

SO, YOU'RE SAYING THAT  
THE CARELESSNESS OF  
THE SOWER IS A SIGN OF  
GOD'S EXTRAVAGANT  
GRACE?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YES.



THE GOSPEL IS FOR *EVERYONE* TO  
HEAR! GOD DOESN'T *DISCRIMINATE*  
NOR DO THE *PEOPLE OF GOD!*



THAT'S NOT TRUE. I ONLY SHARE  
THE GOSPEL WITH A *VERY*  
*NARROW DEMOGRAPHIC*, THE  
PEOPLE WHO I TALK TO  
AT CHURCH.



MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

© WETZSTEIN 14.07.09

# HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

**JULY 16, 2017**

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

"The Careless Extravagance of God's Grace "

### HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor

Laura Sambito, DCE

Gibson Dixon, Director of Music

Anneliese Robbins, Church Admin.

10900 McCormick Road

Jacksonville, FL 32225

904-641-9622

[hupc\\_jax@bellsouth.net](mailto:hupc_jax@bellsouth.net)/[hupcjax.org](http://hupcjax.org)

Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Today is the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday of  
Ordinary Time.

As we prepare for  
worship we'll listen  
to an acoustic  
guitar version of  
the praise song,  
"Thy Word" from  
an album called  
"Guitars in  
Worship" by Dave  
Cleveland. "Thy  
Word" was written  
by Amy Grant and  
the song  
composed by  
Michael W. Smith.

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

July 16, 2017 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**"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**

Summertime, fresh corn dripping with butter,  
plump strawberries topping our cereal:

**Praise is due to you, God of the harvest!**

Children chasing fireflies in evening's shadows,  
families picnicking in the backyard:

**Praise is due to you, God of summer days!**

Mothers tightening training wheels on bikes,  
fathers teaching kids to bait a hook:

**Praise is due to you, God of our lives!**

#### **\*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)**

**You open our hearts, O God, as you put a sail on your hope  
so it may reach the furthest shores of our despair. Your showers of  
grace fall softly upon the loose soil of our dried-up dreams.**

**Your words do not return empty to you, Story-teller. They  
take root deep within us, blossoming into gentleness which can  
comfort a broken heart, into compassion which can transform  
a cold shoulder into an embrace, into kindness which can make  
a curmudgeon break into laughter.**

**You move into our lives, Spirit of life, quietly taking those  
fears which trip us in the night hours and putting them out in the  
trash; gently watering the seeds planted in our inept souls until  
they become bushels of grace.**

**We join all in coming to you God in Community, Holy in One,  
even as we pray together, saying, "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 comfortable, please stand

**\*HYMN NO. 420**

**“God of Grace and God of Glory”**

**\*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 AND FELLOWSHIP"**

**\*CONFESSION AND PARDON (responsive)**

We come as faithful people to this place of worship. We come with praise in our hearts and a desire to faithfully serve. We also come with questions. How best can we serve? How best can we be faithful?

We have appetites that are so voracious that we would easily 'sell out' for something as basic as personal gratification:

**Forgive our 'give me the pot of stew' attitude that diminishes your claim upon us.**

We allow ourselves to be so easily influenced by our desire for instant sensory pleasure:

**Forgive us for our willing spirits and such unwilling 'flesh.'**

We take the life given us so for granted that we sow seeds with little care as to where they fall:

**Forgive us for our lack of care for your good gifts to us.**

We forget that we are seeds ourselves, planted in nurturing soil, given life to produce the fruits of love, hope, peace, and grace for all God's children;

**Forgive us, Lord, and enliven us to grow for you again. Amen**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. That's Good News. Believe it!

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*THE GLORIA PATRI (Hymn No. 579)**

**“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.”**

Our opening hymn is one of the great hymns of the church, “God of Grace and God of Glory.” The words by Harry E. Fosdic, promote the understanding of our humanness against God's perfection. The plea for wisdom and courage is as relevant today as in 1931 when it was written for the dedication of New York's nondenominational Riverside Church.

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 is “We Plow the Fields and Scatter” written by Matthias Claudius. It first appeared in Germany in 1782 and was known as “The Peasants’ Song.” It was part of a dramatic sketch portraying a harvest festival in a farm home in northern Germany. It first appeared in England in 1861. These verses are taken from the 17 original stanzas of the poem.

As we respond to God’s Word preached, we sing together an absolute favorite of the church “Love Divine All Loves Excelling” which was written by the prolific hymn writer Charles Wesley. A substantial number of his writings were completed while riding on horseback to his evangelical meetings. What really set Charles apart from other hymn writers was his effective use of scriptural allusions, providing a spiritual roadmap whereby individuals could imagine a Christ-centered life.

## “THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

**Genesis 25:19-34**

(OT: p. 21)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be To God!**

### ANTHEM

**“We Plow The Fields, And Scatter”**

**“We plow the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand;  
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes and the sunshine, And soft refreshing rain.**

***Refrain: All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord For all His love.***

**He only is the maker of all things near and far;  
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star;  
The winds and waves obey Him, By Him the birds are fed;  
Much more to us, His children, He gives our daily bread. *Refrain***

**We thank Thee, then, O Father, For all things bright and good,  
The seed time and the harvest, Our life, our health, and food;  
No gifts have we to offer, For all Thy love imparts,  
But that which Thou desirest, Our humble, thankful hearts.” *Refrain***

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Galatians 3:23-29

(NT: p. 189)

\*Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

(NT: p. 13)

### TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

#### SERMON

“The Careless Extravagance of God’s Grace ”

**“SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD”**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 376 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

**\*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

God sows seeds of grace, mercy and compassion through us in our community and in our world. Let us present to our God our cares and our concerns for the people whom God has placed on our road of life, and let us say:

**Lord, you are near to all who call on you.**

For all ministers of the Church, that they may faithfully proclaim God's word and God's law and at the same time walk in God's ways of compassion and love without measure, let us pray:

**Lord, you are near to all who call on you.**

For all those whose profession it is to help the sick and the needy - like doctors, nurses, social workers - that they may be motivated by gentleness and love for those they help, let us pray:

**Lord, you are near to all who call on you.**

For those who lie wounded by the road of life, that they may find good Samaritans who assist them to restore their faith in life and their trust in people, let us pray:

**Lord, you are near to all who call on you.**

For drivers and travelers, all of those on vacation, and those who journey daily towards survival that they may have a safe journey, let us pray:

**Lord, you are near to all who call on you.**

For all those who have been good neighbors to us, that the Lord may reward them, let us pray:

**Lord, you are near to all who call on you.**

And for all of us, that we may have for one another time and attention and a helping hand,

**Lord, you are near to all who call on you.**

Lord God, people are your gift to us. Help us to love one another with the generous love you have shown us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Lord, you are near to all who call on you.**

For the sick, the saddened, the lost and discomfited, let us pray:

**Lord, you are near to all who call on you.**

Beckoning Christ, you call us out of our comfortable world of 'us' and 'them' to risk discipleship without walls.

**You call us into a world-wide fellowship where God is worshipped above all others.**

You call us into a world-wide fellowship where prayer is offered day and night.

**You call us into a world-wide fellowship where we can share what we are with others who love you.**

You call us into a worldwide fellowship where each person has something to give to the whole.

**You call us into a worldwide fellowship where compassion and respect shape missionary endeavor.**

Keep on beckoning us out of our safe havens into your rich fellowship of challenge and reconciliation, faith and hope. 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.

## GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY

#### \*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.”

### “GOD’S PEOPLE SENT INTO THE WORLD”

#### \*CHARGE TO GO AND SERVE

Go forth as God's people.

**We will sow seeds of love and joy in the world.**

Go forth as Christ's true friends.

**We will sow seeds of justice and hope in oppression-strewn paths.**

Go forth as the Spirit's love.

**We will sow seeds of peace and reconciliation in every corner of creation.**

#### \*HYMN OF PARTING “Christ Taught Us Of a Farmer”

(Tune: "The Church's One Foundation")

**“Christ taught us of a farmer who went out sowing seeds.  
A few had trouble growing among the rocks and weeds.  
But others grew till harvest in soil that was so good.  
O God, you sow the gospel: The seed is your own word.**

**You sowed your word of love here so many years ago.\*  
Your message found a welcome; your word began to grow.  
By grace, this church was built here by saints who followed you.  
The seed took root and flourished: we hear and follow, too.**

**We thank you for each member who lives in loving ways,  
For those who seek to serve you without expecting praise.  
For hearts and songs uplifted, for work and sacrifice.  
The seed you planted grows here: we grow in Jesus Christ.**

**In times of joy we praise you, in struggling times we search,  
And always we are learning to be your faithful church.  
Your Spirit gives us vision, and hearts and lives made new.  
Your harvest is for sharing: sent out, we work for you.”**

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### CHORAL RESPONSE “Lord, Make Us More Holy”

**"Lord, make us more holy, Lord, make us more holy,  
Lord, make us more holy, Until we meet again.  
Holy, holy, holy, Until we meet again."**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*- If comfortable, please stand

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 ‘Christ Taught Us Of a Farmer’ by Carol Winfrey Gillette tells that our task is to do the sowing. God takes care of the growth. Then we help to reap the harvest.

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.



**HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS**  
 This Week at Highlands  
 Week of July 16 – July 22, 2017



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

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Friday:	9:00 a.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group

**“WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, AS CHRIST WELCOMES US!”**

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!** We are so glad that you are here and worshiping 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!**

**WE WELCOME BACK OUR MID-HI'S FROM MASSANETTA!**

**DR. DAVE AND SUSAN ARE** heading to NC for his Dad's 94<sup>th</sup> birthday observance late this week. A friend of Highlands, The Rev. Bill Emery, will be out guest preacher next Sunday.

**THERE IS A NEW ROOF OVERHEAD!!!** Our new roof was put in place in just two days during the middle of the past week. Thanks to good work on the part of our Property and Church Management Committees the job is complete and with a bit more help from the congregation paid for as well! Please mark any contributions “Raise the Rood.”

**LOGOS, WELLNESS AND ADULT LOGOS ARE TAKING A BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER!** Watch the bulletin for information this fall. We'll be looking for volunteers to help in our 25<sup>th</sup> year of Logos at Highlands! Think about joining the fun!

## OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

**HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL IS ENROLLING** for the Fall 2017 school year 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. Tell your family, friends and neighbors about our great pre-school.

**MICAH'S BACKPACK UPDATE:** Micah's wonderful volunteers are on a well-deserved break until school starts back in August. Watch the bulletin for more information. **Thanks to the very faithful and dedicated volunteers for a great year!**

**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. Seven 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.

**THANKS FOR YOUR EXCELLENT SUPPORT OF HAITI!!** 30 sponsored children mean sustaining care for the children and staff of the Grace of Mercy orphanage in Haiti. Please remember your monthly pledge and **BE SURE YOUR CHECKS ARE MARKED "SPONSOR FOR HAITI CHILDREN"** to ensure the money goes into the right account.

## PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY'S SERVICE

**SPECIAL PRAYERS: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:** Pat Hummel has been relocated to Woodland Grove Skilled Nursing at 4325 Southpoint Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32216, Rm. 602. Mary Lou McNaughton, Nancy Moewe, JoAn Ewing, Don Hall, Jo and Hoagy Carmichael, Bill Byers, Nancy Hoot, Marilyn Reed, Al Hummel, Bill Duval, Pat Strader, Cathy Pate's son, Hank Greene, Nancy Taylor, Lenwood Lee (Dr. Dave's Father), Kinzey Reeves, Fay Sweeney (9960 Atrium Way, Unit 18, Jax, FL 32225), Linda Youmans (c/o Teri Grimm, 4206 Harbour Island Dr. 32225), Kit Fink, Kenneth Moon, and Bruce and Annette Marley, Justin Marley (grandson), Louise Keen is residing at Brookdale Southside 9601 Southbrook Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32256 along with Al Hummel. Al's address is 9601 Southbrook Dr., Assisted Living #122, Jacksonville, FL 32256. You can reach Jacob Loerop through his email at [Jacob.Loerop@CVN68.navy.mil](mailto:Jacob.Loerop@CVN68.navy.mil), Jacob's address is IT3 Jacob Loerop CVN 68 USS Nimitz Unit 100103 Box 1771 FPO AP 96620. Amelia Powell's address is: AT2 Powell, Amelia N., VAQ-140, Unit 200107 Box 142, FPO AP 96601. You can also reach Amelia through her email. Her email address is: [amelia.powell@cvw7.navy.mil](mailto:amelia.powell@cvw7.navy.mil).

**PRAYER BEARS:** Prayer Bears and Caring Critters are available in the Fellowship Hall after each service.

**MEMBER CARE:** We are **VERY PLEASED** to announce that **Bev Connell** has agreed to be our **Prayer Ministry Coordinator**. There is sure to be an adjustment period, so please bear with us as we get "our prayers in a row" and get the correct names and emails added to or deleted from the prayer chain. **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:** Reinhard and Linda Bohling, Kristen Booth, Susan Boynton.

**DR. DAVE, SUSAN AND THE FAMILY OF STEVE LEE** wish to express to you their great thanks for your prayers, cards, memorials and other considerations in this time of sorrow. They, and we, rest in the assurance of Christ's victory over death and Steve's 'home' in the kingdom.

**OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE:** Greeters: Jim and Jan Walters. Children's Church Leader: Chad Sambito. Nursery Attendant: Jennifer Terrell.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE** are given to the glory of God by Connie Ritter.