



HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

MARCH 25, 2018

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

“It Doesn’t Get Any Better Than This...
Until It Does!”

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
hupcjax.org/hupc_jax@bellsouth.net

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Today is "Palm Sunday," the beginning of Holy Week on which we celebrate the 'triumphant entry' of Jesus into Jerusalem. This day is a foreshadowing day of the day Jesus will return in his glory and 'at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Our Service begins in the courtyard with Palm Branches at the ready we will make our way into the sanctuary with the singing of two joyful hymns for the day: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!" and "All Glory, Laud and Honor."
"All Glory, Laud and Honor" is attributed to Bishop Theodolph of France while serving a prison sentence imposed by King Louis I, the son of Charlemagne. The charges, false as nearly as we can determine, were that Theodolph had plotted against the king. There is a legend that surrounds this hymn. According to the legend, King Louis visited Angers, where Theodolph was imprisoned, and heard Theodolph singing this hymn in his cell as a part of his daily worship. Moved by the beauty of the hymn, the king pardoned Theodolph and had him released from prison. We will enter and proceed down the center aisle. Feel free to lay down your branches along the way.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

March 25, 2018 – Palm Sunday
"WE BEGIN IN THE COURTYARD"

***THE GATHERING PARADE** (Outside the Sanctuary)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Let all creation shout!

Let us wave the palm branches high.

Jesus is coming!

He comes in humility to claim God's own.

May he claim us this day and heal our hearts!

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Hosanna to the blessed Son of God. AMEN.

Lift up your palms and wave them high,

**Let the King of glory come in 'triumphant'
in our hearts today!**

The parade today is just the beginning of our hope.

We wave our branches and shout "Hosanna!"

But there will come a time of silence and of mourning.

Help us to be ready for that time, O Lord.

Blessed is Jesus, who came into Jerusalem on that day.

**Blessed is Jesus who comes into our hearts
always.**

We gather together in this place.

Joyful as our palm branches lead us through

Holy Week to Easter! (wave branches in the air)

Lift up your palms and wave them high,

Let the King of glory come in 'triumphant' in our hearts today!

Let us wave our branches and sing in loud voices praising the one who enters this day as our Lord and King as we follow children and choir singing:

***PROCESSIONAL HYMNS OF PRAISE NO. 89 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!"**

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna, The little children sang;

**Through pillared court and temple The joyful anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them, Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises, The simplest and the best.**

**2. From Olivet they followed 'Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, And chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven Rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children Should on His bidding wait.**

**3. "Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer, The Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise Him, With heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence Eternally rejoice.**

HYMN NO. 88 "ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR"
**Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and Blessed One. (Refrain)**

**The people of the Hebrews with psalms before thee went;
our prayer and praise and anthems before thee we present. (Refrain)**

**To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. (Refrain)**

***PRAISING THE PRINCE OF PEACE**

The Prince of Peace comes humbly to us today!

HOSANNA! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES!

Children say, "Hosanna!"

HOSANNA!

Louder!

HOSANNA!

Everyone now! Hosanna!

HOSANNA!

Now let's greet one another as children with unrestrained love!

CHORAL RESPONSE "Tell Me The Stories of Jesus"
LOGOS Choir

GREETINGS AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

SEEK FORGIVENESS AND FELLOWSHIP

CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)

We praise our Lord Jesus Christ with heart and life and voice, not only with outward signs such as palm branches or the occasional "Hosanna," but with our lives. It seems such a distance from this present day when Jesus entered Jerusalem with the shouts of the crowd ringing in our ears.

Welcomed as a king, yet riding on a lowly donkey. Greeted with cheers and acclamations, which were so soon to turn to jeers and condemnation. From this side of the resurrection, we confidently believe that we could never have been part of the jeering crowd - but would we, if we had been there? Let us pray:



Today as we "Pass the Peace" we will be "Praising the Prince of Peace" with shouts of "Hosanna!" and embracing the day.

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.'

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 share a Prayer of Confession which for Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

God's forgiveness which we realize in the 'Assurance of Pardon' allows us the joy of being cleansed of sin and free to hear, believe and act on God's Word.

"The Proclamation of God's Word" is central in the life of the worshiping 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 Old Testament Lesson from Psalm 118 is a Psalm which contains familiar words we know as a 'call to worship.' It also reflects Jesus words concerning himself and the temple.

God of our salvation...

we grasp our coveted, once-a-year, palm branches...

we sing and shout, "Hosanna!"...

we proclaim in those moments that we want you to save us...

but we're not always sure you understand what we mean.

You have come to vanquish the status quo...

but we have been comfortable in that life.

You have come to turn the world upside down...

but we're afraid you will shake things up

more than we intended.

You have come to draw us closer to your vision for creation...

but, at times, we think you may be just a little too impassioned.

We like the palm branches.

We even like the hymns.

But we just want to go home after the parade.

Forgive our lack of vision...

forgive our lukewarm passion...

and inspire us to step off the curb and to start marching at your side... Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news: "Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross." Through his obedience we are therefore freed from whatever sin enslaves us.

Thanks be to God!

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29 (Responsive)

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
The Word of Lord Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM **“Ride On, Ride On In Majesty”**
(Text is Hymn No. 91)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS
John 12:12-19 (NT: p. 106)

A TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

SERMON **“It Doesn’t Get Any Better Than This...Until It Does!”**

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** “A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd” (vss. 1-3)
(St. Flavian, No. 81)

“A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd had stripped the green trees bare, And hailing Christ as king aloud, waved branches in the air.

**They laid their garments on the road and spread his path with palms;
And vows of lasting love bestowed with royal hymns and psalms.**

**When day dimmed down to deepening dark, the crowd began to fade;
Till only trampled leaves and bark were left from the parade.**

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)**

**“We believe in the God who is the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud.
We trust in our Holy Parent who judges and shows mercy.
We hope in our Creator who is faithful to all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in the Jesus who rode in triumph into Jerusalem.
We trust in the Messiah who was crucified, died, and was buried.
We hope in the living Christ who walked out of the tomb.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of faith and formation.
We trust in the Breath of Life who stirs, sustains, and sanctifies.
We hope in our Advocate who brings to us, and through, us the gift of
God’s peace. Amen.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY **“When Jesus Wept”** Billings/arr. Schultz

*“When Jesus wept, the falling tear In mercy flowed beyond all bound.
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear Seized all the guilty world around.
“Take up your cross,” the Savior said, “If you would my disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart, And humbly follow after me.”
Take up your cross, then, in his strength, And calmly sin's wild deluge brave;
’Twill guide you to a better home, It points to glory o'er the grave”*

Our “Hymn of Response,” “A CHEERING, CHANTING, DIZZY CROWD” by Tom Troeger

Today’s Affirmation of Faith is from *liturgylink* Rev. Julia Seymour, Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage, AK.

Today’s Offertory “When Jesus Wept” recalls the tears Jesus sheds when viewing the city of Jerusalem. This anthem helps us to make the transition between the giddy joy of Palm Sunday and the somber occurrences about to come in the story of Jesus’ passion.

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.

Please peruse the prayer concerns and requests on the back of our bulletin for new and continuing prayer needs and concerns.

Our "Charge and Blessing" today is a challenge for us to be faithful to the rest of our Lenten journey and to embrace the promise that Easter brings. "**Hosanna**" (which means 'God save us'), **Blessed is He, Jesus comes to set us free!** Is our rallying cry and 'charge' for the week to come.

Our Hymn of Parting is the final two verses of "**A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd**" which reminds us of what is yet to come in Holy Week.

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

* - If comfortable, please stand

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of exuberant and flowing grace we give you thanks for calling us, gifting us, and coming to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

We pray to you, O God,

Hosanna, save us, Lord.

Compassionate God, we lift our palms of praise with those who first sang out, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" Like them, each hand that holds a palm has a heart that holds a story. We share those stories with you.

We pray to you, O God,

Hosanna, save us, Lord.

Prince of Peace, you came in humble obedience and walked the path of enduring love even in the face of violent rejection. We confess that it is difficult to follow your path of peace amidst the violence and pain of our world. We long for your peace, O God.

We pray to you, O God,

Hosanna, save us, Lord.

Saving God, we trust in your goodness and believe your desire is for all of creation to be held in your redeeming love. Send us out in your name to bring comfort to those who mourn, healing love to those who are sick, and justice to those who are oppressed. We wait now for your Spirit. We pray to you, O God,

Hosanna, save us, Lord. Amen.

***THE CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

**We waved palm branches in anticipation,
we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.**

Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes:
modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

Hosanna! Hosanna! Was our cry!

The question now dare we follow and watch him die?

We go now into suffering and death.

We will go in the grace of God.

Hosanna, Blessed is He,

Jesus comes to set us free!

***HYMN OF RESPONSE "A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd" (vss. 4 -5)**

**"Lest we be fooled because our hearts have surged
with passing praise, remind us, God,
as this week starts where Christ had fixed his gaze."**

**Instead of palms a winding sheet will have to be unrolled,
a carpet much more fit to greet the king a cross will hold."**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

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



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
This Week at Highlands
Week of March 25 – April 1st, 2018



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
		Easter Egg Hunt after Fellowship
Monday:	9:00 a.m.	Crafty Ladies
	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group
	11:30 a.m.	HPGP Easter Parade
Wednesday:	7:15 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday:	6:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service with Supper
Friday:	8:00 p.m.	Good Friday "Tenebrae" Service
Easter Sunday	7:00 a.m.	Early Easter Service w/Breakfast Following
	10:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Celebration of 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 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 PALM SUNDAY. Our worship begins in the courtyard as Holy Week begins. With J.O.Y. leading worship we share a great tradition of the church in the parade of palms into the sanctuary. Palm Sunday sets the stage for the most important week in the church year. **Maundy Thursday Supper Service is at 6:30 p.m.** which shares the story of The Last Supper, the garden of Gethsemane and Jesus' betrayal and arrest. The story continues on **Good Friday at 8 p.m. with the "Tenebrae"** which begins in the courtyard where we hear Peter's denial of Jesus and then enter the sanctuary to hear the story of the Passion including our own responsibility as we drive our Lenten nails into the cross. The service ends in darkness with the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the cross. The sanctuary, now a symbol of Jesus grave, is empty until our **early Easter Service at 7 a.m.** We will gather in the courtyard to greet the new day and the good news of resurrection and then come into the sanctuary to dispel the darkness and restore the light. Our Fellowship committee invites us to **break-the-fast of sorrow with a breakfast following the service.** Our Holy Week services culminate in our **Easter Sunday Celebration at 10 a.m.** Special music and the joy of Easter cannot be contained as we celebrate the news that changes the world. A special fellowship celebration follows the service. Please join us for another wonderful Holy Week experience at Highlands.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS! CARRY A NAIL: Jesus invites us to take up our crosses and follow him. Please carry your crosses and nails with you in Holy Week. We will use them in our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

HUNT EASTER EGGS WITH US TODAY AFTER FELLOWSHIP!

SPEAKING OF EASTER – If you would like to bring "finger-food" to share after our worship service at 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday, your fellowship committee would be most grateful.

WE INVITE YOU TO BRING FRESH FLOWERS TO DECORATE the Eater Cross on Easter at the 10 a.m. Service.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO PURCHASE AN EASTER LILY FOR EASTER SUNDAY. Sign up in the Dining Hall. You can put your money (\$8.00 per lily) in the envelope on the sign-up board or place it in the offering plate being sure to note that they are for the Easter Lilies. Thanks!

WELLNESS/LOGOS/ IS TAKING OFF FOR TWO MORE WEEKS. Please join us again on April 11th for more mid-week fun as we start to wind down our LOGOS year.

SESSION MEETS TOMORROW EVENING. All incoming, remaining and outgoing Session members are invited to supper prior to the Session meeting on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. Our newly elected Elders who will make up the Sessional Class of 2020 are Rebecca Briones, John Morrison, Jennifer Terrell and Julia Wolfson. We express our appreciation to our "outgoing Elders:" Cat Briones, Audrey Regnier, Helen Middaugh, Christina Trombley, Diane Beirne.

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS studies many different topics and looks forward to lively conversation. They will be studying "Did Jesus Always Preach Non-Violence" for the next four 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.

HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS ANNUAL EASTER PARADE will be on Tuesday, March 27th at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to come and see the cutest kids in Jacksonville "parade" around the courtyard!

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

MICAH'S BACKPACK will NOT pack on March 29 because of Holy Week. When we return to packing, we will provide weekend food for 100+ children, in 4...maybe 5 schools. Since August, Micah's Volunteers lifted, carried, dragged, packed and delivered 2,032 bags of food and those bags weighed in at 15,240 POUNDS! HUPC is making a big difference in our community.

It's Sparkhouse Book Fair time again! Please take a moment or two to browse the table set up in the Dining Hall. There are many wonderful resources for the children and tweens in your life. If you'd like to order, simply fill out the order form on the table and leave it with a check written to the church for Laura. A portion of the sales are given directly back to our Christian Nurture program to grow our own library. If you'd like to purchase books for use at the church, that is greatly appreciated too.

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

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. Twelve 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/REHAB THIS WEEK: Don Hall (227) and Joy Patters0n (201) are at University Crossings (next to Brooks)

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: Ann Riggs, the Ritter family, the Robbins family.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Lee and Lori Perdev.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by Barbara Moon in memory of John and the Calder family.