

FIRST SUNDAY IN
LENT



***HIGHLANDS UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

1ST OF LENT

"HERE WE GO AGAIN..."

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor

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Today is the 1st Sunday in the Season of Lent. Our worship begins a journey with Jesus and his followers moving towards Jerusalem, Holy Week and then Easter.

The Time of Preparation is provided for us to settle ourselves and offer a silent prayer before worship begins. Our music for preparation is a piano arrangement of "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley."

Our Service begins with a **WELCOME** to all who are gathered to worship together. We embrace the opportunity to share the good news of what we are doing outside of the sanctuary which is also our 'worship' and our 'service' to God.

Our "**Call to Worship**" leads into our first corporate prayer as the gathered body of Christ. The 'Gathering Prayer' reflects the themes of the day's worship.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

February 18, 2018 – 1st Sunday In Lent

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

MUSIC AND TIME OF PREPARATION

(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

We come, so God might open our eyes,
**that we may discover the wonders surrounding us;
that we may embrace the joy deep within us.**

We gather, so Christ might widen our hearts,
**that we may hear the sounds of brokenness around us;
that we may sing the melodies of hope.**

We are here, so the Spirit might teach us the ways of humility,
**that we may walk that street named Enduring Love;
that we may wait at the corner called Faithfulness.**

Come, let us worship God!

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Responsively)

We are looking for the rainbow.
**We are adrift upon a sea of disquiet lost and looking
for a rainbow.**

We were comfortable believing we had our lives worked out.
That we could make it day to day had a hopeful future.

We work hard;
pay our bills, help our neighbors, care for our families.

Then the floods came
**waters of fear flooded the basements of our memories,
tides of grief surged over barricades painstakingly built
to keep the world away.**

We cling to the Ark holding on for our lives.
We are looking for the rainbow.

And God said: *I'm putting my rainbow in the clouds,*
a sign of the covenant between me and the Earth.

We are looking for the rainbow; it is there.
**It is there because you put it there.
It is there because you care for us.
It is there because you care for the Earth.**

We see the rainbow and know that however high the floodwaters,
we will be safe.

*If comfortable, please stand

We see the rainbow and believe that in the darkest night,
you are with us.

We see the rainbow and know that one day,
the floodwaters will recede.

We see the rainbow and believe the doors of the Ark will open
and we will walk on dry land again.

And God said: *When the rainbow appears in the cloud,*
**I'll see it and remember the eternal covenant between God
and everything living...**

We rejoice that you remember and care for your children
**the lost and lonely, the humble and the hungry, the destitute
and dying.**

We rejoice that you remember and save your children,
take up their burdens, ease their pain, carry them home.

We are looking for the rainbow
We see the rainbow and believe!

We rejoice that you remember! In the name of Christ we 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."**

***GATHERING HYMN NO. 275 "God Of Our Life"**

***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 AND PARDON"

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

God takes broken promises and turns them into vows of faithfulness.
God takes our biggest failings and shapes lives of service. God listens to
our prayers of confession and changes them into songs of mercy. Let us
come to the One who pours forgiveness into our lives, praying,

**We admit we are hesitant to walk to Jerusalem and beyond
with you, God of Glory. In a world where we worry about
tomorrow before enjoying today, we race by your moments
of silence, of learning. In that flood of worries, which can
overwhelm us, we may miss that assurance that you have
not cut us off from your grace. In the deserts of our desires,**

*In our final 'gathering
act' we "Pass the
Peace" as an act of
caring, welcome, and
mutual love. In any
language, the love of
God is translated into
peace as we join
hands and hearts
together. We are re-
gathered as a
worshiping
community with a
verse from the Hymn
"Blest Be The Tie
That Binds."*

Corporate Confession:

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

we may ignore that feast of hope, of joy, of life you offer to us.
Forgive us and have mercy on us, Gentle Guardian of our souls. In humility, may we offer our lives to others. In love, may we share your grace with everyone we meet. In hope, may we wait for you all our days, as you come to us in the life and joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

In this place we find God's word, God's way, God's love, God's forgiveness. What more do we need to sustain us as we continue as pilgrims along the Way?

**In every wilderness, on every road; in every moment,
in every life; in every journey, in every heart, we receive the
daily bread we need - God's hope, God's mercy, God's joy.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

“THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 9:8-17 (OT: p. 7)

ANTHEM “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”
(Text: Hymn No. 81)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

1 Peter 3:18-22 (NT: p. 234)
*Mark 1:9-15 (NT: p. 34)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

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 “Here We Go Again...”

***HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 80** “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (The Ecumenical Apostles’ Creed)

“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

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 worshipping community, the reading of scripture, the singing of sacred music and the preaching of the Word.

(We use the ‘common lectionary’ which is a guide that assigns readings over a three-year cycle. God’s people are given the opportunity to hear and read along God’s Word from the Bible).

We stand together and make public our Affirmation of Faith using the Ecumenical Version of The Apostles’ Creed.

of 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

Loving, Creating God, you are in covenant with your people.

You have pledged to be our God and ask us to be your people, trusting in you in all our ways.

This is Lent and once again you invite us on a journey of faith.

Help us to be ready for the journey by replacing the fear in our hearts with a sense of joy and challenge of self-discovery and discipleship.

Lent brings so many questions and concerns about...

violence in our land and between nations and all who suffer because of it.

We have so many questions and concerns about...

violence within families and all who suffer because of it.

We have so many questions and concerns about...

earthquakes, floods and hurricanes and all who suffer because of them.

We have so many questions and concerns about...

poverty and all who suffer because of it.

We have so many questions and concerns about...

sickness and disease and all who suffer because of them.

We have so many questions and concerns about...

untimely death and all who suffer because of it.

We have so many questions and concerns about...

prejudice and hatred and all who suffer because of them.

We have so many questions and concerns about...

the squandering of the earth's resources and all who suffer because of it.

We feel like you suffer with us, loving God,

you hear our prayers and you let our cries come unto you.

And yet you, Lord, challenge us do more than just ask questions. You challenge us to be better than we are.

You look at us and say, “Just one more thing, give it all up and follow me”

With your help we will comfort and be comforted, strengthen and be strengthened, feed and be fed, shelter and be sheltered, listen and be heard, in Christ, with Christ and through Christ we dare to pray,

allow the suffering to cease because we decide to come and follow you.

In our midst, O God, there are those who need your peace. We pray for our brothers and sisters who are ill and looking for health,

We, as God's own people, loved by the lamb of God have so very much for which to be thankful. We are blessed in a way to which most of the people of the world cannot relate. With our blessings, we are called by God to follow not simply the idea of Jesus, but the ideal of Jesus. Following Christ means sublimating our agenda for Christ's agenda which is the love and well being of all of God's people. When in our minds, hearts, or actions we acquiesce to the thinking of the world we fail to be true disciples of Jesus. Jesus calls us to follow him and not the winds that would foment isolationism.

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.

Finally, we pray for ourselves that God will keep us ever faithful to the one who comes to us as 'Lamb of God' to take away our sins and promise us eternal life.

wholeness and wellness. We pray for those who struggle day to day with ongoing treatments, with difficult decisions to make and with future procedures to be faced.

We pray for comfort and healing.

We pause to pray, hesitantly and with humility for ourselves. For your continued blessings when we have been blessed so deeply, for your continued guidance when we so blithely go our own way, and for your grace which we, although undeserving, cherish. Help us to be more like you, Lamb of God. Make us ready to receive your good news and then to be witnesses to your love to all your people.

May we be willing to pick up our cross and follow you all the way to the joy of Easter. Amen.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION (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.”

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

We are tempted to simply stay here where we are safe and secure, but there is a journey to be made.

We have a way to follow, a cross to bear, a race to be run.

May God guide our feet, our hands, our hearts and our minds,
Throughout these forty days of Lent and always.

***HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 354 “Guide My Feet”**

**Guide my feet while I run this race, Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**Hold my hand while I run this race, Hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**Stand by me while I run this race, Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**I'm Your child while I run this race, I'm Your child while I run this race,
I'm Your child while I run this race, For I don't want to run this race in vain!**

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE**

**Search our hearts while we run this race, Search our hearts while we run this
race, Search our hearts while we run this race, For we don't want to run this
race in vain! (race in vain!)**

**Guide our feet while we run this race, Guide our feet while we run this race,
Guide our feet while we run this race, For we don't want to run this race in
vain! (race in vain!)**

Our response to the preaching of the Word includes our joyful offering of ourselves to God including our financial resources with which the church is enable to 'practice what we have preached.'

Our Hymn of Parting is a gospel hymn, "Guide My Feet While I Run This Race." Lent has begun, Easter can not be far away!

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

We hope this Service of Worship has given you an opportunity to express your thanks and praise to God, to hear God's Word, to offer something of yourself, and to be challenged to go into the world refreshed and renewed as our 'service' continues in the world.

Please join us in the Dining Hall for a time of Fellowship.

* - If Comfortable Doing So, Please Stand



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of February 18 – February 24, 2018



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Service Office Closed
Monday:	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting Quilting and Sewing Group
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m.	Wellness (Yoga at 10 and Adult Logos at 11)
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Logos is celebrating 25 years at HUPC Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday:	5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Packing for Micah's Backpack 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

TODAY IS the first Sunday in the Season of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation, repentance and penitence leading up to our celebration of Holy Week and Easter. Lent is 40 days, beginning on Ash Wednesday, and not counting Sunday's. During Lent we invite you to join in our **Lenten "Soup and Study" on Tuesdays in Lent.** (Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13 and 20). Soup will be ready at 6:30 and the study will begin at 7 p.m. Join us for the Lenten discipline of study, the fellowship and the soup!

WELLNESS IN ON WEDNESDAYS: 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.

WE'RE CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF LOGOS AT HUPC!! We're having a great time at logos – learning a little and laughing a lot; children of all ages are welcome to come and join us! The theme for this week is "Promises, Promises", and you are invited to bring a cute baby outfit for UF Health.

THANKS! Once again, the people of HUPC have responded to Christ's call. We have reached and also surpassed our goal of sponsoring 30 children in Haiti this year. It's a good thing because there are some new children who have recently arrived. Once again, thanks, for providing food, clothing, medical care, shelter, schooling and a better life for these children. On behalf of Grace of Mercy Outreach Ministries, Inc. and the children in Haiti – **THANKS AND GOD BLESS HUPC!**

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS studies many different topics and looks forward to lively conversation. Please join us for this interesting and informative class. On February 25th they will begin a two week session on "Spirituality 101".

THANKS!! Wow! How else can we say it? Your PYC is overwhelmed and appreciative of your love and support of them in our first two fundraisers. Our 'Super BBQ' produced about \$1,500.00 and our Spaghetti Supper and Dessert Auction brought in over \$2,500.!! And now it's time for one of the most longed for and anticipated days of the year! Next Sunday after worship you can unburden your garages, attics and closets and bring your 'treasures' to the Dining Hall for the annual PYC Yard Sale and Breakfast which is on March 3! Montreat here we come!

WE WILL BE PREPARING A "spring" newsletter this week. If you have articles or news please submit them a.s.a.p.

HEY HIGHLANDS?! HOW WAS THAT CUP OF COFFEE? How about that brownie? Oh, you had some fruit and a cookie too? Your Fellowship Committee and friends loves providing but could use some help. How about a contribution that's financial or from your oven? Want to help, speak to your Sunday morning servers. And most of all, say, **"THANKS!!"**

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL WILL BE ENROLLING for the Fall 2018 school year on Monday, February 12th for HUPC members and Tuesday, February 20th will begin Open Enrollment - ages 15 months to 4 years old. We are excited to be an outreach of all the great Mission work at Highlands. Providing for a community of children on the campus of Highlands, you truly know God's blessings. Stop by for a tour and meet the staff anytime Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 6:00pm

WE HAVE SEVERAL MISCELLANEOUS SERVING TRAYS, BOWLS AND LIDS on a table in the fellowship hall. Please stop by and see if anything belongs to you.

HIGHLAND'S BABY SHOWER: In December, your donations of 20 blankets and 42 outfits became much appreciated gifts for 20 newborns here in Jacksonville. Your love and care for these precious babies is a blessing to their families and friends. Many thanks from your Highlands Mission Committee – for more information contact Susan Lee at 887-4661

THERE ARE STILL SOME OPEN DATES on the flower calendar for 2018. Please take a moment to see if you would like to provide flowers for the following dates: July 22nd or September 30th Thanks!

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. Seven 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: Don Hall is at Mayo.

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

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: 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.

WE EXTEND THE LOVE AND CARE OF THE CONGREGATION to the family of our former D.C.E., Rebekah Andrews, on the occasion of her father, The Rev. Dr. L.V. Andrews, Jr.'s physical death. Becky's email is: jaxbeck2@gmail.com.

FAMILIES WE ARE PRAYING FOR THIS WEEK: The Chad Norton family, the Regan Norton family and Charlie Obedia

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: John and Barbara Ruby. Children's Church Leader: David Bauerlein.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by Olivia Ehmer in memory of her parents, Kurt and Ferne Baaske.