



NOTHING

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

JULY 30, 2017
17th of Ordinary Time

**“Nothing -- Nil, Null, Zero, Nix, Zilch, Nada, Zippo,
Bupkis, Goose Egg, Naught, Nuttin’...”**

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor
Laura Sambito, DCE
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For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

Today is the 17th
Sunday of
Ordinary Time.

As we prepare for
worship we'll listen
to folk tune entitled
"Mustard Seeds"
by Frankie Leo.
The song speaks
of 'mustard seed'
faith and reflects
today's gospel.

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.

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

Our Hymn of
Praise "God Is
Here!" was written
by Fred Pratt
Green, an English
hymnist, in 1978
as a powerful
statement of faith
for a conference
on Worship held in
Austin, Tx. The
hymn celebrates
the full scope of
and purpose for
our worship.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 30, 2017 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

"WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP"

(Enter reverently. Before the service, speak to God. During the service, let God speak to you. After the service, speak to one another. We pray, seeking God's presence among us as we worship.)

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

Come and worship, proclaim God's ways of faithfulness and steadfast love.

We will tell of God's love, which unfolds in our lives.

Come and worship, for we are God's people, rejoicing in his graciousness.

God is always with us, there is nothing which can keep us apart.

Come to the One who tells stories; worship our God who keeps promises.

We rejoice with God who is with us always.

*GATHERING PRAYER (Responsive)

Loving God, your love for us is hidden and shown every day.

**You shimmer like a pearl in the love we experience;
you flourish in our community; you bubble up, yeast-like, in
our midst.**

Gather us into the net of love which holds us as one large family with all creation. As we come together today, show yourself here, among this people, and teach us to be the love that is so needed to bring your realm to fulfillment. In Jesus' name who taught us to pray:

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen."

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 461

"God is Here!"

(vss. 1 – 3)

*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. 4)**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom, In an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel, Help us work Your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, All we have to give, receive:
We, who cannot live without You, We adore You! We believe!**

"SEEK FORGIVENESS AND FELLOWSHIP"

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

What kind of faith are we called to have? Faith as a mustard seed? Faith that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ? Is that our faith? Let us pray:

"Lord, in our weakness, we don't really know how to pray. We are sorry for what we do, but it is difficult to find the words to express our sorrow. We want to have more faith, but are not quite sure how we go about getting more.

Forgive us, for trying to do it on our own. For even imagining that we are sufficient in and of ourselves.

If we are truthful, we know that we fail you continually. Remind us that we are weak and you are strong.

Help us to cling to the hope you give us. And Lord, even as you so freely forgive us, help us to be forgiving of others. Even when they disappoint us, even when we feel as if somehow they have betrayed us. Help us to forgive, as you forgive. In Christ Jesus we pray, Amen."

***HYMN NO. 572**

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear this incredible news – if God is for us, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***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."**

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 worshiping 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 Special Music is “Be Thou My Vision” which is being played by our “Summer Handbell Ensemble.” Today we are also dedicating a new addition to the Handbell Plaque in thanks to those who recently contributed to the refurbishment of our hand bells. Thanks!

As we respond to God’s Word preached, we sing together “Be Still My Soul” by Kathrina von Schlegel who was born in 1697. This is the only hymn she wrote which was translated, but it appears in over 100 hymnals around the world. It speak to us of God’s sovereignty and timeless love for God’s people which nothing can take from us.

“THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 28:10-19a

(OT: p. 26)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be To God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Be Thou My Vision”

“Highlands Summer Handbell Ensemble”

***NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS**

Romans 8:26-39

(NT: p.158)

*Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

(NT: p.14)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

SERMON

**“Nothing -- Nil, Null, Zero, Nix, Zilch,
Nada, Zippo, Bupkis, Goose Egg, Naught, Nuttin’...”**

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

“Be Still My Soul”

(Tune: Finlandia)

**“Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.**

**Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.”**

In the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition we stand and make a public declaration of our faith.

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.

***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

**Discipleship and Moment for Mission
As We Come to Prayer**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (responsive)

“Gracious Lord of all creation, giver of every good and perfect gift, lover of all creatures great and small, we give you thanks this day for the depth and excellence of our blessings. Resting in your love we pray,

nothing can separate us from your love.

Caregiver who watches over us like a parent seeking the well being of a child, we can feel your presence in our living, we experience your nurturing touch in our lives, and we feel you draw us close to you. Relying on your love we pray,

nothing can separate us from your love.

Ruler of the universe, maker of the sun, the sea, the stars and order giver to the chaos of the cosmos and of our own living, we pray in awe of your wisdom and power for your guidance, for your reinforcement of those things deep in us that makes us decent and capable of righteousness. Restore the good to our nation, our leaders and the ideas and ideals by which we live. Depending on your love we pray,

nothing can separate us from your love.

God who calms the storm, who tames the violence of creation, who sent into the fray of our sinfulness one who brought a message of peace, a cup of salvation, a willingness to die for us, and a notion of grace so amazing and so profound that we can only understand it in part, we cry to you for peace in our world, in our nation, in our church and in our lives. Amazed by your love we pray,

nothing can separate us from your love.

Sustainer of us all, who heals the sick, raises the dead, promises eternal life, and brings comfort to troubled spirits, we lift up before you a hurting, wounded, and troubled world. We offer to your unique care those who are ill and facing the trials of treatment, the anxiety of diagnosis and consultation, the dread of the unknown, and the uncertainty of the future, a special place in your care. Give them, we most humbly pray, courage, strength, endurance and a revival of mind, body and spirit. Where healing and wholeness in this life are your will – for that we pray. Where the quiet rest of your kingdom is your greatest gift – for that we pray as well. Assured of your love in the love of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit we pray in full confidence,

nothing can separate us from your love. Amen.”

Our offertory, "As Jacob With Travel Was Weary One Day" is adapted from the hymn of the same name by Harry Loper by prolific Presbyterian church musician Hal H. Hopson. It reflects for us our Old Testament lesson for the day and includes the subtext: "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder."

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 'Jesus, Thy Boundless Love To Me.'

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 "As Jacob With Travel Was Weary One Day"

1. As Jacob with travel was weary one day, At night on a stone for a pillow he lay,
He was in a vision a ladder so high, That its foot was on Earth, and its top in the sky.
Chorus" Hallelujah to Jesus, who died on the tree, And hath rais'd up a ladder of mercy for me,
And hath rais'd up a ladder of mercy for me.
2. This ladder is long, it is strong and well-made, Has stood hundreds of years and is not yet decayed;
Many millions have climbed it and reached Zion's hill, And thousands by faith are climbing it still. **Chorus**
3. Come let us ascent; all may climb it who will, For the Angels of Jacob are guarding it still:
And remember each step, that by faith we pass o'er, Some Prophet or Martyr hath trod it before. **Chorus**
4. And when we arrive at the haven of rest We shall hear the great words " Come up hither, ye blest,
Here are regions of light, here are mansions of bliss: "O who would not climb such a ladder as this? **Chorus**

***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 AND BLESSING**

We have heard the promise:

We know that nothing can separate us from the love of God!

As we go out to make difficult decisions in our work:

We know that nothing can separate us from the love of God!

As we go out to work for justice in our town, in our nation, in the world:

We know that nothing can separate us from the love of God!

As we go out to face illness or accidents or temptations or trials:

We know that nothing can separate us from the love of God!

As we go out to share all that we have, all that we are:

We know that nothing can separate us from the love of God!

We are ready, willing and able to go and grow, to rise up to the occasion of service, to be of priceless value in the world, to be catchers of God's very own; Go, now, from this place, knowing;

Nothing can separate us from the love of God!

***HYMN OF PARTING NO. 366 "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL 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."**

***-if comfortable, please stand**



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
This Week at Highlands
Week of July 30 – August 5, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	9:00 a.m.	Crafty Ladies
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 1ST grade is in the Family Life building after "A Time with the Young Church," except on Communion Sundays. A nursery is provided for infants through two years of age in the Family Life Center. Worship folders for young Highlands' worshipers can be found at the usher's stand. **PARENTS** please help your children with their worship experience. **WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN AT HIGHLANDS** and want to keep them safe! Please help us with this goal by ensuring that **all children are supervised by an adult while on the playground at all times.**

DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEARING ASSISTANCE AT THE USHER'S STAND.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER...AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU! Today is the 17th Sunday in ordinary time and we continue our summertime worship with a great reminder of God's love in Romans 8. Summer days are dwindling and our thoughts begin to turn to 'back to school' and Fall start ups. In the meantime, let's enjoy God's promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

WE WELCOME OUR HIGHLANDS SUMMER HANDBELL ENSEMBLE! We express our appreciation to all who helped in the campaign to refurbish our bells. A new panel is in place on the Handbell dedication plaque. Thanks to our ringers and bell supporters.

LOGOS, WELLNESS AND ADULT LOGOS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEPTEMBER! Watch the bulletin for information coming soon. We'll be looking for volunteers to help in our 25th year of Logos at Highlands! Think about joining the fun!

NEXT SUNDAY IS COMMUNION SUNDAY. Please be in prayerful preparation for coming to the table and sharing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We'll also be receiving our JEMM offering.

THE 'HIGHLANDER' NEWSLETTER is being prepared. Please have all articles and information in the office by Monday at noon. Thanks!

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

PRESCHOOL OPPORTUNITY!! HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL!! We are currently accepting applications for a Preschool Teacher Position and Assistant Teacher position to work closely with Michele Loerop, Director and the staff to continue providing excellence in quality child care for the surrounding community.

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 super-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. Twelve 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 AND ONGOING PRAYERS: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

IN THE HOSPITAL THIS WEEK: Kit Fink (Memorial), Al Hummel (Baptist South)

OUR FRIENDS IN CARE FACILITIES: *At Brookdale Southside:* (9601 Southbrook Dr. 32256) Pat and Al Hummel (Rooms 121 and 126), Louise Keen (Clare Bridge); Hank Green (N-122); *At the Atrium (9960 Atrium Way, 32225):* Boyd and Doreen Harris (#528) , Dorus Ruby (#219); *Others:* Fay Sweeney (Cypress Village, 4600 Middleton Park Circle East # E 10 A, Jacksonville, FL 32224), Linda Youmans (c/o Teri Grimm, 4206 Harbour Island Dr. 32225),

AT HOME: Mary Lou McNaughton, Nancy Moewe, Don Hall, 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: 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 Buss Family, Bill Byers and Richard Carlton.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Richard and Nancy Marsh. Children's Church Leader: David Bauerlein. Nursery Attendant: Audrey Regnier.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by Tyler and Candy Cole.