THANKS! Once again, the people of HUPC have responded to Christ's call. We have reached and also surpassed our goal of sponsoring 30 children in Haiti this year. It's a good thing because there are some new children who have recently arrived. Once again, thanks, for providing food, clothing, medical care, shelter, schooling and a better life for these children. On behalf of Grace of Mercy Outreach Ministries, Inc. and the children in Haiti – THANKS AND GOD BLESS HUPC!

HEY HIGHLANDS?! HOW WAS THAT CUP OF COFFEE? How about that brownie? Oh, you had some fruit and a cookie too? Your Fellowship Committee and friends loves providing but could use some help. How about a contribution that's financial or from your oven? Want to help, speak to your Sunday morning servers. And most of all, say, **"THANKS!!"**

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS will study "Separation of Church and State" next Sunday, February 4th. Please join us for this interesting and informative class.

MICAH'S BACKPACK will be packing weekend food for 86 children on Thursday's at 5:30 PM in Harris Hall. Everyone is welcome...We have volunteers from many churches and organizations and all ages...from 4 years old to Great Grandparents! The Micah's "Food of the Month/Fill a Tummy Club" selection for January is Chef Boy-R-Dee Pasta in the 15-ounces can or 7.5-ounces microwaveable bowl. Thanks for your help and support.

HIGHLAND'S BABY SHOWER: In December, your donations of 20 blankets and 42 outfits became much appreciated gifts for 20 newborns here in Jacksonville. Your love and care for these precious babies is a blessing to their families and friends. Many thanks from your Highlands Mission Committee – for more information contact Susan Lee at 887-4661

THERE ARE STILL SOME OPEN DATES on the flower calendar for 2018. Please take a moment to see if you would like to provide flowers for the following dates: April 29th, May 27th, July 22nd, September 30th or October 21st. Thanks!

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. Eight 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:

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: Kit Fink, 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: 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: Nancy Moewe, the Ryan Moewe family and Barbara Moon.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Paul and Sarah Wubben. Children's Church Leader: Jessica Sorrells.