



HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

January 7, 2018

Baptism of the Lord & Communion Sunday

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor
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In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:9-11)

Today we celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday which is in the 1st Sunday in the season of Epiphany. We will also be renewing our Baptism and sharing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Music as we prepare for worship is "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arranged and performed in an Appalachian Folk Style by Mark Baldwin.

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 "God Is Here" which was written by Fred Pratt Green a British hymnist. In the first three words of the hymn, "God Is Here," we acknowledge something that so often we forget—God is here in worship and calls us first. We thank God for the gifts in the church, through Christ, and remember together that we bring thanks to God for the "varied skills and arts" as we invoke the "coming of the Spirit" into "open minds and hearts."

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

January 7, 2018 – J.O.Y. and Baptism of the Lord Sunday

"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.)

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME AS WE GATHER & SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

God's voice thunders...

God's voice is powerful...

God's voice flashes forth flames of fire...

God's voice shakes the wilderness...

We give glory and praise to our great God!

God blesses the people with peace...

God gives us strength in our weakness...

God refreshes us in the waters of Baptism...

Come, let us worship God.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Responsively)

Loving God, you breathe your Spirit into us to remind us that we are your beloved people.

This is good news!

You send your Spirit to teach us how to make strangers and enemies into beloved friends.

This is good news!

As we received your good news, help us become good news for others. Guide us into the ways of peace in the name of Jesus 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. 461

"GOD IS HERE!"

*If comfortable, please stand

***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...)

***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 FELLOWSHIP "

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

The psalmist tells us that the One whose voice can knock trees to the ground listens to our hesitant prayers which speak of our sin, of how we have hurt others, as well as God. Join me, as we pray to the One who will bless us with peace and forgiveness:

You would have all people hear of your grace, Servant God,
but we hinder your efforts by hoarding your Word for ourselves.

You would have hope flow through our neighborhoods,
but we thwart your plans by damming it up in our hearts.

You would have us skip into your kingdom,
but we frustrate your future by clinging so tightly to those grudges we have carried for so long.

Have mercy on us, Shaker of our wildernesses, and unlock the shuttered doors of our hearts.

Remind us that at our baptism you touch us with the waters of life, promise to be with us always, and call us your beloved, even as you sang your joy to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, at the waters of the Jordan.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

You know the good news God has proclaimed to you: we are called to let go of the past, and to walk, hand in hand with the Spirit, into the kingdom.

God forgives us, accepts us, and sends us forth to do good, and to testify about the One who baptizes us in the water and the Spirit. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***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.”

In our final ‘gathering act’ we **“Pass the Peace”** as an act of caring, welcome, and mutual love. Please remain standing as we sing “Blest Be The Tie That Binds.”

We practice **Corporate Confession** in the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition. We do not offer individual confession save for that which we offer in our silent prayers. We believe that we are a community of faith and as such share in the sins of all. We are “Called to Confession” as a reminder of our individual and communal sin. Our “Confession and Pardon” gives expression to our desire to know forgiveness. The “Kyrie Eleison” 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 worshipping community.

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

In response to the Word read there is the 'preaching of the word for our living today.' This includes words for 'the young church' and all who gather.

On this "Baptism of the Lord" Sunday we will share an **"Invitation to a service of Belonging, Baptismal Remembrance & The Lord's Supper And Calling."**

We claim God's claim on us in calling us by name. We respond to God's claim in how we live and in what we do. We will be invited to give our offerings, to come to the font and touch the water and 'remember our baptism' as an occasion of the verbalization an realization' of God's call and claim upon our living and then to 'come to table'

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

(OT: p. 1)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 19:1-7

(NT: p. 139)

*Mark 1:4-11

(NT: p. 34)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

INTERLUDE

(In the 10 a.m. service, 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

"It's the Name..."

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE AS WE COME TO FONT AND TABLE**

"Christ When For Us You Were Baptized"

(Tune: Azmon)

**Christ, when for us You were baptized, God's Spirit on You came,
As peaceful as a dove and yet As urgent as a flame.**

**God called You "My beloved Son," the suffering servant true,
Sent You the kingdom to proclaim, God's holy will to do.**

**Straight-way and steadfast until death you then obeyed God's call
Freely as Son of Man to serve and give Your life for all.**

**Baptize us with Your Spirit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,
That, likewise in God's service, we may perfect freedom find.**

***INVITATION TO A SERVICE OF BELONGING, BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE & THE LORD'S SUPPER AND CALLING**

God creates all beings; God created you! And God says...

"You are the delight of my life!"

God delights in all beings; God delights in you! And God says...

"You are the delight of my life!"

God breathed the divine spirit into all beings; God breathed divinity into you! And God says...

"You are the delight of my life!"

God calls us all to live justly and fairly; and God says...

"You are the delight of my life!"

Before all time, beyond all time, God says...

“You are the delight of my life!”

God calls us to the font and table to find a new way:
a new grace, a new hope, a new faith, a new life.

God calls; we come.

Come to the font and table and let go of the outworn:
outworn habits, outworn pains, outworn angers,
outworn burdens.

God calls; we come.

God blesses the font and table and heals us, cleans us, feeds us,
renews us, and refreshes us.

God blesses; we praise.

Come to the font and table and receive blessing, freedom,
mercy, love.

God blesses; we praise.

Come to the water to remember your baptism and to allow
God's Spirit to flow over you once again.

God blesses; we praise.

Come to the table to realize God's living presence provided for
us here and now.

God blesses; we praise.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the Lord of All be with you;

And also with you!

May we experience Emmanuel, God With Us, in the water,
in the loaf and in the cup;

God be with us!

Our Gracious God, you sent the Spirit to move over the waters of
chaos to bring forth cosmos. Your Spirit moves in the waters of the
womb to bring forth life. Your Spirit rains and pours and floods in rivers
and oceans and veins cleansing, purifying, anointing all creation for
your service.

**In the waters of our Baptism your call and claim upon us
was being formed. Nurtured in us it comes to fruition when
your people confirm what you have done in and through us.**

All praise be to our 'calling God' who offers us grace; who nurtures the
young and cares for the old; who offers comfort in our pain and solution
to our ills; who recognizes need and sends us, the church, to respond;
who calls us by our name and claims us in Baptismal joy and feeds us
at the table of grace.

**Walk with us, Lord, down to the rivers of our lives, to the
table set with love for us, so that we can be renewed and
refreshed and restored to wholeness and health,
Always living to serve you. Amen.**

Even if we have not
been physically
baptized we are
claimed by God and
invited to come and
touch the water as a
promise of what is to
come.

We share our "Great
Prayer of
Thanksgiving" today as
we come to the font
and the table. In our
lives as Christians we
experience two
sacraments and on
this day we celebrate
the renewal of Baptism
and the blessing of
The Lord's Supper.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Ushers will be collecting the morning offering and as soon as they have passed your pew you are invited to come forward to "touch the waters and renew your baptism" and then proceed to the left or right to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. If you prefer not to come forward the elements will be brought to you.

The choir will sing an Offertory Anthem as we are coming forward called "This Baptizing Day" which has a familiar tune with words that mark the day of Jesus' baptism and the renewal of our own.

After the anthem we will remain seated (until our time to come forward) and sing the "Hymns As We Come To Font and Table." (We will sing the final verse of "Let Us Talents..." for our response today.

As we share our Prayer of Dedication and Commitment we remember all of our congregation and others who we lift before God in prayer. Please be in prayer this week for those who are listed on the last page of the bulletin.

Renewed and nourished we will go into the world in this new year with greater commitment and dedication to the call of Christ to serve with our whole beings.

WE OFFER OURSELVES AND COME TO FONT AND TABLE OFFERTORY ANTHEM "This Baptizing Day"

*"Jesus went down to the Jordan one day, his Father's calling to obey.
Then John baptized him, and the Lord God said, "This is the way!
This is my own dear son, Follow him; his work's begun.
Sin's drowned, the victory's won! River, wash guilt away!"
This water flows as the promise of grace for all God's children in this place,
It's not our doing; Christ has done it all. Give God the praise!
Now let this flood of love wash us clean, all fear remove.
From earth to heaven above, loud thanksgiving we raise!
When I go down to the river to pray, thinking on my baptizing day,
the Holy Spirit tells me I'm newborn, Old Sin, away!
My savior died for me. Resurrection set us free, Grace reigns eternally,
through this baptizing day!*

(Ushers will be collecting the morning offering and as soon as they have passed your pew you are invited to come forward to "touch the waters and renew your baptism" and then proceed to the left or right to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. If you prefer not to come forward the elements will be brought to you.)

HYMNS AS WE COME TO FONT AND TABLE

HYMN NO. 492 "Baptized In Water"

HYMN NO. 514 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (vss. 1 & 2)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Baptized to begin lives of faith,
**we would witness to all you do in our communities,
in our midst, in our world.**

Nourished to serve,
**we would speak up for the voiceless,
we would bring justice to those who have none.**

Nourished to speak,
**we would heal, and not hurt;
we would bless, and not curse.**

Baptized to do what is right,
**we would not play favorites,
but treat each as your Beloved.**

Go to live new lives steeped in the promises of God, and do not weary in doing what is right. Trust that the God who creates all things new will never abandon you or forsake you, but will guide you and keep you always.

We go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Amen!

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (vss. 3)**

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*If comfortable, please stand



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of January 7, – January 13, 2018



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Service Committee Meetings
Monday:	7:00 p.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:	7:30 p.m.	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' worshippers 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!

WELLNESS WILL RETURN THIS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH: 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 back this Wednesday, January 10th. 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 on January 10th!

THANKS!: Thanks to all who helped create another season of wonder for Advent and Christmas here at HUPC. With special thanks to our Worship team: the Committee, the Choirs, Soloist, and Leaders! And to our Fellowship team who helped 'make the season bright.' And to all for keeping Christmas alive and well in our hearts, minds and actions in the life of the church!

THANKS 2!: Your church staff would like to thank you for your love, care, and support throughout 2017. Being 'called by God' to do the work we do we need your love and support to continue serving God and HUPC in 2018. We are deeply grateful for your most generous and gracious 'gift' to us at Christmas this year. Thank you and may God continue to give us a heart for ministry together.

URGENT REQUEST: We NEED sponsors for 30 children in Haiti at \$25.00 per month (\$300.00 for the year.) We are IN URGENT NEED OF a few more sponsors. Please consider helping these children who are truly in a kind of need even needy children in the U.S. do not experience. We need more sponsorships to assure our ability to meet our commitment to the Grace of Mercy children. Thanks!

FAMILY PROMISE - Our Family Promise guests will be visiting Highlands from February 4 - 11, and there will be many opportunities to volunteer during the week. We will need day, evening and overnight hosts as well as volunteers to prepare dinners and lunch on Sunday. The signup sheet will be in the Dining Hall after worship next week, and we hope you will give thought to helping these families as they begin a new year experiencing homelessness.

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

Micah's Backpack will resume packing weekend food for 86 children on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 5:30 PM in Harris Hall. Everyone is welcome...We have volunteers from many churches and organizations and all ages...from 4 years old to Great Grandparents! The Micah's "Food of the Month/Fill a Tummy Club" selection for January is Chef Boy-R-Dee Pasta in the 15 ounce can or 7.5-ounce microwaveable bowl. Thanks for your help and support.

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS will study "Visiting Someone in the Hospital" on Jan. 14, 2018. Please join us for this interesting and informative class.

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 new baby clothes, blankets and more. You are a blessing. Highlands 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. Five 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, individual toothbrushes and fingernail clippers 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:

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: 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 Martin Family, Veroncia Martin and The Mauney Family.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeter: Jean Collins.