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**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 12, 2017

32nd Of Ordinary Time

"J.O.Y. Sunday"

"Serve With Justice!"

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor

Laura Sambito, DCE

Gibson Dixon, Director of Music

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"...but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15b)

"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream."

Amos 5:24

Today is the 32nd Sunday in "Ordinary Time." Today is also J.O.Y. Sunday. We welcome the leadership of J.O.Y. (Jubilant Offerings of Youth) and our LOGOS Choir.

Music as we prepare for worship is "Justice Will Roll Down." The artist, Sandra McCracken's prolific contributions as a songwriter, modern-day hymn writer, and record producer has brought grace and clarity to her soulful, folk-gospel sound. Whether in a theater or in a chapel, she is a dynamic performer who blurs the lines of what church music sounds like.

Our Service begins with a **WELCOME** to all who are gathered to worship together.

We share news of our life together as a church in our service because what we do, outside of worship, is a very vital portion of our 'service to God.'

Our opening Hymn is "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens." In stanza one, the author celebrates humanities' "inventive powers" that come as a result of being made "in [God's] likeness." Stanza two contrasts the purposeful move into space with the void of life in "modern cities" where lonely people are often "lost to purpose and meaning, scarcely caring where they go." Stanza three, written at the height of the Cold War, contrasts "the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space" with the earth-bound reality of the power of the atom, which provides us with the choice of "life's destruction or our most triumphant hour." The final stanza appropriately concludes with the prayer: "Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one."

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

November 12, 2017 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"J.O.Y. Sunday"

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

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 & BRINGING THE LIGHT

"Träumerei"

Schumann

pianist, Gibson Grimm

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND GATHERING PRAYER (responsive)

Here we are. God's Word says, "Choose today whom you will serve."

We have chosen to be here, and it is a good choice.

All God's children have choices!

We gather now to worship.

If we will but listen,

God will speak to us in parables,

God will tell us stories lived out by our grandparents.

If we will but remember,

we will discover all we have heard and known,

all the wonders God has in store for us.

If we will but share,

we can tell our children and grandchildren -

even those not yet born -

the glorious stories of our God.

We worship as we pray. Hear us, Lord:

We long for your presence as we face choices in our

living;

Come to us, fill us and worship with us.

Help us to allow justice to roll down and righteousness to flow through our living.

We are your people doing our best to choose you;

"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. 268

"God, Who Stretched The Spangled Heavens"

*- If comfortable, please stand

***PASSING THE PEACE**

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And Also With You.

(At this time you are invited to share a sign of peace: a hug, a handshake, a kiss...)

***CHORAL RESPONSE: (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"

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsively)**

How quickly we forget - our faith, our calling, our hope. All because we try to do everything our way, rather than God's. But God is quick to forgive, and to restore us to new life. Let us confess to our God, as we pray, saying,

It is never easy to admit how foolish we are, Approaching God.

Foolish. Foolish. Foolish.

You have chosen us for yourself, but we hesitate to fully choose you.

Our lamps are empty, empty, empty.

You promise to be with us in every moment, but we can find little time for you.

We are busy, busy, busy.

You send your Word to us, but we are too busy listening to the noise of our culture to pay attention.

We are not ready, not ready, not ready.

Have mercy, Eternal One, and forgive us. Speak to us, so we might listen, and in hearing be transformed into your people.

Help us to speak for justice and righteousness always, not just when it is popular or is politically expedient.

Fill us with holiness, so we might give ourselves wholly to others.

Make our households yours.

Enable us to serve you faithfully and completely, even as did our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Responsively)**

This is our assurance:

God forgives us.

This is our hope:

God's love is everlasting.

This is our truth:

God is with us always.

We will speak the truth;

we will live the hope;

we will share God's mercy.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

In our final 'gathering act' we "Pass the Peace" as an act of caring, welcome, and mutual love. Please remain standing as we sing the 1st verse of "God Is Here!"

Our 'confession' in the Presbyterian Church is a 'corporate' or 'communal' statement of our general and specific offenses against God and one another. Our prayer for the day are often guided by the words of scripture we will be reading in worship.

At the close of our prayer we ask for God's mercy in the "Kyrie Eleison," which is a choral bridge between our prayers and the "Assurance of Forgiveness" which declares our forgiveness.

Finally, we give praise to our triune God for the assurance that we are, by grace, forgiven.

Having confessed our sin and realized God's forgiveness, the church gathered is prepared to hear the Word of God read and proclaimed.

“The Proclamation of God’s Word” is central in the life of the worshipping community. 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.

Our J.O.Y. singers and Adult Choir friends will share a song with the theme for the day from the book of Amos. “Roll Down Justice” takes the great message of Amos **“let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream”** and places it in the setting of beautiful and dynamic music.

Our LOGOS choir will share “How Can I Give Thanks?” which asks a wonderful question for this season of stewardship.

Our Hymn of Response is a very active and demonstrative pledge to live in a manner that God can use. To choose God. “I’m Gonna’ Live So God Can Use Me.”

We ‘say what we believe’ as another corporate act in the Presbyterian Church. Today we share a ‘A Litany of Faith’ as part of our response to the Word as it is preached and heard.

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**

“Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so; Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong. Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.”

“THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

(OT: p. 215)

Amos 5:21-24

(OT:p. 854)

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“Roll Down Justice”
Highlands Combined Choirs

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

*Matthew 25:1-13

(NT: p. 28)

***PASSING THE PEACE**

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And Also With You.

(At this time you are invited to share a sign of peace: a hug, a handshake, a kiss...)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“How Can I Give Thanks”
Logos Choir

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

INTERLUDE

(All children, ages 3 through 1st grades, 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

“Serve With Justice!”

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 369 “I’M GONNA LIVE SO GOD CAN USE ME”**

***A LITANY OF FAITH (responsive)**

God is good to us;

there is rain and there is sunshine.

Be glad! Rejoice!

For all these blessings - thanks and praise.

God is good to us;

there is food and there is shelter.

Be glad! Rejoice!

For all these blessings - thanks and praise.

God is good to us;
there is beauty and there is laughter.
Be glad! Rejoice!
For all these blessings - thanks and praise.

God is good to us;
there is love and there is hope.
Be glad! Rejoice!
For all these blessings - thanks and praise. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH IN MISSION, PRAYER AND GIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Responsive)

Take our minds, Lord, we humbly pray,
Give us the mind of Christ always;
Teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
Grant us in all our thoughts to honor you.
Take our hearts, O Christ—make them your own;
Come within our souls and claim your rightful place;
Help us to tell the story of your unending love;
Use us to make the earth into your kingdom.
Take our wills, holy one, and take control of us;
Have in our inmost souls your perfect way;
Guard each sacred hour, moment, and possession from selfishness;
Guide our ordered lives to live for you.
Take our whole selves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
Through our surrendered souls your plans accomplish.
We yield ourselves to you, time, talents, everything;
Help us once again hear, and heed, your sovereign call.
Lord of grace, hear us as we pray for the lost, the lonely,
the confused of mind, heart and spirit.

(silent prayer)

Be with the saddened and sorrowful, the oppressed and their oppressors,
(silent prayer)

Be with those seeking a second chance and revitalization in a world of
intolerance, misunderstanding and fear.

(silent prayer)

Help us to use the fullness of our talent and treasure, given by you, to your
intention and to your glory so that we might hear from you,

Well done. Well done.

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power,
Amen.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY (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.”**

We ‘say what we believe’ as another corporate act in the Presbyterian Church. Today we share a ‘responsive’ declaration of faith as part of our response to the Word as it is preached and heard.

The “Prayers of the People” are intended to draw us closer to God, to one another, and to all of God’s children in the world. We offer God praise, we give God thanks, we lift up our brothers and sisters and finally we pray for ourselves.

The "Morning Offering" is another way that we respond to God in thanks for God's Word, Jesus Christ, and for the multitude of God's blessings in our living. We give, of course, to support the church and its mission in the community and in the world, but we also give as a sign and symbol of our recognition that it is God who is the source of all we have and all that we are. (If you give 'electronically' we thank you and encourage you to place one of the 'cards' in the plate as a symbol of that giving.)

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

Thanks to J.O.Y. for leading worship today!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Responsive)**

God is good!

All the time!

We rejoice in our God at all times and give God

our never ending praise and thanksgiving.

God is good!

All the time!

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Lamps trimmed and burning;

a guiding light by which to see;

challenges before us, choices to make;

as for us: We will serve the Lord!

***HYMN OF PARTING "CHOOSE THIS DAY THE ONE YOU'LL FOLLOW"**

(Tune: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")

"Choose this day the one you'll follow! Choose the one to guide your way!"

So a leader told his people as he spoke to them one day.

"Some see other gods and follow; They put trust in what is hollow.

You must choose whom you'll obey!"

**"As for me and those in my house, we'll serve God, and God alone!"
Lord, these words of challenge meet us in our families and our homes.**

For the values all around us Often trouble and confound us.

Can we live as you have shown?

**In a world that finds its pleasure in the things that money buys,
We are called to different treasure as we hear your people's cries.
May our families find in serving Those the world calls undeserving
Bread that truly satisfies.**

**In a world where recreation tempts our families from the pews,
May we ponder what the faith means as we help our families choose.
By example, are we leading — Or are other things impeding
How we live your wondrous news?**

**In a world of war and violence, may we follow Christ each day.
Where oppression meets with silence, may our families act and pray.
May we find in faith and practice How our homes can be a witness
As we follow Jesus' Way.**

***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."

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*- If comfortable, please stand



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of November 12, – November 18, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Service
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Wellness (Yoga @ 10 and Adult Logos@11) Logos enjoys its 25th year @ HUPC Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday:	5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Packing for Micah's Backpack Adult Handbell Rehearsal
Saturday:	1:00 p.m.	PYC – Thanksgiving Baskets

“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

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER... AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU! Today is J.O.Y. Sunday and we welcome our children and youth as leaders of today's service.

THANKS TO ALL AND ESPECIALLY OUR FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE, our 'SMOKERS' and VOHN AND LINDA FOR LAST NIGHT'S ANNUAL BARBECUE. A really good time was had by all!

NEW MEMBER CLASS. Everyone already "belongs" at Highlands -- but maybe you are ready to make it official. Come to our new member class TODAY from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Childcare will be provided. Dr. Dave and members of our church Session will be happy to answer all your questions. Members of Highlands have come to our church on as many different life journeys as there are members of Highlands. Consider joining our growing and supportive church family. If you have questions about the new member class, please do not hesitate to speak to Dr. Dave or the members of our Church Growth Committee: David Bauerlein, Alan Robbins or Anneliese Robbins

OUR WELLNESS PROGRAM IS AWESOME! Our program begins with seated yoga at 10:00 a.m. and Adult LOGOS follows around 11:00 am. Seated yoga can easily be adapted to anyone's physical interest and we are looking forward to John Smith's usual presentation making Bible study amusing and informative. **Join us!**

WE'RE HAVING A GREAT TIME AT LOGOS!! Our LOGOS program is celebrating its 25th year on Wednesday's at 4 p.m. All of our children and you are invited so please bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors. Our theme this week is "Talents to Spare" and you are invited to bring food to donate to Thanksgiving Baskets.

MICAH'S BACKPACK IS PACKING FOR 86 KIDS NOW! That is a big impact in the community...but there are way more hungry kids out there and our pantry is emptied every week. So, we are having a COMMUNITY FOOD FIGHT (Food Drive) October 23- November 11. Check our Face Book page "MicahsbackpackJacksonville", our website www.micahsbackpack.org or talk to Bonnie Vanderberg about how you can participate.

HIGHLANDS STRONG! Today we continue this year's Stewardship Campaign. Next Sunday is **Stewardship Dedication Sunday.** You are invited to prayerfully read through your Stewardship information and share your **financial** and **time and talent** commitments next Sunday as a part of our Thanksgiving Worship.

Eat more chicken! FUNDRAISER OPPORTUNITY. The Preschool is having its annual fundraising opportunity with the Chick-fil-A 2018 Calendar. Each calendar features 12 months of beautiful cow artwork as well as monthly offers for **FREE** Chick-fil-A food. HPGP is now selling the 2018 calendars for \$10, cash only. You can come by the Preschool office any day Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 6:00pm or catch me after worship on Sundays. Thank you for your support to the Church Preschool and the children we serve. We appreciate it – Michele!

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS will have a one session study next Sunday, Nov. 12th at 9:00 am about “**Does Science Conflict with Faith?**”.

LIFE LINE SCREENING will offer their non-invasive and painless health screenings at HUPC on 12/8/17. The screenings will take 60 – 90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word “circle” to 797979.

HIGHLAND’S BABY SHOWER: Matthew 25:40 – just as you did it to one of the least of these.... you did it to me. Thanks to all of you who answered your call to discipleship with your generous contributions to the Highlands Baby Shower. This ministry shows care and support to many new mothers and babies of our community via your contributions of a new baby clothes, blankets and more. You are a blessing. Highlands Mission Committee – for more information contact Susan Lee at 887-4661.

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES: ACS needs the following items: toothpaste, powdered milk, canned milk, canned pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, canned tomatoes, canned potatoes, peanut butter, jelly- HUPC’s specialty, and toilet tissue. Nine 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!**

YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP. We are looking for items for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance kits. We recently sent 50 kits to help people after Hurricane Harvey’s destruction. So, we are starting all over with another group. We need 16 X 26-inch hand towels, wash clothes, individual toothbrushes, tooth paste, fingernail clippers, standard size band aids, individual bars of soap, combs and gallon sized clear storage bags.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED LOVE AND SUPPORT FOR THE CHILDREN OF HAITI. Please make sure your payments are marked “**HAITI CHILDREN**” to ensure the money goes into the right account.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY’S SERVICE –

SPECIAL AND ONGOING PRAYERS: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

IN THE HOSPITAL THIS WEEK:

OUR FRIENDS IN CARE FACILITIES: *At Brookdale Southside:* (9601 Southbrook Dr., Jax, FL 32256); *Hank Green(N-122); At Clare Bridge* Louise Keen; *At the Atrium (9960 Atrium Way, 32225):* Boyd and Doreen Harris (#528) , Doris Ruby (#219); *Others:* Fay Sweeney (Cypress Village, 4600 Middleton Park Circle East # E 10 A, Jacksonville, FL 32224).

AT HOME: Nancy Moewe (staying with family), Clara Whitaker, Don Hall, Kit Fink, Jo and Hoagy Carmichael, Nancy Hoot, Kinzey & Betty Reeves, Patty Strader, Marilyn Reed, JoAn Ewing, Bruce and Annette Marley, Gwen Brown, Barbara Ash and Carolyn Starkweather.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Debbie Douget’s dad, Don Seay, Justin Marley (Bruce and Annette’s grandson), Kenneth Moon (Barbara’s son), Lenwood Lee (Dr. Dave’s father), Ashley Parsons (DCE at Orange Park PC), Ed Mallard.

IN THE MILITARY: Jacob Loerop (Jacob.Loerop@CVN68.navy.mil), IT3 Jacob Loerop CVN 68 USS Nimitz Unit 100103 Box 1771 FPO AP 96620. Amelia Powell (amelia.powell@cvw7.navy.mil) AT2 Powell, Amelia N., VAQ-140, Unit 200107 Box 142, FPO AP 96601.

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

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

OUR SYMPATHY: Once again we experience sorrow upon the physical deaths of those we love, while also rejoicing in the promise of renewed life for all eternity, for one’s dearly loved. A service for Al will be here on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 11 a.m. All glory be to God for the gift of life and the promise of eternal life

FAMILIES WE ARE PRAYING FOR THIS WEEK: Jason Heckler, Josh and Courtney Heckler and family and Scott and Sue Heckler.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Richard and Nancy Marsh. Children’s Church Leader: Chad Sambito.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by Richard and Nancy Marsh in memory of Daniel and Sylvia King.