



5th Sunday

*Keeping  
a Holy Lent*

## **HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

### **SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**MARCH 18, 2018**

5th Sunday of Lent

“The Heart of the Matter”

#### **HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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John 12:24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 12:25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 12:26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also... 12:32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 12:33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Today is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the Season of Lent. Our worship continues the 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 guitar arrangement of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" by Keith Cooper. Listen for the 'hammer blows' in the first portion of the rendition.

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

## CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

MARCH 18, 2018 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

**"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"**

### MUSIC AND TIME OF PREPARATION

*(As we listen to the music for preparation we invite you to 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

"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Jacob".

**God has made a new covenant with us in Christ Jesus.**

This is the day the Lord has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

When our faith is lifted high and we move firmly in your love,

**you will be our God and we will be your people.**

When the pilgrimage is long and all our paths seem to lead to pain,

**you will be our God and we will be your people.**

When the way ahead is clear and we are surrounded by faithful community

**you will be our God and we will be your people.**

When the young diminish in number and the old grow feeble in mind and spirit

**you will be our God and we will be your people.**

Gather us, know us, teach us, lead us, write your name on our hearts so always...

**you will be our God and we will be your people.**

#### \*GATHERING PRAYER (responsive)

Deep in our hearts, O God,

**we are known by you.**

Every crevice of our past,

**every heartbeat of our present, is known and loved by you.**

Inscribe in us the desire to know you, too, and knowing you,

**may we live more fully as your people.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us:

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

\* - If you are comfortable, please stand

## \*OPENING HYMN

### “HEART”

(Tune: Abbott's Leigh which is “God is Here”)

**1. Come, my children, my beloved, find in me your journey's start;  
there is much to be discovered – let me write upon your heart!  
How I long for you to know me, know me as I truly am;  
How I long to see you growing, to be all I know you can.**

**Know me, children! I will grow you as we walk my living way;  
Learn from me, and I will show you how to give yourself away.  
Come my children, walk beside me, let us never be apart;  
Learn my ways and always I'll be writing love upon your heart.**

## \*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 (Responsive)

This is the covenant that God makes with us:

I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more." In that hope, let us pray:

O God, of all love, of infinite grace, of exuberant mercy, we come this day to open ourselves once more to your presence. We pray that we, in self recognition of our sinfulness, might rediscover your Word written on our hearts.

**Create a new heart in me, O God. (silence)**

At times our hearts are empty. We expend all of our attention at work, at school, at church, in community until we have nothing left to give and our inner beings feel like vacant shells. Hear us as we pray,

**Create a new heart in me, O God. (silence)**

At times our hearts burn with resentment. Life has been unfair, and we rehearse the dealings of our past until forgiveness of ourselves and others is nearly impossible. Hear us as we pray,

**Create a new heart in me, O God. (silence)**

At times our hearts are paralyzed with fear. We wonder: Where is the safe and familiar? How will we move forward? What are we to do? Hear us as we pray,

**Create a new heart in me, O God. (silence)**

**“Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us,  
Christ Have Mercy Upon Us,  
Lord Have Mercy Upon us.”**

Our first Hymn is “Heart” by a contemporary hymn writer, Brenton Prigge. It reflects the lesson from Jeremiah today about God placing the Word on our hearts.

*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 worshipping 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.*

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).*

Today's anthem is "Hymn of Promise," which was originally, "In the Bulb There is A Flower": written by a very popular hymnist, Natalie Sleeth, composed as an anthem and dedicated to her husband, Rev. Ronald Sleeth, who was diagnosed with cancer very soon after its composition. The anthem is widely sung and greatly enjoyed.

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

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God longs to place truth in our inner beings;  
**to make our hearts beat with the love and justice of God's own heart.**  
With the dawning of each day, God creates newness without and within  
**and our spirits are restored with the joy of saving grace.**

## **"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Jeremiah 31:31-34 (OT: p. 735)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be To God.**

## **ANTHEM**

### **"Hymn of Promise"**

Sleeth

"In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

## **NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS**

Hebrews 5:5-10

(NT: p. 220)

\*John 12:20-33

(NT: p. 106)

## **TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH**

### **INTERLUDE**

(All children, ages 3 through 1<sup>st</sup> grade are invited to attend "Children's Church" after "A Time with the Young Church." Their leader will meet them in the back of the sanctuary. They may be picked up after worship in the Family Life Center, room #210.)

## **SERMON**

"The Heart of the Matter"

## **\*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 92 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"**

### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical) in Unison)**

**"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."**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We continue, Lord, on the path of life, among the shadows of the world, finding the moments of hope, amid the rising of your cross. May our hands cup the grain, our lives bear the faith, our souls grip the truth, our hearts trust the promise.

**O God, may your steadfast love be our traveling companion.**

Help us to enjoy a lifetime seeking you, Our God, who does not hide from us, but lives with us through all suffering, and bears us into wholeness.

**O God, may your presence always be our traveling companion.**

As we move out onto the way and with truth and righteousness, may we celebrate our living in you, sovereign God, in every place around and within.

**O God, cry of heaven, always be our traveling companion.**

May we live in thanks to you, abundant God, for the love that endures all things, hearing the promise of wholeness, in all the world's brokenness.

**O God, provider of grace always be our traveling companion.**

May we hear the beating of a new heart, inscribed with your loving law, a law of justice and righteousness, a law of love and fairness for all.

**O God, giver of covenant with the one we call God.**

Grant us today, Lord, your gift of love as we your people pray for the needs of others and for ourselves in these days. (Silence)

**O God, come into our hearts we pray.**

There are people who come to us and say, 'we wish to see Jesus.'

**O God, help us to exhibit Jesus in us to others. Help us to be Christ's body, the Church, in the world today. With your promises in our hearts, guide us to new places of opportunity to be the church in the world.**

**Go with us as we faithfully bear our crosses on the remainder of this Lenten journey to the solemnity of Holy Week and the glory of Easter. Amen.**

## GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"Lift High The Cross"

Busarow

*(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.*

- 1. Come, Christians, follow where the Master trod, our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.*
- 2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign, the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.*
- 3. Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of him who died.*
- 4. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, your death has brought us life eternally.*
- 5. So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory!*

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.

Our Offertory is "Lift High the Cross" which is a seasonal hymn that reflects Jesus' words in our scripture today: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. "We lift "high" Jesus' cross today as a reminder of his sacrifice and as a beacon shining ahead to the glorious news of his resurrection.

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 enabled to 'practice what we have preached.'

Our Hymn of Parting is "O God, You Sent Us Jesus Christ" set to a very familiar tune. This hymn by Carol Winfrey Gillette is a final exposition of today's Word for our service.

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.

## **\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**"Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."**

## **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Go now -- the healing has begun.

**God has seen and heard our fears.**

Go now – God has reached out with an ancient promise,  
**and the future has begun to break through.**

Go now – and trust that in this moment,  
**Jesus Christ, God's beloved child, is folding our future**  
into the promise of renewal, of re-creation, of resurrection.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **\*HYMN OF PARTING "O God, You Sent Us Jesus Christ"** (Canonbury: "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak")

**"O God, you sent us Jesus Christ who offered up a sacrifice;  
that sacrifice he came to give was his own life — that we might live.**

**Your people used to gladly tell of great high priests who served you well:  
Melchizadek and Aaron, too, were known for gladly serving you.**

**Yet Christ our Lord was greater still; in every way he sought your will.  
He knew your way and heard your call to give his life, a gift for all.**

**Christ saw the trouble we were in and came to save us from our sin.  
With tears and cries, he offered prayer, then died for people everywhere.**

## **\*BENEDICTION**

## **\*RESPONSE**

**He gave his life to save the rest, and through his gift we've all been  
blessed. May we, who see what he has done, now live to serve yo**

**\*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so**

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



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

<b>Today:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Crafty Ladies</b>
	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Session Meeting will be 3/26/18</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Quilting and Sewing Group</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>7:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Handbell Rehearsal</b>

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

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!** We are so glad that you are here and worshipping with us this morning. We are privileged to have you with us and would invite you to a time of Fellowship in our Dining Hall after worship. Please do us a favor by signing the Friendship Register and mark appropriate boxes. There are also visitor cards in the pew racks. **FIRST TIME VISITORS – WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU! Thanks!**

**MEMBERSHIP AT HIGHLANDS** is open to all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives and who wish to join in the worship and ministry of this church. The pastor or any member of the Session would be more than happy to discuss this with you.

**A NURSERY IS PROVIDED IN THE FAMILY LIFE** building for those who wish to have their children cared for during worship. Parents receive a 'silent pager' for peace of mind and will be paged in case of any need. Highlands takes great care in caring for your children.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH FOR AGES 3 THROUGH 1<sup>ST</sup>** grade is in the Family Life building after "A Time with the Young Church," except on Communion Sundays. A nursery is provided for infants through two years of age in the Family Life Center. Worship folders for young Highlands' worshipers can be found at the usher's stand. **PARENTS** please help your children with their worship experience. **WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN AT HIGHLANDS** and want to keep them safe! Please help us with this goal by ensuring that **all children are supervised by an adult while on the playground at all times.**

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

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**TODAY IS THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT** which is the forty-day period before Easter, which means that next Sunday is Palm Sunday. Our service will begin in the courtyard next Sunday and we will join in a Palm Sunday parade, led by our children, into the sanctuary. Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. Please refer to your newsletter and 'hupcjax.org' for all the information concerning our Holy Week observance at Highlands.

**IT IS SPRING BREAK FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH THIS WEEK.** To our families who are traveling and those who are not we hope for a good time of the blessing of rest and re-creation. To those still working – hang in there, Easter is on its way.

**SESSION MEETING IS RESET FOR MONDAY MARCH 26 AT 6:30.** All incoming, remaining and outgoing Session members are invited to supper prior to the Session meeting. Our newly elected Elders who will make up the Sessional Class of 2020 are Rebecca Briones, John Morrison, Jennifer Terrell and Julia Wolfson. We express our appreciation to our "outgoing Elders:" Cat Briones, Audrey Regnier, Helen Middaugh, Christina Trombley, Diane Beirne.

**WELLNESS AND LOGOS WILL BE ON HIATIS UNTIL APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>.** Enjoy this short break during Spring Break and Holy Week and plan to join us for a strong finish to the end-of-the-year which is May 16<sup>th</sup>.

**THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS** studies many different topics and looks forward to lively conversation. They will be studying "Reformed Spirituality" for the next few weeks. We have two other Adult Sunday School classes that are oriented more towards Bible study. We have Sunday School for ALL ages at HUPC. Please join us for this interesting and informative classes.

It's **Sparkhouse Book Fair** time again! Please take a moment or two to browse the table set up in the Dining Hall. There are many wonderful resources for the children and tweens in your life. If you'd like to order, simply fill out the order form on the table and leave it with a check written to the church for Laura. A portion of the sales are given directly back to our Christian Nurture program to grow our own library. If you'd like to purchase books for use at the church, that is greatly appreciated too.

## OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

**Micah's Backpack will NOT pack on March 22** because of School Spring Break, nor on March 29 because of Holy Week. When we return to packing, we will provide weekend food for 100+ children, in 4...maybe 5 schools. Since August, Micah's Volunteers lifted, carried, dragged, packed and delivered 2,032 bags of food and those bags weighed in at 15,240 POUNDS! HUPC is making a big difference in our community.

**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!!"**

**HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL WILL BE ENROLLING** for the Fall 2018 school year. Open Enrollment is now in progress for 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. Tell your friends and family to stop by for a tour and meet the staff anytime Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 6:00pm

**FAMILY PROMISE:** Update on one of our most recent families! Mozilla and Darren (grandparents to 8 of the sweetest children you will ever meet) moved into one of Family Promise's interim houses on Thursday. If you would like to make a financial donation to assist them, they could definitely use the help. Please write 'for Family Promise' on your check and we will see that it gets to them.

**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. Six 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 rehab in the new Brooks facility on Beach at University.

**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, Jo and Hoagy Carmichael, 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](mailto:Jacob.Loerop@CVN68.navy.mil), IT3 Jacob Loerop CVN 68 USS Nimitz Unit 100103 Box 1771 FPO AP 96620. Amelia Powell ([amelia.powell@cvw7.navy.mil](mailto:amelia.powell@cvw7.navy.mil)) AT2 Powell, Amelia N., VAQ-140, Unit 200107 Box 142, FPO AP 96601.

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

**MEMBER CARE:** Bev Connell is our **Prayer Ministry Coordinator**. Bev's number is **(904) 868-9659**. Her email address is [bevconn2016@gmail.com](mailto:bevconn2016@gmail.com). Please contact Bev with your prayer request. As always, prayer requests can be made as well by calling the church office, completing the gray slips in the church pews, using the church website ([hupcjax.org](http://hupcjax.org) under "Contact Us") or by notifying your Shepherd.

**FAMILIES WE ARE PRAYING FOR THIS WEEK:** Rick and Eileen, the Ricky Regnier Family and Bucky and Tonda Richardson.

**OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE:** Greeters: Richard and Nancy Marsh. Children's Church Leader: Jessica Sorrells.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE** are given to the glory of God by Alan and Anneliese Robbins.