

WORDS

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

August 20, 2017

20th Sunday in Ordinary

“WORDS AND WORDS AND WORDS”

**“Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:
it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person,
but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” (Matthew 15:10-11)**

Today is the 11th
Sunday following
Pentecost.

As we prepare for
worship we'll listen
to a song by a
young artist by the
name of Hawk
Nelson" entitled
"Words." We're
thinking about our
'words' today. The
refrain of the song
is "Let the words I
say, Be the sound
of Your grace, I
don't wanna' say a
word Unless it
points the world
back to You
(God)."

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 Call to
Worship each
week is designed
to bring us into
focus and help us
to heighten our
awareness of
being in a special
place, in the
presence of God.
Today we echo the
gospel lesson from
Matthew.

Our "Gathering
Prayer" is an
opportunity for us
to center our
minds and hearts
on the presence of
God in our worship
today.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 20, 2017 – 11th Sunday of Pentecost

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

"WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP"

(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.)

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Sisters and brothers gather near – God is in this place.

We are here, together, answering God's call.

God welcomes us.

We welcome one another.

We gather as a community of faith:

girls and boys,

Men and women,

old and young,

From near and far,

different faces.

Here we are called to gather as the family of God:

we may find those who are strangers,

yet are sisters and brothers of ours.

Here we discover the truth that God makes no distinctions among us:

**here we are welcomed and embraced by the One whose arms
are open to all.**

Here we are to worship.

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

"We come before you this day, O God, as you have been with your people throughout history, so we know you are with us even now. In this time of worship, help us to celebrate your presence among us, and strengthen us to continue the work you have begun. In Christ name, who 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."

***- Those who are comfortable may please stand**

***HYMN NO. 483 "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"**

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

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...)

***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 "

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (unison)**

God calls us to be people of true faith. We are called to live our lives in service to God and to be a part of a church who sing and tell good news. Let us pray for God's forgiveness and understanding:

Loving God, whom we so quickly and easily call Lord; forgive us for our failure to understand and accept the great demands placed upon us by your Lordship. We enlist in your causes, but find ourselves losing interest. We promise to minister in your name, but find ourselves afraid. We want to be sensitive, but find ourselves hard and callous. We are confronted with great possibilities, but fail to take advantage of them. Forgive us Lord, take our limitations and turn them into possibilities for service. Have mercy and grant us this grace

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

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God has been with saints throughout history, and God is with us now. Know that you are forgiven, and invited by God into new living.

Thanks be to God!

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

"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."

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 56:1-8

(OT: p. 686)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Our opening hymn is one of the great hymns of the church, "**Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above.**"

Translated from the German this hymn written ca. 1675 speaks to us of the mighty God of all creation and the very personal God who is "never far away."

In our final 'gathering act' we "**Pass the Peace**" as an act of caring, welcome, and mutual love.

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 and the "**Assurance of Forgiveness**" echo themes for the day.

"**The Proclamation of God's Word**" is central in the life of the worshipping community. This 'proclamation' includes the reading of scripture and 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.

Today's anthem is "Make Me A Channel of Your Peace." This classic adaptation of "The Prayer of St. Francis" is set to wonderful music. The timeless message reminds us to seek God's help in being makers of peace who are more concerned with the other than with self.

As we respond to God's Word preached, we sing together hymn pleas for us to 'Be Not Dismayed Whate'er Betide" because "God Will Take Care of You." Civilla Martin who wrote the words says, "My husband was spending several weeks at the school, making a songbook for the president of the school. God Will Take Care of You was written one Sunday afternoon while my husband went to a preaching appointment. When he returned I gave the words to him. He immediately sat down to his little Bilhorn organ and wrote the music. That evening he and two of the teachers sang the completed song. It was then printed in the songbook he was compiling for the school."

ANTHEM " Make Me A Chanel of Your Peace"

*"Make me a channel of Your peace, Where there is hatred let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord And where there's doubt, true faith in You*

*Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand To be loved as to love with all my soul*

*Make me a channel of Your peace Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light And where there's sadness, ever joy
Make me a channel of Your peace It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive And in dying that we're born to eternal life"*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

(NT: p. 160)

*Matthew 15:10 - 28

(NT: p. 17)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

INTERLUDE

(All children, ages 3 through 1st 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 #205.)

SERMON

"WORDS AND WORDS AND WORDS"

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"BE NOT DISMAYED WHATE'ER BETIDE"

**Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;
beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you.**

**Refrain: God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
God will take care of you, God will take care of you.**

**Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;
when dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. (Refrain)**

**All you may need he will provide, God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you. (Refrain)**

**No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;
lean, weary one, upon his breast, God will take care of you. (Refrain)**

***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.”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Eternal God, you have had many friends on this earth,

those who heard your promises, and shared them with their neighbors;

those who have done the things you have asked, working and speaking out for justice.

Let us, too, be your friends on this earth, living by faith, believing in your promises.

Through the voice of the prophets

you call us to account: help us to cease doing evil, and learn your ways;

to seek justice with those who are oppressed;

to speak out with those whose voices have been silenced;

to journey alongside our sisters and brothers

that we might bear one another’s burdens with compassion and seek healing for a hurting world.

In the midst of these struggles and commitments

we trust in your promises and ask you to work through us to build your city, a holy dwelling place for all people.

In the ministry of this congregation we pray for courage and strength,

for creativity and joy.

May we come to see each other –

young and old alike,

differently abled and gifted

with a variety of talents –

as people who are signs of faith-filled living. May we embrace one another’s stories

and celebrate one another’s lives.

Let us grow and minister, by faith,

as did our spiritual ancestors.

Today we pray for the sick and the saddened,

Lord, lift the veil of their suffering and sorrow;

for the oppressed of heart, mind and spirit,

Lord, guide them to new reality.

We are a ‘creedal’ church and we use one of the oldest and most endearing creeds, The Apostles’ Creed, set in a more modern and ecumenical form.

Please take a moment and read through the prayer concerns on the back of the bulletin.

In our prayers we ask for God’s presence with and intervention for those we list each week on the back of the bulletin. We have many who are in ongoing situations of treatment, others who are saddened by loss, and still others who face uncertain futures. We keep these in our prayers today and every day.

A "Charge and Blessing" is the parallel element of worship for the "Call to Worship" which begins the service. The charge is for us to take what we have gained in worship into the world as an active service to God. The blessing is a word to us to remember that God goes with us when we go.

Our Hymn of Parting is another 'hymn for the day' by Carol Winfrey Gillette, 'She Came to Jesus' which illustrates in song the gospel lesson for today.

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

Please join us in the Dining Hall following worship for a time of

For those held captive by the evil intentions of those who use faith as a weapon;

Lord, deliver the captives from danger.

For a world where priority is gain and people are pawns;

Lord, help us to revalue our living, our consumption, our ideals to meet your standard and not our own.

For our church,

Lord, bless our worship and work, our fellowship and mission by your grace.

Hear our prayers, O Lord of Life.

Amen.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***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."

"GOD'S PEOPLE SENT INTO THE WORLD"

***CHARGE TO GO AND SERVE**

God does not ask us to solve all the world's problems, nor even to carry all of a neighbor's burdens.

God knows our frame, and remembers that we are made of dust.

But we are asked to go out into the world in good spirits, sharing to the best of our ability God's love and grace.

With God's help, we will.

Go then in peace and joy, with the blessing of the Companion God upon you, around you, and within you.

Amen!

***HYMN OF PARTING**

"She Came To Jesus"

(Tune: Be Thou My Vision)

**"She came to Jesus from outside the fold —
Canaanite woman! Persistent and bold!
Looking to Jesus, she wanted to see
One who would help her and set her child free.**

**Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace,
She knew God's love was not bounded by place.
Jesus, you listened, debated — then healed —
For in her asking, her faith was revealed.**

**God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.
You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare.
In Christ, now risen, your mercy extends:
Those on the outside are welcomed as friends.**

***BENEDICTION**

*- Those who are comfortable may please stand

HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
This Week at Highlands
Week of August 20 – August 26, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday:	9:00 a.m.	Pre-School begins today! (Please be mindful of little ones on our campus.)
	9:00 a.m.	Crafty Ladies
	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday:	6:30 p.m.	Logos Planning
Friday:	9:00 a.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group
	6:00 p.m.	HPGP Movie Night – Dining Hall
Saturday:	11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Pat Hummel

“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 the 19th Sunday in Ordinary/11th of Pentecost. We continue to hear today how God meets us, embraces us and challenges us within the stories of our lives.

WE ARE BACK – ALMOST! WE ARE KICKING OFF OUR WELLNESS PROGRAMS ON WED, SEPTEMBER 6TH.

Our adult Logos will begin with seated yoga at 10:00 am and Adult Logos will follow 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. **And**, since Sept. 6th is the first Wednesday in the month we will have **LUNCH BUNCH**, too. Everyone is invited to join us for Lunch Bunch which is very social and FUN! Even if you don't join the excitement at Adult Logos, (you really should consider joining) we look forward to another superb year and hope to see you there. Namaste' and God Bless.



OUR AFTERNOON LOGOS ALSO KICKS-OFF OUR 25TH YEAR AT HIGHLANDS ON SEPTEMBER 6TH!

We will be looking for volunteers to help in this extraordinary program! We will need teachers, table-parents, cooks and cleaners. Please consider spending a few hours on Wednesdays with some pretty awesome kids (and adults). We are 'planning' on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Come out and help us make this a truly fantastic year.

SIGN UP TODAY FOR OUR NEXT BLOOD DRIVE COMING UP ON AUGUST 27.

OUR FAMILY PROMISE GUEST WILL BE ARRIVING NEXT MONTH (September 10 – 17), and there will be many opportunities to volunteer. Your time (as few as 2 hours) will help 3 homeless families get back on their feet and into their own home. If you are willing to volunteer to help give these families a "leg up", please stop by the Family Promise table this Sunday and see what volunteer opportunities are available.

MICAH'S BACK PACK is off to a great start! Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and supporters! The 'food list' is available in the office. We can use any and all items on the list and we, of course, gladly accept financial contributions. Make sure you mark your checks, "Micah's." Set up team and packers has resumed this great program as school has started! Want to help? Call Bonnie or come on the Thursday at 5:15 p.m. Thanks!

IT'S TIME TO JUMP BACK INTO PYC! Our youth will gather at 2 p.m. to head for fun at Rebounderz. If you haven't RSVPed, please let Ms. Laura know ASAP if you are planning to come. Cost is \$15 per youth. And, save the date for NEXT Sunday at 6:00 p.m. for our PYC and Parents & Planning Potluck!

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE. Thanks to your love for and commitment to the church, we literally "Raised the Roof" ahead of schedule. Recently, the Buildings and Grounds folks met with the contractor for the final inspection and the \$15,275 bill was paid-in-full!! At the end of July, the campaign has raised \$17,845. The excess funds will go towards the many unfunded repairs around the campus. The campaign will end as planned on October 1 when we celebrate 50 years of worship in the sanctuary.

HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL IS STARTING TOMORROW. We will have lots of adorable little people on our campus for school beginning tomorrow. Please be mindful

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU to Sally and Sigrid for the beautiful handmade baby quilts and blankets. They send a wonderful message to the challenged newborns and families in Jacksonville. They are used by the Little Miracles office at the University of Florida Hospital here in Jacksonville. (formerly known as Shands) They make gift bags for those in need. Our mission to fight poverty in our own community is important. Another wonderful way Highlands is The Church! Many Thanks!! Mission Committee.

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. Nineteen jars of jelly were collected this week. Every grocery order going out of ACS has a jar of HUPC jelly!

YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP. We are looking for a few items for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance kits. We are in need of 16 X 26-inch hand towels and single pack toothbrushes. (The one your dentist gives you would be great). Thanks for your continued love and support of this very basic and much needed program.

"SPONSOR FOR 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: Al Hummel has gone to Brooks Rehab (Bartram) *At Brookdale Southside:* (9601 Southbrook Dr., Apt 126, Jax, FL 32256), 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 (c/o Teri Grimm, 4206 Harbour Island Dr. 32225),

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

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

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: The DeVriendt Family, John and Marie Dieas and Larry and Robbie Dismore.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PAT HUMMEL is scheduled for Saturday, August 26, at 11 a.m.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeter: Mark and Michelle Todd. Children's Church Leader: Erika Conner. Nursery Attendant: Jennifer Terrell.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God in honor of Fay's 98th birthday by Tom and Cindy Sweeney.