

J.O.Y. Sunday

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

OCTOBER 8, 2017

27th of Ordinary Time -- JOY Sunday

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HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.”

(Philippians 4:6-9)

Today is the 27th Sunday in "Ordinary Time."
Today is also our first J.O.Y. Sunday of the new school year.
We welcome the leadership of J.O.Y. (Jubilant Offerings of Youth), our LOGOS and HPGP Choirs.

Music as we prepare for worship is from the album 'Labyrinth' by David Baloché which has been described as "a new way to experience Scripture." "The Peace of God" is a beautifully contemplative singing of words from Phil. 4.

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.'

Our opening Hymn is "Rejoice the Lord Is King" written by Charles Wesley as a hymn of the resurrection. For today we hear the echoes of the call to "Rejoice in the Lord Always."

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!"

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 8, 2017 – 27th of Ordinary Time -- JOY Sunday

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

(They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Day by day, as they spent much time together, 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.)

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.)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in this place, with these people, we come to worship the living God.

In you, O God, we hope; in you, Creator of love, we live.

Here in this sacred space, in these very moments, we are invited to a banquet of joy.

In you, Christ of the Way, we rejoice; in you, dear Brother, grace is as near as your heart.

Here on this day of gentleness and beauty, we are filled with the peace of God.

In you, O Spirit, we find our path; in you, Teacher of hope, we learn to serve.

We are here to worship.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

"God of mighty deeds and gentle mercies, we gather to give you praise this day. We join with all of creation in uttering our small words of thanks for your steadfast love which endures forever. May our very lives be lived as a song of praise to you, the God of our salvation. Hear us, Lord, as we pray the prayer Christ taught 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."

*HYMN NO. 155

"Rejoice, The Lord Is King"

*PASSING THE PEACE

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

And Also With You.

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

*- Those who are comfortable may please stand

***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)**

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, Whatever is just, whatever is pure, Whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,
If there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise
All: think about these things.

O God, we confess that instead of what is true and honorable, there are times when we turn our thoughts to the latest news scandal or juicy gossip.

Forgive us.

Instead of what is just and pure there are times when we think about the shortcuts we can take to get ahead and the shortcomings of others.

Forgive us.

Instead of what is pleasing and commendable there are times when we rehearse negativity, criticisms, and grudges.

Forgive us.

We play fast and loose with the truth not really caring who is hurt in the process.

Forgive us.

We believe that justice is something for us alone and not necessarily for ‘the other.’

Forgive us.

We accept mediocrity rather than striving for excellence.

Forgive us, Lord, and by your Holy Spirit, heal us and make us whole. Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us.

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Through the eyes of grace,

**God sees that which is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing,
and commendable within this community of faith.**

God is pleased with us and, with this assurance in our hearts, we can live as God’s praiseworthy people. In Christ Jesus we are a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God!

***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 ‘confession’ in the Presbyterian Church is a ‘corporate’ or ‘communal’ statement of our general and specific offenses against God and one another. Our prayer for the day are often guided by the words of scripture we will be reading in worship. Today’s scripture reminds us of God’s command to live according to the ‘statutes and ordinances’ or ‘laws’ which will lead to a good and happy life. In Matthew Jesus speaks pointedly about the opposite truth – the destructive power of our sin.

At the close of our prayer we ask for God’s mercy in The “Kyrie Eleison,” which is a choral bridge between our prayers and the “**Assurance of Forgiveness**” which declares our forgiveness.

Finally, we give praise to our triune God for the assurance that we are, by grace, forgiven.

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

“The Proclamation of God’s Word” is central in the life of the 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 J.O.Y. singers will share a song with the themes for the day, “I’ve Got Peace Like A River.”

We are so happy to welcome the Highlands Precious Gifts Preschool Singers and their families to our worship today, as they share “O Be Careful Little Eyes”

Our LOGOS choir will share “Come, Children Join In Our Festival Song” arranged by Helen Kemp. The text of this song is recorded in many denomination’s Sunday School song books.

“THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

Old Testament Exodus 32:1-14. (OT, p. 78)

ANTHEM “I’ve Got Peace Like A River”
J.O.Y. Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14 (NT: p. 24)

These are the words of faith and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Be Careful Little Eyes”

Highlands Precious Gifts Singers

*O be careful little eyes what you see, O be careful little eyes what you see
There's a Father up above And He's looking down in love
So, be careful little eyes what you see*

*O be careful little ears what you hear...
O be careful little hands what you do...
O be careful little feet where you go...
O be careful little mouth what you say...*

“Come, Children and Join In Our Festival Song”

LOGOS Choir

“COME, children, and join in our festival song,
And hail the sweet joys which this day brings
along ; We'll join our glad voices in one hymn of praise
To God, who has loved us, and guarded our days.

Our Father in heaven, we lift up to you our voice of thanksgiving,
Our glad ‘Allelu!’ O bless us and guide us dear savior, we pray;
From your loving presence may we never stray.

And now as we sing let us bid all good cheer!
We pray for God’s blessing on our labors here.
O help us to share the bright jewels of your story
And crown every morning with songs of your glory!
Sing glad, “Allelu!”

INTERLUDE

(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 #207.)

SERMON

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"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 145 "REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART!"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (responsive)

God made all that is seen and unseen, filling the universe with the life of God, filling creation with the glory of God, and filling history with the purpose of God.

We believe it.

God became flesh and revealing glory in Christ, showing the world the character of God, giving humanity the dignity of God, ending death's tyranny by the resurrection.

We believe it.

God continues to work in the world by the Holy flooding the earth with the Presence of God, teaching Christ's followers the truth of God, drawing all people into the family of God,

We believe it and we proclaim it. Hallelujah!

BEING THE CHURCH IN MISSION, PRAYER AND GIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Responsive)

"The light radiates through the darkness and no amount of darkness can extinguish it." As light-seekers we have come, O God, to rejoice in You always;

May our adoration open a window, that Your light may flood through.

As hope-seekers we come, O God, and we celebrate Your gift of hope;

You capture us as we worship, and by your word make us prisoners of hope.

As Christ-followers we have come, O God, and we struggle to open ourselves to Christ's life;

You change us as we encounter Your glory, so that we may carry Your light into the world.

Into this place of worship we bring the hopes and needs of all who find themselves in the dark places of the world;

The grieving, the sick, the abused and the forgotten.

Into this place of worship we bring the hopes and dreams of all who have lost their purpose and vision;

The rejected, the fallen, the disappointed and the discouraged.

Into this place of worship we bring the hopes and courage

of all who serve and uplift others;

The leaders, those who care, the protectors and the teachers.

We praise You for the light that shatters the darkness, the hope that rises from the ashes, the life that returns from the grave And we pray that they may fill the earth, as dawn fills the sky.

Help us, Lord, to rejoice in you always. Transform us from complainers in the wilderness and idol worshipers into people who embrace the joy you promise us and give us in Christ Jesus.

May we truly give thanks in everything and may these prayers and supplications be our request to you, O God.

Lift us from worry and despair in these days, O God, to faith, hope, trust and assurance in you.

Our Hymn of Response is "Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart!" Anglican clergyman Edward H. Plumptre wrote this text for use as a processional hymn for the annual choral festival at Peterborough Cathedral, England. "Rejoice, a Pure in Heart" was originally in eleven stanzas-long enough for all the choirs to process into the cathedral..

We 'say what we believe' as another corporate act in the Presbyterian Church. Today we share a 'responsive' declaration of faith as part of our response to the Word as it is preached and heard.

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.

The "Morning Offering" is another way that we respond to God in thanks for God's Word, Jesus Christ, and for the multitude of God's blessings in our living. We give, of course, to support the church and its mission in the community and in the world, but we also give as a sign and symbol of our recognition that it is God who is the source of all we have and all that we are. (If you give 'electronically' we thank you and encourage you to place one of the 'cards' in the plate as a symbol of that giving.)

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

Thanks to J.O.Y. for leading worship today!

And help us, Lord, to embrace whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,
And if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,
help us to think about these things. **Amen!**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY (Hymn No. 592)**

"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."

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Responsive)**

God is good!

All the time!

We rejoice in our God at all times and give God

Our never ending praise and thanksgiving.

God is good!

All the time! Amen!

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

We go doing our best, in faith, not worrying about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving letting our requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

***PARTING HYMN**

"Good Christian Friends"

**"Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: We give praise to Christ today;
One and all before Him bow, For He is in God's kingdom now.
Christ is here today! Christ is here today!"**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ has come for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, And we are blest forevermore.
Christ has come for this! Christ has come for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ has come to save! Christ has come to save!**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

"May the God of Hope"

**"May the God of hope go with us every day, Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way, Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new, Faithful when we hear Christ's call."**

HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
This Week at Highlands
Week of October 8 – October 14, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Service Office Closed
Monday:	9:00 a.m.	Crafty Ladies
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Wellness (Yoga @ 10 and Adult Logos@11) Logos enjoys its 25th year @ HUPC Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday:	7:30 p.m.	Adult Handbell Rehearsal

“WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, AS CHRIST WELCOMES US!”

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

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER...AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU!

TODAY IS OUR FIRST J.O.Y. SUNDAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. We welcome J.O.Y. as the lead us in worship, our LOGOS Choir and we welcome the Highlands Precious Gifts Singers and their families. Welcome ALL to HUPC.

FAMILY PROMISE “WHEELS ON THE BUS”: The Family Promise bus is on the road 365 days a year. It delivers families to and from host churches, to job interviews, to doctor appointments and, most exciting of all, the families' new apartments. Unfortunately, it is time for the bus to be replaced with a newer one. Our Crafty Ladies have generously offered to match every dollar given by the congregation up to \$1500, to the "Wheels on the Bus" fund. Please make your check out to HUPC and, mark for "Wheels on the Bus" by October 16. You can help keep families on the road to success!

MICAH'S BACKPACK HAS GROWN AGAIN. This week Micah's Backpack packed for 81 students in four schools. We have increased our capacity at our newest school, Arlington Elementary, from 5 children in the beginning of September to 20 children in October. Thanks for the tremendous support and encouragement from HUPC and the Arlington Community, we continue to grow. Our pantry *empties* every week and your donations and help are greatly appreciated. Micah's Volunteers and Supporters are the best. Thank you.

OUR WELLNESS PROGRAM IS AWESOME! 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. **Join us!**

WE'RE HAVING A GREAT TIME AT LOGOS!! Our LOGOS program is celebrating its 25th year on Wednesday's at 4 p.m. All of our children and you are invited so please bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors. Our theme this week is "God's Invitation" and you are invited to bring a hand towel to donate

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

DR, DAVE AND SUSAN will be in Montreat this week for continuing education. The Rev. Mr. Bill Emery will be our guest preacher.

RAISE THE ROOF: When we kicked off the Raise the Roof Campaign in May, it appeared a necessary but a daunting financial challenge. Thanks to Hurricane Matthew, the sanctuary roof was badly leaking and with an active hurricane season expected, we could not wait! So as congregation of believers, we stepped out in faith and contracted for this unbudgeted repair and you exceeded all expectations. Over 37 families provided money not only for repairs but a surplus of nearly \$4000 to help with the many unfunded repairs around the campus and even possibly provide gutters!! As promised this campaign concluded this past Sunday as we celebrated our 50th anniversary and appropriately as rain pounded down on our new roof, we worshipped comfortably dry! Well Done and to the HUPC faithful and thank you.

MONTGOMERY PRESBYTERIAN CENTER is hosting Senior Adult Ministries from around the Presbytery. The morning will begin with a continental breakfast followed by the program, worship and music and a delicious 3 course meal. Registration is at 9:30 am and the program is from 10:00 am – 2:30 pm. The cost is \$18 (which includes continental breakfast and lunch) Registration forms are available in the office. The deadline to register is Wednesday, October 25th.)

HIGHLAND'S BABY SHOWER: Matthew 25:40 – just as you did it to one of the least of these.....you did it to me. Thanks to all of you who answered your call to discipleship with your generous contributions to the Highlands Baby Shower. This ministry shows care and support to many new mothers and babies of our community via your contributions of a new baby clothes, blankets and more. You are a blessing. Highlands's Mission Committee – for more information contact Susan Lee at 887-4661.

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. Eighteen jars of jelly were collected this week. Every grocery order going out of ACS has a jar of HUPC jelly! **ACS HAS INFORMED US THAT THEY ARE LOW ON JELLY! PLEASE BRING JELLY NEXT SUNDAY!**

YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP. We are looking for items for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance kits. We recently sent 50 kits to help people after Hurricane Harvey's destruction. So, we are starting all over with another group. We need 16 X 26-inch hand towels, wash clothes, individual toothbrushes, tooth paste, fingernail clippers, standard size band aids, individual bars of soap, combs and gallon sized clear storage bags.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED LOVE AND SUPPORT FOR THE CHILDREN OF HAITI. Please make sure your payments are marked "HAITI CHILDREN" to ensure the money goes into the right account.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY'S SERVICE

SPECIAL AND ONGOING PRAYERS: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

IN THE HOSPITAL THIS WEEK:

OUR FRIENDS IN CARE FACILITIES: *At Brookdale Southside:* (9601 Southbrook Dr., Jax, FL 32256), Al Hummel (126); Louise Keen (Clare Bridge); Hank Green (N-122); *At the Atrium (9960 Atrium Way, 32225):* Boyd and Doreen Harris (#528) , Doris Ruby (#219); *Others:* Fay Sweeney (Cypress Village, 4600 Middleton Park Circle East # E 10 A, Jacksonville, FL 32224), Linda Youmans is under hospice care (c/o Teri Grimm, 4206 Harbour Island Dr. 32225).

AT HOME: Don Hall, Kit Fink, Jo and Hoagy Carmichael, Nancy Hoot, Kinzey & Betty Reeves, Patty Strader, Marilyn Reed, JoAn Ewing, Bruce and Annette Marley, Gwen Brown, Barbara Ash and Carolyn Starkweather.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Debbie Douget's dad, Don Seay, 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, Tiffani Riccilli (Annie Lietzow's granddaughter).

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: Charles and Sherra Grabill, The Grimm Family, Scott and Trina Gover.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Dene and Connie Ritter. Children's Church Leader: Chad Sambito.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by Susan Mauney in memory of Gerald Mauney.