

love
hope grace plenty
thanks commitment
thanksgiving faith
life stewardship
dedication
peace

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 20, 2016

**THANKSGIVING &
STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY**

“Well Done Good and Faithful Servants”

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor
Laura Sambito, DCE
Gibson Dixon, Director of Music
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“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **(Matthew 25:13-14)**”

Today we celebrate three events in one Sunday. Today is Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday and Stewardship Dedication Sunday.

Music as we prepare for worship is an instrumental version of two favorite Thanksgiving hymns, "We Gather Together" and "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

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.'

We welcome our Highlands Handbell Choir to our worship this morning. Our Prelude is "Peace" by Joshua Kramer. A simple melody that invites the listener to enter into a time of the contemplation of the blessings and of God and the 'peace' that comes from them.

Our opening Hymn is "Come Ye Thankful People Come" which was written by Henry Alford. Alford wrote "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," his only hymn, in 1844 while he was the rector of Aston Standford church in Buckinghamshire, England. It is a song about the gathering of the harvest which is also a theme concerning the gathering of all people to Christ in his reign as king, as alluded to in the 4th verse.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THANKSGIVING & STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY

November 19, 2017 -- 10:00 a.m.

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

MUSIC AND TIME OF PREPARATION

(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

"Peace"

Kramer

SHARING GREETINGS AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Come together as children of God!

Fill us, God, with joy!

Come together to claim freedom!

Set us free, gracious God!

Come together to experience God's love!

Show us how to love as you love, O God!

Come together to give God thanks and praise.

We come to worship!

Come to dedicate ourselves anew to Christ and the church!

All praise be our loving and giving God!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (In Unison)

"Gracious God, the marvels of creation speak of your love for us. The promises to all humankind speak of your love for us, The teaching, healing, challenging of Jesus Christ speak of your love for us. The promises of life that is greater than death speak of your love for us. Fill us with love for you. Hear us as we 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 NO. 476

"Come Ye Thankful People Come"

** - If you are comfortable, please stand*

***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:** (from "I Come With Joy" Hymn No. 507)

**"And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known: We see and praise Him here,
We see and praise Him here.**

**Together met, together bound, We'll go our different ways,
And as His people in the world, We'll live and speak His praise,
We'll live and speak His praise."**

"SEEK FORGIVENESS AND FELLOWSHIP"

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

We come today as thankful people who give God the glory for the bounty of our blessings. We know we are not always as thankful as we should be in our living or in our giving. We come today to confess our failings and to ask forgiveness:

When we do not show mercy,

forgive us, God.

When we do not serve you without fear,

forgive us, God.

When we do not give you thanks with joy,

forgive us, God.

When we do not recognize and receive your Christ,

forgive us, God.

When we do not acknowledge Christ's sovereignty in our lives,

forgive us, God.

When we do not forgive others,

forgive us, God.

When we do not receive the new life you offer to all people,

forgive us, God.

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us!

Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us!

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us!

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to guide our feet into the way of peace. In Christ Jesus, we are people set free and redeemed to love and serve.

Thanks be to God!

***THE GLORIA PATRI"**

**"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. Please remain standing as we sing the final two verses of "I Come With Joy."

We practice **.Corporate Confession.** In the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition. We do not offer individual confession save for that which we offer in our silent prayers. We believe that we are a community of faith and as such share in the sins of all. We are "Called to Confession" as a reminder of our individual and communal sin. Our "Confession and Pardon" gives expression to our desire to know forgiveness. The "Kyrie Eleison" 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 worshiping community.

(We use the 'common lectionary' which is a guide the assigns readings over a three-year cycle. God's people are given the opportunity to hear and read along in God's Word from the Bible).

The Anthem for the day is "Look at the World." A beautiful arrangement by John Rutter that reminds us that all things come from God. It is also an opportunity, through sacred music, to give thanks and praise to Almighty God for all the good things of creation. Our combined choirs share this wonderful message with us.

In response to the Word read there is the 'preaching of the word for our living today.' This includes words for 'the young church' and all who gather.

Today our "Response To God's Word" takes the form of our "Highlands Strong Stewardship Dedication" for 2018. God consistently and lovingly blesses us. God sustains our living and watches over us and provides for us. God does so because God loves us. We, on the other hand get to choose. We get to choose if we are truly thankful people. We get to choose if we will respond with enthusiastic love or respond not at all.

(During the Bell Anthem and the Hymns you are invited to stand and come up the center aisle and place your offering for the day and your Stewardship Commitment information

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

(NT: p.)

*Matthew 25:14-30

(NT: p.)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be To God!

ANTHEM

"Look A The World"

Rutter

Highlands LOGOS, J.O.Y. & Adult Choirs

*"Look at the world: Everything all around us Look at the world: and marvel everyday
Look at the world: So many joys and wonders So many miracles along our way*

*Chorus: Praise to Thee O Lord for all creation, Give us thankful hearts that we may see
All the gifts we share and every blessing All things come of thee.*

*Look at the earth: Bringing forth fruit and flower Look at the sky: The sunshine and the rain
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains Valley and flowing river field and plain*

Refrain:

*Think of the spring, Think of the warmth of summer Bringing the harvest before the winters cold
Everything grows, everything has a season Til' it is gathered to the fathers fold. Refrain:*

*Every good gift, all that we need and cherish Comes from the lord in token of his love
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty His is the earth and his the heavens above
Refrain: All things come of thee, All things come of thee."*

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

INTERLUDE

(All children, ages 4 through 2nd 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 #207.)

SERMON

"Well Done Good and Faithful Servants"

DEDICATION OF OUR STEWARDSHIP & OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ANTHEM

"Celtic Grace"

Geschke

***HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 554 "Let All Things Now Living"**

**"Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us, By guiding
us on to the end of our days God's banners are o'er us, Pure light
goes before us, A pillar of fire shining forth in the night: Till shadows
have vanished, All fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.**

**By law God enforces. The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, The rivers and fountains, The depths of
the ocean proclaim God divine. We, too, should be voicing Our love
and rejoicing, With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.”**

***HYMN NO. 555 “Now Thank We All Our God”
Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers’ arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next!**

**All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
The Son and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God, whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

***A STEWARDSHIP AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)**

**We, the community of God's people at Highlands United
Presbyterian Church,
in humble recognition of our shortcomings and God's
forgiveness, believe God has blessed us with a strong
faith, a rich history, and hope for fulfillment of God's
promises in the future.
Even now, God blesses us with wise leaders, loyal members,
dedicated staff, and generous friends, all of whom trust
in God's Word and Spirit.
Therefore, by the grace of the Holy Spirit;
by the confidence of our faith in God,
and in obedience to Jesus Christ, we declare our
commitment to educate ourselves and others in the
knowledge of Scripture as a pattern for our lives, to
enhance our worship of God in word, sacrament, and
music, to share God's love, through Christ with all
people, to join with Christians and others in worship,
study, fellowship, and mission, to give an abundant share
of our time, talent, and money, in proclamation of the
gospel, in the struggle for justice, in the exercise of
compassion; in the stewardship of the environment, and
in the work for peace, at home, in the community, and
throughout the world; To the glory of God: This is our
witness. This is our faith. This is our call. Amen.”**

as a symbol of our
Stewardship and
Thanksgiving. Please
return down the side
aisles).

As members
of the church our
giving to God allows
the church to do the
work that God has
designed for us to do.
If we do not respond,
some portion of the
work to promote God's
kingdom must go
undone. Someone
goes unblessed, some
program has less than
the necessary
resources.

What does
God want from us?
How are we to be
Highlands Strong?
God wants our love,
our consistent
response to that love,
and our commitment to
the work of the church.
Being de cent people
is a big plus as well.
Being thankful means
that we do our best to
do these very things.
That is Stewardship.

As we share our Prayer of Dedication and Commitment we remember all of our congregation and others who we lift before God in prayer. Please be in prayer this week for those who are listed on the last page of the bulletin.

Our Hymn of Parting is a favorite hymn of Thanksgiving, "We Gather Together,

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

Our final choral word for the day is the final verse from "We Gather Together to Ask The Lord's Blessing."

*- Worship is an interactive event. Whether we are comfortable standing or not we are all an important part of the service.

Please join us for Fellowship across the way in our "Dining Hall!"

Thanks to the worship Committee for the beautiful thanksgiving display in place on the table today. Especially, Debbi Douget.

* - If you are comfortable, please stand
Thanks!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT (unison)**

"Almighty God, we thank You for all the gifts you have given us: our lives; our loved ones; all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank you for Jesus, Your Son and our Redeemer, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life. May the offerings of our time, our talents and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us. Make us truly thankful, Lord, for all we have and all we are made able to give for you. Bless our church and all whose lives are touched in the ministry we share. Continue to give us grace and blessings, faith and courage, and guidance in their use. We are your people, Lord, by your grace, and these are our prayers to you this day.

We pray for those of our church, those in our families, those in our communities, and those throughout the world who are this day in sorrow, or pain, or doubt, or need. May our Thanksgiving open our hearts to them even as you touch lives through your great love, mercy and grace. In the name of Christ our King, Amen."

***CHARGE TO GO AND SERVE**

The God of harvest, gardener supreme, places us at the center of a plan.

God feeds us, equips us and provides for us.

Then calls us to look to a different harvest manifested in:

the fruitfulness of our lives in service to God and others.

So that our lives

might bring glory to God.

Go, with exuberant thanksgiving to love and serve our loving and giving God!

***HYMN OF PARTING NO. 559 "WE GATHER TOGETHER"**

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.**

**Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glory be Thine!**

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE**

"We Gather Together" (vs. 3)

**We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.**

**Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!"**



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of November 19, – November 25, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

<p>Today:</p> <p>Monday:</p> <p>Tuesday:</p> <p>Wednesday:</p> <p>Thursday:</p>	<p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>10:00 a.m.</p> <p>7:00 p.m.</p> <p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>7:15 p.m.</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Sunday School</p> <p>Worship Service</p> <p>Session Meeting</p> <p>Quilting and Sewing Group</p> <p>Adult Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Adult Handbell Rehearsal</p>
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“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 we celebrate Thanksgiving and as a way to express our thanks we are sharing the Dedication of our Stewardship Commitment. **HIGHLANDS STRONG!**

MAY GOD BLESS US AS WE COME to a time of giving thanks to God as a nation on this Thanksgiving Day. May we, together, as a people, give thanks to God who gave us an identity as a 'nation under God.' May we, at least in our thanks, be of one mind and voice in praising God.

DR. DAVE AND SUSAN will be heading to NC this afternoon to be with his family on Thanksgiving. It will be an occasion of mixed blessing as they will join family for giving thanks, but also be with Dr. Dave's father as he undergoes surgery on Wednesday. Please keep them in your prayers and especially Dave's father who is 94.

OUR WELLNESS PROGRAM IS TAKING A WEEK OFF! 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 next week, Nov. 29th!**

WE'RE TAKING A ONE-WEEK BREAK AT LOGOS!! We'll be back next week as we continue to celebrate our 25th year of LOGOS. All of our children and you are invited so please bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors to join us next Wednesday, Nov. 29th.

THE WINNER of Micah's "Community Food Fight" for 2017 is HUPC! Followed closely by Watson Realty Intercoastal. In all 1,513 items of food were collected from 6 organizations across the community! Thank you for your generous contributions! Micah's Backpackers continue to meet on Thursday evening at 5:30 PM to fill bags of weekend food for hungry children. Volunteer opportunities continue for packers on Thursday and there are 1-2 shopper opportunities still available. Shoppers can help 1-4 times a month. Contact Bonnie at (540) 257-0947 for more information.

OUR FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS are scheduled to be at Highlands from December 17-24. What a wonderful Christmas gift it will be for us to have the opportunity to host three homeless families during this holiday season. You can help by volunteering as evening or overnight host, preparing dinner, or serving as Saturday host. Sign-ups begin today in the Dining Hall following worship. Sign up will begin on the 1st Sunday in December.

~~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 study “Creationism, Evolution and Intelligent Design” the next two Sundays. **PLEASE SIGN UP** for your Poinsettia(s) today in the dining hall. The poinsettias are \$8.00 and be sure to mark who they are in memory of or in honor of. Thanks for making the advent season and our sanctuary beautiful.

LIFE LINE SCREENING will offer their non-invasive and painless health screenings at HUPC on Dec. 8th. 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. Ten 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: John Featherston and Fay Sweeney (# E10 A) at Cypress Village, 4600 Middleton Park Circle East , Jacksonville, FL 32224).*

AT HOME: Nancy Moewe (stating 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.

FAMILIES WE ARE PRAYING FOR THIS WEEK: Patty Holloway and John and Carol Houghton,

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeter: Jean Collins. Children’s Church Leader: Erika Conner.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are decorated by Debbie and Gibson I think.....