



HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

MAY 13, 2018

**7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER/
"ASCENSION/J.O.Y. SUNDAY"**

"It Won't Be Long Now"

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor

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"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight."

(Acts 1:8-9)

Today is the 7th Sunday of Easter which is also "Ascension Sunday." Today we observe the "Day of Ascension" which was this past Thursday. The Ascension took place 40 days after Easter which means that next Sunday is the fiftieth day, or PENTECOST. (Don't forget to wear red.) We gladly welcome the leadership of J.O.Y. for the final time this school year.

As we prepare for worship we'll listen to "Ascension" by Phil Traynor. He describes the piece as being a musical representation of the culmination of life as one rises to perfection.

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.

Service elements today will reflect the scriptural theme of the Ascension of Jesus and the reaction of his disciples as they, and we, await the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Celebration of Worship

May 13, 2018 – 7th of Easter
"Ascension Sunday"

"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.)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather in this place, some empty, some filled, some whole, some broken:

yearning for the Holy Spirit to fill us.

We come, with ordinary people, who have shown us the way:

trusting that God will continue to illumine our hearts.

We celebrate the promises of the giver of grace, of the healer of all people:

that graced, we may serve others;

that healed, we may bring hope to the world.

Let us worship our God who comes to us, again and again.

***OPENING PRAYER (Responsive)**

Your love is so limitless that the needy receive goodness, and the lonely find a friend; the homeless find your heart open to them, and all can place their worries in your hands.

Parent of all, we will make your name known to all the world.

We gaze at the sky looking for you, when you can be found in the laughing play of children; we wonder where you have gone, while you are all around us in our sisters and brothers.

Cloud Rider, we will sing your name to all the world.

When our hearts are hardened by fears, you melt them with your hope; when our lips can only utter boasts, you teach us songs of humility.

Caregiver of us all, we will praise your name in all the world.

We will make your name known, even as we pray as we have been taught, saying,

"Our Father who art in heaven, and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen."

***- If you are comfortable doing so, please stand**

***ASCENSION HYMN "O CHRIST, WHEN YOU ASCENDED"**
(LANCASHIRE -- "THE DAY OF RESURRECTION")

**"O Christ, when you ascended, you took your rightful throne;
Your time on earth had ended — yet we weren't left alone.
You reign o'er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way.
Your prayers uphold your people; you lead your church each day.**

**We look at earthly rulers and see what they command:
We note their years of power, the borders of their land.
Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and space;
Your reign is never-ending, you rule in every place.**

**We're tempted. Lord, to leave you in stories nicely told;
Sometimes we don't believe you and say your ways are old.
Sometimes we feel so lonely and live in doubt and fear —
But your ascension means, Lord, you're present with us here.**

**It's often quite a challenge to follow in your Way;
We're easily distracted! It's hard, Lord, to obey.
Sometimes we give you Sundays — an hour, maybe two —
But your ascension means, Lord, all life belongs to you.**

**One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are fully known;
One day this world of sinners will bow before your throne.
One day, God's whole creation will sing and praise your name;
On earth as now in heaven, we'll celebrate your reign."**

***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:** (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."**

"CONFESSION AND PARDON"

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Jesus' life, and the manner of his death demonstrated that there was literally no limit to his love. Living a human life, as we do, he demonstrated how the values of the kingdom are different from the world's values and how God's standards are different from the world's standards. We live in the world also, and are exposed to all the trials and temptations that the world's values and standards place on us as Christians. Before the Ascension, Jesus called us to discipleship. As we once again await the coming of the Spirit, let us pray:

Our opening hymn is written for "Ascension Sunday" by Presbyterian hymnist Carol Winfrey Gillette, who takes the themes of the day and sets them to the familiar tune, "The Day of Resurrection" in "O Christ, When You Ascended."

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

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 for the day.

BEING THE CHURCH IN PRAYER AND GIVING

AS WE COME TO PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. For a sure faith in the comforting promise of our Lord: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world", and for a tranquil confidence that we are never alone. Lord of all,:

Hear our prayers, O Lord.

For all of God's people, seeking in these days to be faithful, that they may be fruitful in every way, and that their lives, moved by God's grace, may give God:

Hear our prayers, O Lord.

On this day to remember those who have given us birth and have cared for us as Mothers. For those people who parent us, love us, and nurture us:

Hear our prayers, O Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, that we may all dwell in safety. We pray for mothers who are forced to send their children into harm's way as a refugee, or simply to go to school.

Hear our prayers, O Lord.

For all who this day are seeking refuge. For mothers who would wish to shield their children from the hostility of war, the brutality of domestic discord, the cruelty of abuse at the hand of the powerful over the powerless, and all ills that assail a child's ability to be whole and well.

Hear our prayers, O Lord.

For our nation and those who serve in our government at all levels, that all works of civil righteousness may be encouraged, that all wrongdoing might be exposed, and that the light of God's Word may shine in every place:

Hear our prayers, O Lord.

For the church that struggles with identity and with how to speak with authority in a secular world. For all those Mom like people who go to church and care for our children, who nurture them and teach them and share with them their faith.

Hear our prayers, O Lord.

For those in need, the sick, the suffering, the dying, the mourning, and the lonely especially whom we have named and left unnamed in our hearts, that Christ would grant to each comfort and healing according to His loving kindness:

Hear our prayers, O Lord.

And finally, for ourselves, Lord, we pray for peace, for a sense of contentment, for true joy in our living, even as we wait, once again, for the powerful presence of your Holy Spirit.

Hear our prayers, O Lord, Amen.

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 are also praying today for Mom's. Our Moms, people who are like a Mom to us, faithful church Moms and Moms around the world. Thank God for these transmitters of the faith.

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. Today's Offertory is John Rutter's "All Things Bright and Beautiful" sung by the combined choirs of HUPC.

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 'Come, Christians, Join to Sing' which is also an 'ascension' hymn by Church of England pastor, Henry Bateman. Originally the hymn, in its simplicity was written for children and the first line was, 'Come, Children, join to sing..' It was changed to be more inclusive. Each stanza begins with an exhortation—an imperative command to "Come" or "Praise." In stanza one, Bateman provides the children with the reason for singing: We offer "loud praise to Christ our King . . . before his throne. . . ." Christ desires our praise: "praise is his gracious choice. . . ." Stanza two reassures the children (and all of us) that this King is also "our guide and friend" and that "his love shall never end." This King will "condescend" to be a friend to the children. To condescend surely did not mean to patronize as it tends to mean today, but implies that Christ the King humbles himself to be in a personal relationship with us. Stanza three ends on an eschatological note. The author reassures children that they need not fear death. Beyond life, our songs will continue on "heaven's blissful shore . . . singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!"

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

OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

**OFFERTORY "All Things Bright and Beautiful" Rudder
The Highlands Combined Choirs**

***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."

"GOD'S PEOPLE SENT INTO THE WORLD"

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

We go from this place, having witnessed Jesus ascending; with Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Thaddeus.

We go to be the church with them constantly devoting ourselves to prayer,

We wait faithfully, even as we witness and work, for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

We wait for renewal of the Spirit with rush of wind and tongues of fire.

Come, breath of fire, our souls fill and inspire.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

***HYMN OF PARTING NO. 150 "Come, Christians, Join To Sing"**

***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

(You are invited across the way for fellowship.)

NEXT WEEK IS PENTECOST!

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of May 13th - May 19th , 2018



This Week's Calendar of Events:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Today: | HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY | |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service – J.O.Y. Sunday |
| Monday: | 9:00 a.m. | Crafty Ladies |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Crafty Ladies – Evening Group |
| Tuesday: | 9:00 a.m. | Quilting and Sewing Group |
| Wednesday: | 10:00 a.m. | <u>Last Wellness</u> (Yoga at 10 and Adult Logos at 11) |
| | 4:00 p.m. | <u>Last LOGOS</u> |
| | 7:15 p.m. | Adult Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday: | 5:30 p.m. | Micah's Backpack Packing |
| Friday: | 10:00 a.m. | HPGP Graduation |

“WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, AS CHRIST WELCOMES US!”

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

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TODAY IS THE 7TH SUNDAY IN EASTER, ASCENSION SUNDAY, J.O.Y. SUNDAY AND MOTHER'S DAY! It should be a great day! This will be our final J.O.Y. Sunday of this School year and as a great Mother's Day gift our LOGOS and J.O.Y. Choirs will be sharing special music. One selection will also include our Adult Choir! As wonderful as today is, next Sunday in PENTECOST SUNDAY, the birthday of the church, our day to honor grads, to welcome our 2018 Confirmation Class by Profession of Faith and Baptism, and in the Dining Hall during Fellowship to Celebrate Highlands!! You will, of course, add to the Spirit by wearing RED! These are great days as the Great Fifty Days and the Season of Easter come to an end on Pentecost.

WELLNESS AND LOGOS – This Wednesday is our last meeting until fall. Enjoy the summer break, and we will see you in September!

OUR LAST LOGOS IS THIS WEDNESDAY! Our theme this week is "Not goodbye...It's see you later!". You are invited to bring your favorite Logos memory. We will see you again in the fall!!

HELP WANTED! Something about volunteers needed in the fall – teach, crafts, recreation, kitchen crew – clean up Start thinking about it now.....

JOIN OUR CRAFTY LADIES, morning and evening, on Monday at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS studies many different topics and looks forward to lively conversation. They will be studying "Books That Didn't Make the Bible and Why" the next two 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. We also have two other Adult Sunday School offerings which are oriented towards Bible Study.

A CHURCH IS ITS PEOPLE. If you have been visiting with us at Highlands and would like to find out more about becoming a member, please come to our new member class after worship service on May 27. Childcare will be provided. Dr. Dave and members of the Church Growth Committee will provide information about the church and be happy to answer any of your questions. There are three ways to join Highlands: through profession of faith and baptism (for those who have not been baptized), a reaffirmation of faith (for those who are not currently active members of another church), and by transfer of church letter (for those on the active roll of another church). If you have questions about the new member class, which is an informal session, reach out to Dr. Dave or members of our Church Growth Committee: David Bauerlein, Cat Briones, Rebecca Briones, Alan Robbins and Anneliese Robbins.

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE GRADUATES IN YOUR FAMILY (college and/or high school). We want to recognize them for their hard work and let them know that the prayers of the people of Highlands will follow them into their next chapter of their lives. Thanks!

MICAH'S BACKPACK is working hard. We provide weekend food for 100 children in 4 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. **Thanks for your help with a big Micah's Challenge.** We need a couple more 'rolling wire storage shelving units' that will help with our storage problems and support to build a partition wall in one of our classrooms. Your donations for "Micah's Storage" would be greatly appreciated!

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

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. 34 jars of Jelly last week! **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: Justin Marley (Bruce and Annette's grandson) is in the hospital at UF Health.

OUR FRIENDS IN CARE FACILITIES: Jim Moss is in rehab at Life Care (4813 Lenoir Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32216), *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: Joy Patterson, Don Hall, 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: 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 Stophel Family, The Potter Family and Patty Strader.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Jim and Jan Walters.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by Susan Lee in memory of her father John Byrne.