

WHO do You  
Say that I am?

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**August 27, 2017**

**21<sup>st</sup> Ordinary**

**"Good Question"**

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15)

Today is the 11<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday following  
Pentecost and the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Sunday in Ordinary  
Time..

As we prepare for  
worship we'll listen to  
Who Do You Say I  
Am"" by songwriter  
Greg Murai and a  
musical ensemble of  
which it was said,  
""The combination of  
Greg's song craft and  
the stellar  
musicianship and  
sincere humility of the  
band is overwhelming.  
They're not  
performing; they're  
worshipping through  
music." We hope you  
will listen and allow  
today's theme to enter  
your minds and hearts.

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 "A Celebration of Worship"

August 27, 2017 -- 21<sup>st</sup> of Ordinary Time

### "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.)*

#### CHIMING THE HOUR

#### WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

#### PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

#### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.**  
Our joy comes from the heart of God,  
**who transforms us into open-handed givers of hope.**  
Our grace comes from God's compassion,  
**who breaks the bonds which tie us to sin and death.**  
Blessed be the Lord our God!  
**who reveals to us the One who brings us new life!**  
Let us worship together.

#### \*PRAYER OF APPROACH (unison)

**"God of surprises,  
startle us with truth we do not see,  
amaze us with your power and grace,  
beckon us, and lead us far above our  
restricted hope and narrow faith.  
Hear us, Lord, even as you remind us how 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 you are comfortable, please stand

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 482**

**“Praise Ye The Lord”**

**\*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)**

While we may yearn to be like Jesus, we know that in our questionable choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous words, we are too often like Peter. But like him, we can confess Christ as our Lord, speaking of our need for your saving presence in our lives.:

**We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost, and wonder why we cannot find you. We wander the corridors of power, while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless. We sit at the head tables of the world, while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the kitchen's backdoor. We applaud those who win the race, while you are cheering on those in last place. In forgiving us, God of new life, you would transform our cold hearts into those melted in service to others. In granting us mercy, you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored. In gifting us with grace, you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks. Amen.**

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

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In God's mercy we are forgiven to be more than we are. We are forgiven to be members of the precious body of Christ, to be someone. We can, forgiven and freed proclaim that the kingdom of love is coming because:

**somewhere, someone is kind when others are unkind,  
somewhere, someone shares with another in need,  
somewhere, someone refuses to hate, while others hate,  
somewhere, someone is patient - and waits in love,  
somewhere, someone returns good for evil,  
somewhere, someone serves another, in love,  
somewhere, someone is calm in a storm,  
somewhere, someone is loving everybody.**

**In Christ, Thanks be to God, that someone can be us!**

Our Hymn of Praise is one of the classic hymns in the Christian tradition, “Praise Ye The Lord, The Almighty.” Loosely based on Psalm 103:1-6 and Psalm 150, with echoes from other psalms, this is a strong hymn of praise to our covenant God, who heals, provides for, and defends us. Let “all that has life and breath” sing praise to the Lord! According to the American hymnologist and composer Austin Lovelace, the exuberance of the text is matched by its “galloping dactylic rhythm.” How about that?!

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, 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 presents two beloved hymns in one special setting. “More Love To Thee” and “My Jesus I Love Thee” is arranged by Dennis Allen. The music and words combine for a compelling ‘earnest plea’ to love Christ more fully.

As we respond to God’s Word preached, we sing together the hymn “O God of Every Nation” written by The Rev. William Reid in 1958 as a response to cold war hostility and rhetoric. How may a hymn address such a theme? Reid served in the U S Army Medical Corps (1943-1945), earned three battle stars, and was imprisoned in Germany for eight months. He understood the nature of war. The first stanza begins by addressing the “God of every nation, of every race and land.” The poet realized that peace might only be wrought ultimately among nations and not solely through the efforts of any one country. The second stanza boldly identifies some of the causes of strife: the “search for wealth and power,” the “scorn of truth and right.” The poet also laments the “trust in bombs that shower/destruction through the night.” Another cause of strife is the “pride of race and station.” Reid asks, “deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.” The final stanza pleads for a “bright . . . vision” of the cessation of “war . . . , hatred and division.” as the poet looks toward the “dawn . . . [of the] morning” where Christ will reign in “truth and justice.”

## **\*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**

Exodus 1:8-10, 22 – 2:10

(OT: p.)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **ANTHEM**

#### **“More Love To Thee”**

Allen

“More love to Thee, oh Christ, more love to Thee! Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee. This is my earnest plea, More love, oh Christ, to Thee. More love to Thee, more love to Thee! My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine; for thee all the follies of sin I resign; my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou; if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now. This is my earnest plea, More love, oh Christ, to Thee. More love to Thee, more love to Thee!”

### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS**

Romans 12:1-8

(NT: p. )

\*Matthew 16: 13 – 20

(NT: p. )

### **TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH**

#### **INTERLUDE**

(All children, ages 4 through 2<sup>nd</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 #207.)

### **SERMON**

#### **“Good Question”**

### **“SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD”**

#### **\*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 289 “O God Of Every Nation ”**

#### **\*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.”**

## BEING THE CHURCH IN MISSION, PRAYER AND GIVING

### As We Come to Prayer

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, God of all, God of the universe, more vast than we can ever imagine, we come to you in prayer and praise. We give you thanks for blessings of our living, seen and unseen. We thank you, that as mighty as you are, you love us and care for us and claim us as your children. You call us this day to celebrate the church of Jesus Christ in all of its challenge and in all of its joy:

Lord God, We come to you in humble awe of who you are.

**We worship you this morning with songs and voice and now with prayers. We adore you with our love, praises and thanksgiving. We thank you for all you are doing in and through your church.**

Lord God, We thank you for what you are doing in our own lives.

**Growing us to be mature in our faith. Growing us to be more like Jesus. Growing us to be loving of others and especially the unloved.**

Lord we come bringing our petitions for those in need.

**We now pray for those in our midst who need healing, in the hospital, home recovering, in rehabilitation, those waiting for results of tests.**

We pray for those who are grieving today.

**May they be comforted, re-find their way, be strengthened and encouraged.**

Lord we come bringing our prayers for our communities, our countries and the nations,

**It feels as if we live in tumultuous times everywhere. Everywhere the economies are in dire straits, bringing other problems with it. There is rioting, protests, fighting, in every country including our own as old wounds of racial inequality are reopened. There are famines, food scarcities, medical supplies shortages, high unemployment, the list could go on. It appears that sometimes the nation's leaders seem helpless or powerless or far worse simply uncaring.**

Lord we entreat you to intervene in our world to put right the wrong, to guide our leaders, to relieve the suffering and pain and to offer real hope to the world. We believe our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

**We believe that we all are one body of Christ, called to be transformed to your will rather than conformed to the will of the world. Make us one in you, Lord, bringing our gifts and our calling together to work in this world, in ministry to this world.**

We believe that on the rock you are building your church, and that no power will prevail against it. Let us be your church in this world.

**Amen.**

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.

We share our Tithes and Offerings as an active response to God's blessings to us in our living. What we give supports the work and worship of the church including all of our programs, our mission efforts and our sharing of mutual love and affection for one another.

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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 two hymns in one offering. The familiar "Come Thou Fount" and a new hymn "There Are Many Ways of Sharing" combine using the tune of "Come Thou Fount" to give us a fitting challenge as we 'go into the world.'

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 fellowship.

## **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."**

### **"GOD'S PEOPLE SENT INTO THE WORLD"**

#### **\*CHARGE AND SENDING**

Like Moses, up from the water and saved for a purpose;

**We are the church!**

Like Peter declaring rock like faith;

**We are the church!**

Like a body with many parts called to function together;

**We are the church!**

On this Rally Day we embrace the grace of God in our calling;

**We are the church!**

We go now to be the church together!

#### **\*HYMN AS WE GO "COME THOU FOUNT OF MANY WAYS OF SHARING"**

**"Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love!"**

**There are many ways of sharing, But God's Spirit gives each one.  
There are different ways of caring; It's one Lord whose work is done.  
God, whose gifts are overflowing, May we hear you when you call;  
Keep us serving, keep us growing For the common good of all.**

**We've been baptized in the waters! We've been given work to do.  
When you call your sons and daughters, You give gifts for serving you.  
God, we join in celebration Of the talents you impart.  
Bless each baptized one's vocation; Give each one a servant's heart.**

**All are blest by gifts you give us; Some are set apart to lead.  
Give us Jesus' love within us As we care for those in need.  
Give us faith to make decisions; Give us joy to share your Word.  
Give us unity and vision As we serve your church and world."**

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

#### **\*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."**

\*- Those who are comfortable may please stand

**HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS**  
This Week at Highlands  
Week of August 27 – September 2, 2017



**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</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Crafty Ladies</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Quilting and Sewing Group</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Volunteer Training</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**

**WELCOME ONE ANOTHER...AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU!** Isn't it wonderful to be in a comfortable place on a steamy August morning? Don't you enjoy being in the presence of people you know and love and who know and love you? Do you ever wonder why there's so much sadness in one moment and so much joy in another? Good questions. Jesus asks us another question today. "Who do you say that I am?"

**WE ARE BACK – ALMOST! WE ARE KICKING OFF OUR WELLNESS PROGRAMS ON WED, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>.**

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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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  YEAR AT HIGHLANDS ON SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>!**

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).

**THANK YOU TO ALL** who are participating in the Blood Drive today.

**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. **Please sign up today!**

**THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS** resumes September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in its new location in Harris Hall. The first five sessions will focus on **Making Moral Decisions**. We are looking forward to lively discussions, so come and join us!

**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!

### OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

**READY FOR A GOOD LAUGH?** Arlington Presbyterian Church invites our congregation to an afternoon of comedy skits presented by the Vintage Players. The show is free, but voluntary donations will be accepted to help defray expenses. Come for an entertaining afternoon and enjoy refreshments afterwards on September 23, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. The show will be in Showalter Hall of Arlington Presbyterian, 1351 Sprinkle Drive (corner of Sprinkle and Commerce). Everyone is invited. Contacts are Elaine Faloon at 365-3529 and Eunice Johnson at 221-9741.

**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. Eighteen 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), Tiffani Riccilli (Annie Lietzow's granddaughter) stage 4 cancer and under hospice care.

**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](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:** Gibson Dixon, Betty Ann Dobbins and The Douget Family.

**OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE:** Greeter: Alan and Anneliese Robbins. Children's Church Leader: David Bauerlein. Nursery Attendant: Bev Connell.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE** are given to the glory of God by Richard and Nance Marsh in memory of Richard and Virginia Marsh.