



**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP**  
April 8, 2018 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

**"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"**

**MUSIC AND TIME OF PREPARATION**

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

**WELCOME AS WE GATHER & SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH**

**PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT**

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Knock, Knock!

**Who's there?**

Why don't you open the door and see?!

**Its going to be that kind of Sunday.**

Sing a new song!

**A joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth.**

Sing praise to our Still-Laughing Easter God,

**Who has rolled away the bindings of yesterday**

Immerse your anxiety and despair in the fountain of new birth.

**We place our visions and hopes on the table of wine and wheat.**

For God has taken ordinary things.

**And made them extraordinary.**

Sing a new song of joy and gladness as we worship our joy giving God!

**\*GATHERING PRAYER (In Unison)**

**Holy God,**

**as you have taken what we call an absurdity and turned it into possibility....**

**as you have coaxed us to sing springtime alleluias where once there was a gray dawn,**

**as you have called us out of the tombs we inhabit into an undreamed of tomorrow, we praise you for this day!**

**Come, Risen Christ, in newness and hope on this Eastertide day. In the name of our risen Lord 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."**



**\*HYMN NO. 111                    "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!"**

**\*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:

**"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."**

**"SEEK FORGIVENESS "**

**\*CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

We gather here as a fellowship of people who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. One of the major marks of this fellowship is the sense of joy we experience as we gather to worship God, to give thanks for Jesus Christ and to witness to the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. But we are not always filled with joy. Yet, we admit that there are times when we feel afraid, abandoned, and lonely; when faith leads to doubt and questions rather than a sense of joy peace of mind. Let us pray

**You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious all the time, we miss out on the joy of your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair which is our best friend, we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart. Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the startling, and upside-down, ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter's laughter; fill us with your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this joy is now given to us.

**Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy. We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE**

**"When We Are Tempted"**

**(Tune: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God)**

**"When we are tempted in our pride to dizzy heights of sin,  
beneath our feet, O Lord, provide a ripe banana skin,  
and when we yearn at someone's head to let a brickbat fly,  
give us the grace to use instead a well-aimed custard pie...."**

**When cherished institutions stand before your throne of grace,  
with good intentions in each hand and egg on every face,  
teach us to query grand designs with laughter born of tears,  
for deep in our own hearts and minds your rainbow still appears..."**

**“THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Acts 4:32-35

(NT: p. 122)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be To God!**

**ANTHEM**

**“Joy In The Morning”**

**\*NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS**

1 John 1:1-2:2

(NT: p. 238)

John 20:19-31

(NT: p. 115)

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“I’VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER”**

(by Cedarmont Kids Action Bible Songs)

Highlands Precious Gifts Singers and Jr. LOGOS

**“O Come With Body and Mind”**

LOGOS Choir

**TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH**

**INTERLUDE**

(In the 10 a.m. service, all children, ages 3 through 1<sup>st</sup> grade are invited to attend “Children’s Church” after “A Time with the Young Church.” Their leader will meet them in the back of the sanctuary. They may be picked up after worship in the Family Life Center, room #210.)

**SERMON**

**“A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To...”**

**"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD "**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 355 “Hear The Good News...”**

**1. Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.**

**Such great kindness! Such great mercy!**

**Come to us from heaven above. Jesus Christ, how much I love You!**

**Jesus Christ, You save from sin!**

**How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.**

**2. All the sins I have committed To my Savior now I bring.**

**I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing:**

**Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You save from sin! How I love You!**

**Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles’ Creed (Ecumenical) in Unison)**

**”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.”**

## BEING THE CHURCH IN MISSION, PRAYER AND GIVING

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us these gifts.

For the moments of laughter and unbridled joy you give to us:

**for opportunities to laugh at ourselves,**

**for the belly laughs of children,**

**for friends and family who love us because of our quirks, and not just in spite of them,**

**for artists who give us the opportunity to see the world through the surreal,**

**for the courage to smile even when difficulties arise,**

**for those who have hope even when others think there is no hope,**

**for saints in the Lord who overflow with laughter and spread your joy to all of us.**

For the words of Jesus that defy our logical minds;

**for teaching us that we can be born anew,**

**for the woman who finds a lost coin and calls her friends and neighbors to celebrate,**

**for the absurdity of a camel trying to fit through the eye of a needle,**

**for the father of the Prodigal Son who is willing to look like a fool as he runs to greet his son,**

**for the generosity of the landowner who will pay workers a whole day's wage when they only worked one hour,**

**for tiny bits of faith that can move entire mountains,**

**for the reality that nothing can live unless it first dies.**

For the great reversal of the Gospel:

**that the last shall be made first,**

**that the rejected stone became the cornerstone,**

**that those who wish to become great must serve,**

**that the lost will be found,**

**that the small will become great,**

**that though you are Wisdom, you choose to forget our sins,**

**that when we are weak, your strength shines through us.**

O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us these gifts. Thank you for the gift you give us that allows us to enjoy these things to the full.

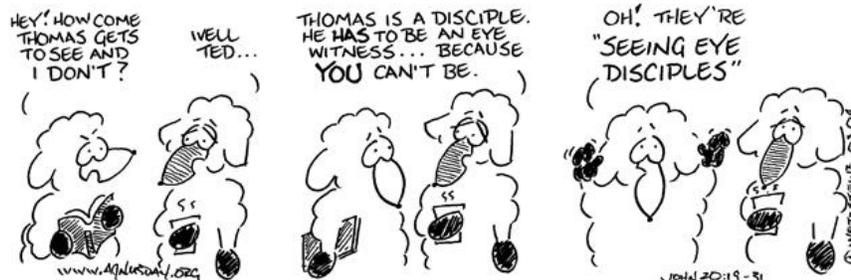
We can laugh because of the most amazing thing of all – that you conquered death, that the tomb is empty, that light shone so bright that it overcame the darkness.

**Thank you, thank you, thank you! Amen.**

### GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS OFFERTORY

#### \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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



### \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Listen to God's breath within:

**it is the stirring of belief.**

Voice those words of doubt:

**it is the making of faith.**

Touch those scars and feel those wounds:

**it is the place of resurrection.**

Let the breath of God sustain you this day and forever.

### \*HYMN OF PARTING NO. 121 "That Easter Day..."

1. That Easter day with joy was bright, the sun shone out with fairer light,  
When, to their longing eyes restored, The apostles saw their risen Lord.

2. O Jesus, King of gentleness, Do all our inmost hearts possess,  
And we to You will ever raise, The tribute of our grateful praise.

3. From every weapon death can wield, Your own redeemed forever shield;  
O Lord of all, with us abide, In this our joyful Easter-tide.

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*CHORAL RESPONSE

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks To The Risen Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Praise To His Name.

Spread The Good News O'er All The Earth:

Jesus Has Died And Has Risen. (Refrain)

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks To The Risen Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Praise To His Name.



**HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS**  
**This Week at Highlands**  
**Week of April 8<sup>th</sup> – April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**This Week's Calendar of Events:**

<b>Today:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service - JOY Sunday</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Crafty Ladies</b>
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Committee Meetings</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Quilting and Sewing Group</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Wellness (Yoga at 10 and Adult Logos at 11)</b>
	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>LOGOS</b>
	<b>7:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Micah's Backpack Packing</b>
	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Adult Handbell Rehearsal</b>
<b>Friday:</b>		<b>JU's Charter Day at HUPC</b>

**"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 1<sup>ST</sup>** 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 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER.** Still in our celebrating Easter mode, today has been called **low Sunday or Holy Humor Sunday.** With J.O.Y. leading the service we'll do our best to live up to the name. We want to say "Thanks" to all who helped in so many ways with our Lent, Holy Week and Easter season here at HUPC!

**WELLNESS AND LOGOS ARE BACK!** 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.

**OUR AFTERNOON LOGOS IS ALSO BACK!** Our theme this week is "Go and Tell". You are invited to bring something to show and tell. Come and join the festivities as we learn about God's love for all of us!

**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 few weeks. We have two other Adult Sunday School classes that are oriented more towards Bible study. We have Sunday School for ALL ages at HUPC. Please join us for this interesting and informative classes.

**UPCOMING PYC EVENTS:** PYC will get back in the spring swing next week. Please mark your calendars for these dates: April 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 7:30pm for PYC, April 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00 – 8:00pm for a mission project to help Micah's Backpack, April 29<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 7:30pm for PYC, and May 6<sup>th</sup> TBD for our End of School Party and Summer Covenant Meeting.

### OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

**Highlands Annual Spring Blood Drive** is coming April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please watch the bulletin for more information on how you can sign up and additional news.

**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.

**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. Ten 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:** Joy Patterson (201) are at University Crossings (next to Brooks). Justin Marley (Bruce and Annette's grandson) is in the hospital at UF Health.

**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:** 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://hupcjax.org) under "Contact Us") or by notifying your Shepherd.

**FAMILIES WE ARE PRAYING FOR THIS WEEK:** The Sasser Family, Pat Saunders and The Savage Family.

**OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE:** Greeter: Twila Baker. Children's Church Leader: David Bauerlein.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE** are given to the glory of God by Chad and Teri Grimm in memory and honor of their parents.

**The rose on the organ today** is in honor of the birth of Keelan Miles Abbott. He was born on April 1, 2018 at 8:24 p.m. This gift from God is the grandson of Bob and Belinda Abbott, and baby brother to Rhiannon, Makenzie, Evan and Tinsley.