

**SING TO
THE LORD
A NEW
SONG**
PSALM 98

**HIGHLANDS UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

MAY 6, 2018

**6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER –
SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

“Same Song...Maybe A New Tune”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. ..
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous
song and sing praises. (Psalm 98:1,4)

**WELCOME TO
COMMUNION SUNDAY!**

God's people will be gathered today at the table of peace and grace.

Today is the 6th Sunday in the Season of Easter. We are well on our way in the "Great Fifty Days." Our worship continues a post-Easter experience of life and faith in the new church.

The Time of Preparation

is provided for us to settle ourselves and offer a silent prayer before worship begins. Today with Psalm 98 in mind which calls us to 'sing a new song' we listen to the Carpenter's "Sing A Song."

Our Service begins with a **WELCOME** to all who are gathered to worship together. We embrace the opportunity to share the good news of what we are doing outside of the sanctuary which is also our 'worship' and our 'service' to God. Our "**Call to Worship**" leads into our first corporate prayer as the gathered body of Christ. The 'Gathering Prayer' reflects the themes of the day's worship.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

May 6, 2018 – 6th of Easter – Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

"Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper"

MUSIC AND TIME OF PREPARATION

(Enter reverently. Before the service, speak to God. During the service, let God speak to you. After the service, speak to one another. We pray, seeking God's presence among us as we share the Lord's Supper.)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,

our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.

We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice,
we bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.

We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.
young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched lift the new, new songs of faith. We are called to worship.

*GATHERING PRAYER

You raise your hand and gently begin the concerto of creation: birds carry the melody while stars keep the beat; mountains dance in merriment and little children clap their hands with joy.

Love's Composer, our new songs are lifted to you.

The old, old song is made new in our hearts:

Christ is Risen! Sing Alleluia! You invite us to sing to a world deafened by despair and haunted by the tunes of fear.

Lord of the melody, our new songs are lifted to you.

Believing we cannot carry a tune, we hesitate to join in the chorus of praise sung by all creation. So, you softly and gently hum the melody in our hearts until they burst with you, raising a rousing chorus of praise.

Music-making Spirit, our new songs are lifted to you, who teaches us to 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."

*If comfortable, please stand

***GATHERING HYMN NO. 455 “All Creatures of Our God and King”**

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

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

And with you.

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

***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 FELLOWSHIP"

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

Beautiful music, every note perfect, joining together in graceful harmony - this is what we imagine our lives to be. Yet our love is flat, our anger often sharp. Let us confess how we struggle to keep the measured beat of God's life-giving melody in our lives, even as we pray together saying,

Joy-giving God, we know who we are: people who hear the harmony of your grace and love in our souls but sing off-key so often. We want to learn new songs, but those haunting tunes of our past mistakes run through our heads. We long to make a joyful noise to you, but the hurts inflicted on us, and the pain we have caused others, silence our voices.

Sing to us, Conductor of Grace: sing of your forgiveness, your hope, your love for us. Strike a chord of humility in our hearts so our eyes could see all you have done for us; and in seeing, we might believe how much you love us; and in believing, we would echo that new song of hope and life composed through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

**Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us!
Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us!
Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us!**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Listen to the melody of the good news:

Christ is risen, bringing joy into the world. The One who was dead now lives and wraps us in the delight of life forever with our God.

Now, our dirges have turned to joy; our requiem has been rearranged as a hymn of hope; our laments are lost in a cantata of praise. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS HYMN NO. 458 (vs. 1)**

**“Earth and all stars, Loud rushing planets Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain, Loud blowing snowstorm,
Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things.
We will sing praises with a new song”**

Our “Gathering Hymn” is “All Creatures Of Our God And King” with words by Frances of Assisi which echo the spirit of the 98th Psalm.

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 “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.

We sing a “new” Gloria Today using a well known song, “Earth and All Stars.” Later in the service we will use another verse for today’s Doxology.

Our Offertory today reflects the words found in our "John" based scriptures today about the commandment of Jesus to love one another. The question for us today is can we sing a new song of love. Our anthem is "I Give to You A New Commandment." The translation of the Latin words sung by the men is in the brackets.

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

(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 God's Word from the Bible).

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.

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "I Give to You A New Commandment"

*I give to you a new commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you.
Ubi caritas est vera, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exsultemus et in ipso
jucundemur. Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
[Where charity is true, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be glad
in him. Let us fear and love the living God. And from a sincere heart let us love one another.]Amen.*

*RESPONSE FROM HYMN NO. 458 AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION (vs. 4)

**"Knowledge and truth, Loud sounding wisdom,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son, Loud praying members,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We will sing praises with a new song!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical version)

**"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day
he rose again; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the
Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the
Holy Spirit, the holy catholic (universal) church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life
everlasting. Amen."**

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 98

*NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

1 JOHN 5: 1-6 (NT: p. 241)

***JOHN 15: 9-17** (NT: p. 109)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

(All children, ages 3 through 1st grades, 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.)

COMMUNION MEDITATION "Same Song...Maybe A New Tune"

"THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER"

*HYMN AS WE COME TO TABLE NO. 264

"When In Our Music God Is Glorified" (vss. 1 – 2)

**"When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for
pride, it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!**

**How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of
sound, as worship moved us to a more profound: Alleluia!**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of creation choruses be with you!

And also with you!

God sings of hope and grace to your hearts, people of God!

We open them to be filled with the wonder of love.

God welcomes your songs of praise and joy.

We lift our hearts and voices in thanksgiving to the composer of all!

Maestro of the Universe:

the song began low and quiet, barely disturbing chaos, but then it slowly grew in tempo as you beat out the rhythm of creation, light, sharp and clear, like the blast of a trumpet; the hills and valleys bursting forth like the beat of the tympani; water running clear and free like arpeggios on a piano. You composed all this, and more, for those created in your image, and filled with the music of your heart. We thought your tunes burdensome, and turned our ears to the discords of sin, temptation, and death. You wrote new tunes, to the same words of hope and promise, sending the prophets to play them in the streets where we wandered, but we continued to dance to the music only we could hear. So, you sent Jesus to us, loving us enough to send us the very One who could bring us home.

So, with those who have sung the song of grace and hope in every time and place, and with all who are just learning the words, we lift our voices in praise to you:

(sung) **So has the church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!**

Holiness is the melody of who you are, Gentle God, and blessed is the Song of your heart, Jesus Christ. As he loved you, so he loved us: keeping your word close in his heart, he came singing of your gracious love; abiding in your promises of hope, he came bringing the harmony of peace for our fragmented lives; coming to judge the world with righteousness, he laid down his life for his friends, trusting and believing that the funeral dirges they sang on that sad Friday, would be rearranged as Easter cantatas on that first morning of the new creation. As we remember his life, death and resurrection, as we seek to follow his command to love, we sing of that mystery we call faith:

(sung) **And did not Jesus sing a Psalm that night,
when utmost evil strove against the Light?**

Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Alleluia!

Pour out your joyful Spirit upon the gifts of the bread and the cup and on your children gathered at your feast. We would open our hearts to receive the bread of life, not with silenced gratitude, but with glad songs of joy. We would empty ourselves to be filled with the cup's compassion, not with speechless thanks but with shouts of praise.

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!

Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!

And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia! Amen.

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.

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.

We invite all who believe in and claim the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior to come to the Table with us.

"The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving" is shared from the table and acts as a 'blessing' as we gather. Remembering the theme of Psalm 98 we interpose verses of "When In Our Music God Is Glorified."

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. Please note the worship notes in the bulletin.

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.)

As we, filled by Word and Sacrament, go into the world our parting hymn a hymn version of Psalm 98, "To God Compose A Song of Joy,"

Please Join Us In The Dining Hall For Fellowship.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE MEAL

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

"As we have learned the new song of sacrifice on behalf of others, we would go to serve the brokenhearted; as we are given the instruments of praise, we would turn them into the means to transform the lives of the hungry, the homeless, the forgotten, the outcast.

And when our music has ended, and there is only the plainsong of life forever in the tender embrace of your peace, we will gather at the Table once again, hands and hearts, brothers and sisters, joining in the never-ending praise to you, Amen."

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

As God has loved us,

so we will go to love those despised by the world.

As Jesus has forgiven us,

**we will go to forgive everyone who has hurt us
and to bring healing into their brokenness.**

As the Spirit calls us 'friends,'

**so we will go to befriend the outcasts,
the lonely, and the lost of our society.**

*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION "To God Compose A Song of Joy"

(Tune: Kingsfold)

**"To God compose a song of joy; To God make melody,
Whose arm of strength does wondrous things, Whose hand brings
victory! Before the nations God reveals A just and righteous will,
Remembering in faithful love the house of Israel.**

**In every corner of the earth, God comes to save and free;
Break forth with shouts of holy joy; All lands, make melody.
With trumpet, with the sound of horns, With strings, yes, with the lyre,
With voices praise the sovereign God, A lusty, joyous choir.**

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

**"Let seas in all their fullness roar, And people of all lands,
Let mountains join and shout for joy, Let rivers clap their hands.
The God of justice comes to save; Let earth make melody!
For God will judge with righteousness And rule with equity."**

* _ If comfortable, please stand

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of May 6th - May 12th, 2018



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
Monday:	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m.	Crafty Ladies (monthly meeting week)
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Committee Meetings
Thursday:	5:30 p.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group
Friday:		Wellness (Yoga at 10 and Adult Logos at 11)
		LOGOS
		Adult Choir Rehearsal
		Micah's Backpack Packing
		Office Closed

"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 6th Sunday in the Season of Easter. We celebrate today as a gift from God with our post-Easter ears attuned to the presence of our Saving God as we come to table. Today the Psalmist invites us: "O sing to the LORD a new song, for God Has done marvelous things." We continue to celebrate the good news of Easter as we once again are invited to join our risen Lord at the table of grace. Let us sing with joy to our Lord and our God.

PYC: Don't forget that you are officially invited to the Todd's house (4407 Harbour Island Drive) **THIS AFTERNOON** from 5 – 8pm for our End-ish of the Year Party and Montreat Covenant Meeting.

WELLNESS AND LOGOS - Please join us for the mid-week revitalization of body, mind and soul! Wellness begins around 10:00 am with chair yoga (this can easily be adopted to anyone's physical level). Bible study, with John Smith as our leader, begins around 11:15ish. Everyone is welcome to join us for this fun morning.

ONLY 2 MORE LOGOS ARE LEFT! Come and join the festivities as we learn about God's love for all of us! Our theme this week is "Feeling Lucky". You are invited to bring a dice or card game to send to the kids in Haiti.

PENTECOST IS COMING ON MAY 20. Pentecost is day of celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the church, confirmation, graduation and more. Plan NOW to be with us and of course, wear RED.

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS studies many different topics and looks forward to lively conversation. They will be studying "Books That Didn't Make the Bible and Why" 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 these interesting and informative classes.

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE GRADUATES IN YOUR FAMILY (college and/or high school). We want to recognize them for their hard work and let them know that the prayers of the people of Highlands will follow them into their next chapter of their lives. Thanks!

MICAH'S BACKPACK is working hard. We provide weekend food for 100 children in 4 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. **Thanks for your help with a big Micah's Challenge.** We need a couple more 'rolling wire storage shelving units' that will help with our storage problems and support to build a partition wall in one of our classrooms. Your donations for "Micah's Storage" would be greatly appreciated!

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. Six 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: Justin Marley (Bruce and Annette's grandson) is in the hospital at UF Health.

OUR FRIENDS IN CARE FACILITIES: Jim Moss is in rehab at Life Care (4813 Lenoir Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32216), *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: Joy Patterson, Don Hall, 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: 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: Kendall and Carolyn Starkweather, Rick Stevenson and Vic and Betty Stewart.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: The Wolfson Family.