



4th Sunday
J.O.Y. SUNDAY
Mid-Lent

Keeping
a Holy Lent

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

MARCH 11, 2018

4th Sunday of Lent – J.O.Y. & Mid-Lent

“Break Time”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor

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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)

Today is the 4th Sunday in the season of Lent. Lent is 40 days, not counting Sundays, beginning with Ash Wednesday and continues through Saturday night of Holy Week. The 4th Sunday in Lent is traditionally known as 'mid-Lent' or Laetare Sunday. "Laetare" is the Latin word for "Rejoice" which was the first word from the phrase "Rejoice, O Jerusalem" which began the service for the day. This half-way point in Lent offered the faithful a break from the rigors of Lent with a promise of Easter to come. **It is celebrated with the "rose" color. "Rose" was a color that blended the deep purple of Lent with the promised white of Easter.**

Speaking of Holy Week, have you marked your calendars for the events of March 25 – April 1?

We are led in worship today by J.O.Y. and welcome our LOGOS choir to worship

Music as we prepare for worship is a piano arrangement of the Quaker melody "Simple Gifts."

Our Service begins with a **WELCOME** to all who are gathered to worship together.

We share news of our life together as a church in our service because what we do, outside of worship, is a very vital portion of our 'service to God.'

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

March 11, 2018 – 4th Sunday of Lent (J.O.Y. & Mid-Lent)

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

MUSIC AND TIME OF PREPARATION

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

WELCOME AS WE GATHER & SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

"WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP"

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

"Rejoice, O Jerusalem!"

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ you are welcome in this place of worship.

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

God loved the world so much...

How much?

So much that God offers healing when we are in the deepest wilderness.

How much?

So much that God loves us forever, no matter what.

How much?

So much that we never have to earn God's love but receive it just because God is God.

How much?

So much that God sent Jesus into the world, so that everyone might be saved.

Come, Let Us Worship God Who Loves Us!

*OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

Amazing God of infinite love and giver of abundant hope;

May this be a place to celebrate your presence.

May we tell stories

**of you finding us when we are at our lowest,
of you reaching us when we feel excluded,
of you holding us when everyone else has let go,
of you bringing us in when we feel apart,
of you touching us when we feel broken,
of you calling us when we feel unworthy.**

May this be a place to celebrate your presence,

and show the world your steadfast love for all.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us: **"Our Father...**

* - If you are comfortable, please stand

***HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 487 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"**

***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 flu season appropriate sign of peace.)

***CHORAL RESPONSE: (Hymn. No. 461, vs. 1)**

**"God is here! As we Your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts."**

"SEEK FORGIVENESS AND PARDON"

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsive)**

We think we know about love. We tell stories and sing songs, but we have only an inkling of what love is really about. How much does God love us? How much do we love God in return? Let us pray:

Give thanks to God for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures for all time.

When we turn to other loyalties, turn our hearts to you, O God, and back towards your measure of balance. Though we live in brokenness,

God's steadfast love endures for all time.

When we turn to material gain for satisfaction, turn our eyes to you, O God, and back towards your provision for sharing. Though we live in brokenness,

God's steadfast love endures for all time.

When we silence the voices for justice, turn our ears to you, O God, and back towards your word of truth. Though we live in brokenness,

God's steadfast love endures for all time.

When we neglect kindness and love, turn our hands to you, O God, and back towards your way of service. Though we live in brokenness,

God's steadfast love endures for all time. Amen.

**"Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us,
Christ Have Mercy Upon Us,
Lord Have Mercy Upon us."**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear this good news from the letter to the Ephesians: "It is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it." So, know that God loves you and has saved you.

Thanks be to God.

***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 opening hymn a joyous hymn for J.O.Y. and Mid-Lent, "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

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 1st verse of "God Is Here!"

Our 'confession' in the Presbyterian Church is a 'corporate' or 'communal' statement of our general and specific offenses against God and one another.

Today we are led in a 'responsive' Prayer of Confession.

The "Kyrie Eleison" is a three-phrase prayer seeking the mercy (eleison) of the "Kyrie," which is the Latin word for "Lord." The prayer is simultaneously a petition and a prayer of thanksgiving; an acknowledgment of what God has done, what God is doing, and what God will continue to do.

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. 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.

Special music for the day is provided by our choirs. The LOGOS choir will share "Lord, How Wondrous Is Your Song." They will be joined by the J.O.Y. Choir for "The Glory of These Forty Days"

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Numbers 21:4-9 and Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (responsive)

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food."

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So, Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his Word and healed them and delivered them from destruction.

So, Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be To God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Ephesians 2:1-10

(NT: p. 192)

*John 3:14-21

(NT: p.94)

SPECIAL MUSIC "Lord, How Wondrous Is Your Song" Patterson

"Lord, how wondrous is your song; it fills the heavens with everlasting joy; the earth resounds with hymns of praise. Your word rings forth through the ages, a story of grace from above; a song of hope, a song of peace, a song of love. In the quiet strains of a child's prayer, Lord, we hear your song. In the gentle voice of a friend who cares, your melody lives on.

In the servant's heart, there's a glad refrain and a living faith that rings.

Where your Spirit dwells, there is music Lord, a song for all to sing."

LOGOS Choir

"The Glory of These Forty Days"

LOGOS and J.O.Y. Choirs

(Text: Hymn No. 87)

**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 #210.)

SERMON "Break Time"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 85 "What Wondrous Love is This?"**

***STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The kingdom of love is coming because:

**somewhere someone is kind when others are unkind,
somewhere someone shares with another in need,
somewhere someone refuses to hate, while others hate,
somewhere someone is patient - and waits in love,
somewhere someone returns good for evil,
somewhere someone serves another, in love,
somewhere someone is calm in a storm,
somewhere someone is loving everybody.**

Is that someone you?

For God

the greatest giver

So loved

the greatest reason

The world

the greatest number

That he gave

the greatest gift

His only son

the greatest cost

That whoever

the greatest invitation

Believes in him

the greatest condition

Should not perish

the greatest guarantee

But have everlasting

the greatest time

Life

the greatest possession. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH IN PRAYER AND GIVING

AS WE COME TO PRAYER

We corporately express our faith today with a responsive statement of faith that reminds us of the greatness of God's love and our responsibility in sharing that Love.

Please be aware of the special prayer concerns of the congregation which are on the back of your bulletins.

Our response to the preaching of the Word includes our joyful offering of ourselves to God including our financial resources with which the church is able to 'practice what we have preached.'

Our Hymn of Parting is "Of the Father's Love Begotten."

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

We hope this Service of Worship has given you an opportunity to express your thanks and praise to God, to hear God's Word, to offer something of yourself, and to be challenged to go into the world refreshed and renewed as our 'service' continues in the world.

Please join us in the Dining Hall for a time of Fellowship.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Longer days mean that Spring time is near, Lord.

The sun brings more light and warmth to the world,
and we are reminded of your everlasting love.

May the warmth of your mercy and love pour over us.

Even as we have gathered this day to celebrate the good news that you have given to the world, remind us that it is our purpose to offer that good news to others, not only in words but in deeds of love and mercy, peace and justice.

We offer names of people and situations which are heavy on our hearts for your healing mercies. (silent prayers)

Remind us also, loving Lord, that we stand in need of that same self healing love.

May we open ourselves to your call to follow you.

We pray for ministries of peace and justice and for those engaged in missions.

Remind us that we are also on a journey of peace and justice whenever we offer comfort and aid to others.

Be with us as we continue our Lenten journey, bearing our cross, faithfully following.

Give us hearts of great joy and courage to serve you all our days.

Lord, these are the prayers of your people. Amen.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**"Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Go now - the healing has begun.

God has seen and heard our fears.

Go now – God has reached out with an ancient promise,
and the future has begun to break through.

Go now – and trust that in this moment,
Jesus Christ, God's beloved child, is folding our future
into the promise of renewal, of re-creation, of resurrection.

We go, boldly through these final days of Lent! Amen.

***HYMN NO. 309** "Of The Father's Love Begotten" (vss. 1 & 2)

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE**

**"Christ, to Thee with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory, evermore and
evermore! Amen."**

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HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
This Week at Highlands
Week of March 11 – March 17, 2018



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Sunday School Worship Service A Fellowship Memorial for Nancy Hoot
Monday:	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Crafty Ladies Crafty Ladies – Evening Group
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group Lenten Soup and Study
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Wellness (Yoga at 10 and Adult Logos at 11) 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

Today is the 4th Sunday in the season of Lent. Lent is 40 days, not counting Sundays, beginning with Ash Wednesday and continues through Saturday night of Holy Week. The 4th Sunday in Lent is traditionally known as 'mid-Lent' or Laetare Sunday. "Laetare" is the Latin word for "Rejoice" which was the first word from the phrase "Rejoice, O Jerusalem" which began the service for the day. This half-way point in Lent offered the faithful a break from the rigors of Lent with a promise of Easter to come. It is celebrated with the "rose" color. "Rose" was a color that blended the deep purple of Lent with the promised white of Easter. Our final **Lenten "Soup and Study" is on Tuesday** March 13. Soup will be ready at 6:30 and the study will begin at 7 p.m. Join us for the Lenten discipline of study, the fellowship and the soup!

THIS AFTERNOON AT 1 p.m. we will share a "Memorial Fellowship" in loving memory of Nancy Hoot, whose physical death was this past Thursday. Nancy's husband, Dan Wesler, her children, Megan and Blake, and her mother, Jean Cosby invite you to join them for one of the activities Nancy enjoyed most in the life of the church – a time of fellowship.

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 "Follow the Leader", and you are invited to bring items to stuff inside an Easter Egg.

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS studies many different topics and looks forward to lively conversation. They will be studying "Reformed Spirituality" for the next few weeks. We have two other Adult Sunday School classes that are oriented more towards Bible study. We have Sunday School for ALL ages at HUPC. Please join us for this interesting and informative classes.

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

HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL WILL BE ENROLLING for the Fall 2018 school year. Open Enrollment is now in progress for ages 15 months to 4 years old. We are excited to be an outreach of all the great Mission work at Highlands. Providing for a community of children on the campus of Highlands, you truly know God's blessings. Tell your friends and family to stop by for a tour and meet the staff anytime Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 6:00pm

FAMILY PROMISE: Update on one of our most recent families! Mozilla and Darren (grandparents to 8 of the sweetest children you will ever meet) moved into one of Family Promise's interim houses on Thursday. If you would like to make a financial donation to assist them, they could definitely use the help. Please write 'for Family Promise' on your check and we will see that it gets to them.

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, 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: Don Hall is at rehab.

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, Jo and Hoagy Carmichael, Kinzey Reeves, Patty Strader, Marilyn Reed, JoAn Ewing, Bruce and Annette Marley, Gwen Brown, Barbara Ash and Carolyn Starkweather.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: 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: Jodi and Robert Raymond, Ken and Marilyn Reed and Kinzey Reeves.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Patt Martin-McNorton. Children's Church Leader: Erika Conner.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Joseph and Florence Toth by Helen Middaugh.