



HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

MAY 7, 2017

**4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER –
SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

“A Community of Sheep”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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" I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

John 10:10b

**WELCOME TO
COMMUNION SUNDAY!**

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

Today is the 4th 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. This morning we'll be doing a little bit of 'worship preparation.'

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.

Today we're adding a 'musical element' to the Call to Worship. Don't worry – we'll practice.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

May 7, 2017 – 4th Sunday 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.)

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Where shall we find the Lord?

The darkness surrounds us, and the silence deafens our hearts.

*Solo: I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear
You will hear My voice I claim you as My choice Be still,
and know I am near.*

We are trapped in our fears and sorrows. Who will rescue us?

We need to hear the word of hope from God.

*Solo: I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long
to see in the shadows of the night, I will be your light Come and
rest in Me.*

Our hearts rejoice and our spirits sing. God has rescued us and brings us home.

Thanks be to God who has heard our cries, healed our wounds, and restored our lives.

ALL:

Refrain

Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you
each by name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you
home; I love you and you are mine. D.C.

***PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Waiting God,

Welcome us home.

Nurturing God,

Call our names.

Nourishing God,

Set a table before us.

Tending God,

Lead us in your way.

Companion God,

Go ahead of us.

Liberating God,

Protect us.

Welcoming God,

Save us.

Hear us, shepherd Lord, as we pray the prayer you taught us.

"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**

"Good Shepherd We Are Not Alone"

(A new hymn for this Easter season Sunday to the tune of
"That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright")

**"Good Shepherd, we are not alone, For you protect and love your own.
And we, responding, know your voice; We hear you calling and rejoice.**

**Another shepherd might turn back, And flee at danger's first attack;
But you laid down your very life — A loving shepherd's sacrifice.**

**A thief may well destroy and steal, But you, Good Shepherd, save and heal.
You lead your sheep to pasture land, To life abundant, by your hand.**

**You gather sheep from far and wide, From folds we know and from outside.
One flock, one Shepherd, there will be — A loving, blest community.**

***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."**

Called to 'be the church' we approach God and seek God's presence with us in worship and at the table

Our Opening Hymn, "Good Shepherd We Are Not Alone" is written for the day. The tune is from a familiar Easter Hymn.

Our final 'gathering act' we "Pass the Peace" as an act of caring, welcome, and mutual love. In any language, the love of God is translated into peace as we join hands and hearts together. We are re-gathered as a worshipping community with a verse from the Hymn "God Is Here"

**Corporate
Confession:**

In the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition, we do not offer individual confession save for that which we offer in our silent prayers. Our prayer today reminds us that we are not simply individuals but citizens of the world seeking the kingdom of God. Our prayer and the "Assurance of Forgiveness" echo themes present in our Epistle lesson for the day.

Today's Offertory Anthem reflects the Psalm and theme for the day. Based on the 23rd Psalm we sing the classic anthem, "The King of Love My Shepherd Is."

(On Communion Sundays, we invite the young church to remain with us. There is a nursery for the youngest of us.)

"SEEK FORGIVENESS AND FELLOWSHIP"

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

Seek God in the peace of this place, and bring to God what you carry, and all that burdens you. Let us pray:

Patient and loving God, we stand at the gate and peer through. We keep creating our own ways, believing that we know what is in our own best interest, and we ignore the voice of the one Shepherd who will guide us to peace and hope. We wander aimlessly and then wonder why we get so lost. Help us stop and listen to the Shepherd's voice. Let us place our trust in the Shepherd who has never failed us, who loves and guides our lives. Forgive us our stubbornness and stupidity. For we ask this in Christ's Name. AMEN.

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

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Even though we have wandered and have become lost, the shepherd calls to us. We can place our trust in his loving care. For we are the sheep of his pasture, blessed and given hope. Amen.

***THE GLORIA PATRI (Hymn No. 579)**

"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 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

***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."**

***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”

HISTORY LESSON
Acts 2:42-47

(NT: p. 120)

***NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS**
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

(NT: p. 233)

(NT: p. 103)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be To God!

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

We will be receiving our “2-cents a meal” offering for JEMM
(Jamaica Ecumenical Mutual Mission)

COMMUNION MEDITATION **“A Community of Sheep”**

"THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER"

***HYMN AS WE COME TO TABLE NO. 507 “I Come With Joy”** (vss. 1 – 2)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of every way be with you.

And also with you.

Lift your hearts to the One who is the Truth for God's own people.

We offer them to the One who warms them with love.

Sing praises to God, who is our Life.

Glad songs are offered to the One who provides shelter for us.

You made a way through chaos, Constructing God, the Word echoing on mountaintops and whispering in valleys; the Spirit teaching songs to the stars, and breathing life into those created in your image as your precious children. You longed to cradle us in your lap, feeding us with grace and hope, but we slipped out of your grasp, covering our ears as you called us to come back home to you.

Prophets came to remind us that you would not put us to shame, psalmists sang to us of your longing to cut the net of sin and death and set us free, but, together, we rushed into the open arms of temptation. Then you sent Jesus, so that in knowing and believing in him, we would know and believe in you. With those who have nothing and with those who give everything away, we lift our voices to you:

(No. 581 Sung)” **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest;
Hosanna in the highest.”**

You shape a safe place for us, Imaginative God, and send your Child, Jesus, to show us the Way. Born a tiny baby as we are, he shows us how to grow into your people. The cornerstone of your kingdom, he uses us to build a spiritual home for all. Committing his spirit to you, he entered the emptiness of death, so we might stand on the solid ground of the resurrected life.

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.

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.

On the first Sunday of each month we are invited to gather at the table for the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

“The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving” is shared from the table and acts as a ‘blessing’ or ‘grace’ as we gather.

The Words of Institution are a 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.

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

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

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

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

Even as we celebrate the Life which was his, as we claim the Truth, that all are one with you, we take refuge in that mystery called faith:

No. 582, Sung) "Dying, you destroyed our death; Rising, You restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory."

Once, we were nobodies, alone and hopeless, but by your mercy, Living God, we are now a family, gathered in your love around this Table, where the Spirit sanctifies the bread and cup. You lean over to serve us the bread, enveloping us in your grace so we might go to be your people. You offer to us the cup of hope, which can heal our troubled hearts and strengthen us to serve our world. And when the Way leads us home to you, when your Life gathers us with our sisters and brothers around the Table which is prepared by your Truth, we will sing glad songs of praise to you forever,

(No. 584, Sung) **"Amen, Amen."**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE MEAL

[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.)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Into the world,

The shepherd leads us.

In all of life,

The shepherd protects us.

Into the future,

The shepherd provides a place for us.

***HYMN AFTER COMMUNION NO. 507 "I Come With Joy" (vss. 3 – 4)**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE 507 "I Come With Joy" (vss. 5)**

**"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."**

* _ 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."

Please Join Us In The Dining Hall For Fellowship



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS

This Week at Highlands
Week of May 7 – May 13, 2017

This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class/PYC
	5:30 p.m.	Summer Trips Meeting
Monday:	9:00 a.m.	Crafty Ladies
	7:00 p.m.	Crafty Ladies – Evening Group
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m.	Wellness @ 10 am / Adult Logos @ 11 am
	4:00 p.m.	Logos
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday:	7:30 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Friday:	9:00 a.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group

“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 Fourth Sunday of Easter which is traditionally "Good Shepherd" Sunday. We gather today in the tradition of the earliest church 'for the breaking of the bread.' As we come to table, we are reminded of the potential of the church to be a fellowship of great caring and compassion. We'll receive our 2- cents offering for JEMM.

ATTENTION PARENTS AND YOUTH: Confirmation meets at 4 p.m. this afternoon. Summer Trips meeting is at 5:30 p.m. with all attending youth and a parent!! (Unless PRIOR arrangement has been made with Laura.)

WE'RE HAVING A GREAT TIME ON WEDNESDAYS! Our theme this week is "HUPC's Got Talent". Please bring a talent you can share with everyone. We're having a great time at Logos this year – Come and check it out before we take a break this summer! Don't forget Wellness begins at 10 a.m.

FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS RETURNING: Our Family Promise guest will be at Highlands May 21-28, and there will be many volunteer opportunities! We will need helpers to prepare meals as well as serving as evening, overnight and Saturday hosts. Evening and Saturday hosts will only require two to three hours of your time! We hope you will consider this important mission...the signup sheet will be in the Dining Hall after worship today. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Mission Committee or call Sue Heckler at 891-6034. Thanks!

SUNDAY MAY 21 is Ordination and Installation Sunday here at Highlands. New Session members are Pete Loerop, Gibson Grimm, Charles Obedia, Clara Whitaker and Alan Robbins.

The 27th is also "Blood Drive" Sunday. Please sign up today.

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL IS ENROLLING for the Fall 2017 school year 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. Stop by for a tour and meet the staff anytime Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 6:00pm. Tell your family, friends and neighbors about our great pre-school.

THE MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE is looking for additional persons to serve as Shepherds so that this program of our church can be maintained. The responsibility of a shepherd is to keep in touch with and support 5 – 7 families and/or individuals. This is a rewarding way to know your fellow members better and does not require a great deal of time. For information or to volunteer call Nancy Marsh at 645-3108 or 635-7582.

MICAH'S BACKPACK UPDATE: Thanks to generous donations, Micah's pantry is well stocked with oatmeal and granola bars! A need at this time is toothbrushes. Each child receives a toothbrush at the beginning of the school year, before Christmas break and at the end of the school year. We are packing for 41 kids here at HUPC. Also, contributions of little boxes of raisins make a nice change in the snack menu. Thanks for all your help and encouragement!

THANKS AGAIN for all your support for the **Highlands Baby Shower Mission Project**. Our goal was 20 gift bags and we were recently able to meet that goal. We are already working on our next twenty gift bags, can you help? Thanks Again!!!

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES: ACS needs the following items: toothpaste – **critical need**, powdered milk, canned milk, canned pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, canned tomatoes, canned potatoes, peanut butter, jelly- HUPC's specialty, and toilet tissue. Eighteen jars of jelly were collected this week. Every grocery order going out of ACS has a jar of HUPC jelly!

YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE IS LOOKING for a few items for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance kits. They are in **desperate need** of 16 X 26-inch hand towels. They also need nail clippers but no nail files now. Thanks for your continued love and support of this very basic and much needed program.

THANKS FOR YOUR EXCELLENT SUPPORT OF HAITI!! 30 sponsored children mean sustaining care for the children and staff of the Grace of Mercy orphanage in Haiti. Please remember your monthly pledge and **BE SURE YOUR CHECKS ARE MARKED "SPONSOR FOR HAITI CHILDREN"** to ensure the money goes into the right account.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY'S SERVICE

SPECIAL PRAYERS: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK: Nancy Moewe, JoAn Ewing, Don Hall (Home), Jo Carmichael, Bill Byers, Nancy Hoot, Marilyn Reed, Al Hummel, Bill Duval, Pat Strader, Cathy Pate's son, Hank Greene, Rufus Taylor's brother, Fay Sweeney (9960 Atrium Way, Unit 529, 32225), Linda Youmans (c/o Teri Grimm, 4206 Harbour Island Dr. 32225), Kit Fink, Kenneth Moon, and Bruce and Annette Marley, Justin Marley (grandson), Louise Keen is residing at Brookdale Southside -9601 Southbrook Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32256 along with Al and Pat Hummel. Al and Pat's address is 9601 Southbrook Dr., Apt E315, Jacksonville, FL 32256. Jacob Loerop's email is Loerop.Jacob@CVN68.navy.mil, Jacob's address is IT3 Loerop, Jacob CVN 68 USS Nimitz Unit 100103 Box 1771 FPO AP 96620. Amelia Powell's address is: AT2 Powell, Amelia N., VAQ-140, Unit 200107 Box 142, FPO AP 96601. You can also reach Amelia through her email. Her email address is: amelia.powell@cvw7.navy.mil.

PRAYER BEARS: Prayer Bears and Caring Critters are available in the Fellowship Hall after each service.

MEMBER CARE: Please call the church office with your prayer request. As always, prayer requests can be made as well by 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: Harry Wade, Jim and Jan Walters and Clara Whitaker.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Dene and Connie Ritter. Nursery Attendant: Rhiannon Parker.