

Before you speak...

THINK!

Is it **T** True?

Is it **H** Helpful?

Is it **I** Inspiring?

Is it **N** Necessary?

Is it **K** Kind?

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

“What Do You Say About That?”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor

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“For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue--a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.” (James 3:7-12)

Today is the 17th
Sunday following
Pentecost and the 24th
Sunday in Ordinary
Time..

As we prepare for
worship we'll listen to a
classic of
Contemporary
Christian Music by
Amy Grant. "Thy
Word" is not only
familiar it speaks to us
about Jesus as "The
Word." We are
thinking about 'words'
this week and you are
invited to focus, as we
prepare our hearts, on
"The Word."

Our Service begins
with a **WELCOME** to
all who are gathered to
worship together.
We share news of our
life together as a
church in our service
because what we do,
outside of worship, is a
very vital portion of our
'service to God'.

Our Call to Worship
each week is designed
to bring us into focus
and help us to
heighten our
awareness of being in
a special place, in the
presence of God.

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

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

September 16, 2018 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

(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 AS WE GATHER

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT "Psalm 19" Marcello

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Proverbial "Wisdom" cries out in the streets;
James reminds us of the power of our words;
Jesus asks us who we say that he is.

We gather together for worship:

Seeking,

Hoping,

Longing for God with us.

Celebrating God's faithfulness.

God's way is perfect, reviving the soul;

heaven and earth tell the glory of God!

God's pathways are right, rejoicing the heart;

heaven and earth tell the glory of God!

God's teachings are sweeter than honey.

Heaven and earth tell the glory of God!

We gather to speak, sing, and pray;

may we tell the glory of God!

Come, let us worship God.

*GATHERING PRAYER (In Unison)

"Loving God,

we come with questions and wondering:

wisdom calls us to turn our lives around;

you call us to celebrate your word and your way;

Jesus calls us to risk all in discipleship.

And so, we open ourselves to you:

nourish us with words sweeter than honey,

and renew us as your people once again.

Hear us now as we pray the prayer of our Lord Jesus,

**"Our Father who art in heaven, ... For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen."**

*- If comfortable, please stand

***HYMN NO. 267 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"**

***PASSING THE PEACE (Please Remain Standing)**

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

And also with you.

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

***CHORAL RESPONSE: (Hymn. No. 461, vs. 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 "

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

We all make mistakes, many of them. We hurt ourselves, we hurt others, we hurt God with our words and deeds, with our silence and inaction. Let us confess to God our sins, trusting in the One who blesses us with mercy. Let us pray:

God of Wisdom, we hear you and we confess that we have not denied ourselves and followed.

**We turn our backs on your outstretched hands of grace, and
stumble into the arms of the world.**

We speak poisonous gossip about others, we use our words to question, to deride and despise the other, rather than declare that they, as we, are your children.

**We fire off words that find no rest until they pierce another's
heart.**

Forgive us, Rock and Redeemer, even as we pronounce you Lord in one breath, and doubt you with our next.

**Give us speech which flows like cool water through another's
parched spirit; give us silence with which to witness your
wonders; give us words to proclaim Jesus is the Christ, our Lord
and our Savior, the One who leads us to life. Amen.**

(Silent Prayers)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved friends,

wisdom lights the path before us and waits with eager longing to make us friends of God. Therefore, let us rejoice.

We are cherished. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***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."**

Our Hymn of Praise is one of the classic hymns in the Christian tradition, "All Things Bright and Beautiful." The words are by Cecil Frances Alexander and were first published in her Hymns for Little Children.

In our final 'gathering act' we "**Pass the Peace**" as an act of caring, welcome, and mutual love.

Corporate Confession:
In the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition, we do not offer individual confession save for that which we offer in our silent prayers. Our prayer and the "**Assurance of Forgiveness**" echo themes for the day.

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

Today’s anthem is based on the 19th Psalm. It was composed by Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827).

As we respond to God’s Word preached, we sing together the challenging song, “I’m Gonna’ Live So.” For the day, we’ve added a couple of new verses.

“THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Proverbs 1:20-33

(OT: p.584)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be To God!

ANTHEM

“The Heavens Are Declaring”

Beethoven

*“The heavens are declaring the Lord's endless glory,
Through all the earth His praise is found; The seas re-echo the marvelous story,
O man, repeat that glorious sound. The starry host, He orders and measures,
He fills the morning's golden springs; He wakes the sun from his night curtailed slumber,
Oh! man, adore the King of kings.*

*What power and splendor and wisdom and order,
In nature's mighty plan unrolled! Through space and time to infinity's border.
What wonders vast and manifold! The earth is His, and the heavens o'er it bending
The Maker in His works behold! He is and will be through ages unending
A God of strength and love untold.”*

*NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

James 3:1-12

(NT: p. 230)

***Mark 8:27-38**

(NT: p. 43)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

INTERLUDE (All children, ages 3 through 1st 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

“What Do You Say About That?”

“RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD”

*IN SONG WITH

“I’m Gonna’ Live So”

**I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
Let’s all live so God can use us anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
Let’s all work so God can use us anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
Let’s all pray so God can use us anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I’m gonna speak so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
Let’s all speak so God can use us anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
Let’s all sing so God can use us anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

***IN FAITH WITH 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."

IN PRAYER WITH THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Responsive)

We hear words Lord, Are they the words of life?

Tough words. Coming in torrents and alone, muffled and shouted, whispered and sung, laughed and cried.

We hear words Lord, Are they the words of life?

Tough Words, spoken with the passion of a hurricane, coldly as the Artic, giving us light for the road ahead filled with the dread of the night.

Good Words, that give us faith to live.

Diminishing our fear, spoken to keep us going shouted to make us stop.

Powerful Words. We hear words Lord. Are they the words of life?

You, Lord Jesus, you are the words of life, the gift of the Spirit. You feed the thousands on the hillsides and turn water into wine and revive dead branches into vines.

You walk across the seas

**and calm the storms
preach to the multitudes
converse with a woman at the well.**

You, Lord Jesus, you are the Word of life, the bread, the cup, the gift of the Spirit.

**You heal the leper and give sight to the blind;
make the lame walk, raise up the dead.**

You bless the children

and cure our daughters, fill our nets and warm our hearts.

You, Lord Jesus, you are the words of life, the gift of the Spirit.

You call us to love our enemies.

Forgive our friends, welcome the stranger and comfort the mourner.

You, Lord Jesus, you are the words of life, the gift of the Spirit.

You heal our hearts,

bind up our wounds, comfort the sick, the dying, those who are sad. Restore health and happiness and give hope.

We listen for your words, and we hear and rejoice forevermore.

Amen.

In the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition, we share an "Affirmation of Faith" as an expression of our faith and belief in response to hearing the Word. Today we use the 'ecumenical' version of the ancient Apostles' Creed.

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're trying a new twist in our worship order today. As we give our offerings we will also share what we are 'offering' God this week in the life of the church.

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.

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 a church classic, "Lord Speak To Me That I May Speak."

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

IN SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH AND OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*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."

"WE TAKE OUR WORSHIP INTO THE WORLD"

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go on your way as messengers of God's love. Embrace the tough words. Bless those you meet. Be people of hope. Give thanks in all you do.

**We go with the blessing of God –
author of peace, source of love,
power of community,
mystery of Christ.**

Fed by the Word to do the work, sometimes we use words;
we go to seek God in our fellowship, in our lives, and in the world!

*HYMN OF PARTING NO. NO. 426 "Lord Speak to Me"

**Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou has sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.**

**O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed Thy hungry ones with manna sweet.**

**O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things
thou dost impart; And wing my words,
that they may reach The hidden depths of many a heart.**

**O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, Until my very heart o'erflow In kindling
thought and glowing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.**

*BENEDICTION

*PARTING RESPONSE

**O use me, Lord, use even me, Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.**

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

Please Join us in the Dining Hall for Fellowship!



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of September 16th – 22nd



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday:	9:00 a.m.	Crafty Ladies
	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m.	Wellness (Yoga @10:00 & Adult Logos @ 11:00)
	4:00 p.m.	Logos
	7:15 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday:	5:30 p.m.	Micah's Backpack Packing
	7:30 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal

“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.**

HOW TO REACH US: The new primary email for the church is hchurchjax@gmail.com which will be for all church related concerns. Anneliese (Church Admin.) will be hupca1967@gmail.com for church related matters that need her attention and a direct response. Dr. Dave's personal church information and other email is: jaxdoc1955@gmail.com. Laura's email continues to be: lsambito@gmail.com and Michele's is still msmichele.hpgp@gmail.com. The hchurchjax@gmail.com address will be our address for Google Drive, etc. as well.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WE'RE BACK! Wellness Wednesday is back. LOGOS (kids and adults) is back. Choir is back. Bells are back. Micah's Backpack is back. Faith is in action at HUPC!

LOGOS ON WEDNESDAY: Looking for a little mid-week excitement? LOGOS is in "full swing" this week and we would love to see you there! This week's theme is "Backwards Night" and you are invited to join the fun by wearing backwards clothes. **WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT LOGOS THIS WEEK!!**

WELLNESS: A sincere invitation is extended to all to be a part of the Highlands' Wellness and Adult LOGOS program which continues each Wednesday morning from 10 – noon. All are welcome for either of both elements. Chair yoga begins around 10:00 a.m. and Adult Logos (bible study) starts around 11:00 a.m. Join us for some physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and social interaction.

CHOIRS NEED YOU! Adult choir practices on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. and Handbells practice on Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. We need singers and ringers. Join us!

MICAH'S BACKPACK PACKS FOR 105 ON THURSDAYS at 5:30 p.m. Stop by to help, encourage or to simply be amazed!

FAMILY PROMISE- Our Family Promise guests will be returning to Highlands September 30 - October 7. Please stop by the Family Promise table after worship today to sign up to help. With approximately 40 volunteer spots to choose from, there should be a spot for you! Also, the church's roll away bed seems to have rolled away. It would be very helpful to have it rolled back so our overnight hosts will have a comfortable bed for sleeping.

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR TWO EXCITING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS FOR THE 'FALL.' We are bringing back the popular Low Country Boil on Saturday, October 13. We would appreciate it if you would fill out a reservation slip and turn it in now, so we can determine how much shrimp to purchase. We will announce what the donation per person will be as soon as we see how much shrimp we need. Our other special event is the Pork Barbeque on November 10. We will have more information for you soon!

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF HIGHLANDS BABY SHOWER! Special thank you to Sigrid Savage and Sarah Shepherd for the beautiful homemade afghans and blankets. We are collecting items for our next group of gifts for newborn babies and their families. There is a collection box in the dining hall and we thank you for your help.

HUPC HAS SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES. Our adult classes are up and running with several options, so you can find at least one (maybe more) that interest you! *The Thoughtful Christian Class* will be studying "Challenges to American Democracy" September 23rd and 30th. We also have new curriculum for our children and youth and some dedicated teachers ready to have lively and meaningful conversations with your children! PARENTS do you know where your children will be on Sunday mornings? They NEED to be at HUPC so that we can fulfill our vows spoken at their Baptism to nurture them and raise them in the love of their church!! It is the church's responsibility to provide a program (Sunday School, LOGOS, PYC) for your children! It is YOUR responsibility to see that they are here along with you!

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP! Your generous support of the children in Haiti means their basic needs of food, shelter and clothing are being met. They are even able to attend school in a safe location and feel the love of Christ and the people of Highlands. **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 to the correct place.

THE FELLOWSHIP FREEZER IS LOOKING EMPTY! If you are having fun trying out some new fall recipes, why not double the batch and bring something to put in fellowship's freezer. We all love the "yum-yum's" they have for us on Sunday mornings, so here's a chance to help. By the way, we also take \$\$ in the donation jar!

FAMILY PROMISE BENEFIT AT THE ALHAMBRA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4. This musical look at history is based on the drafting and the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Sunday, November 4 benefits Family Promise of Jacksonville. The show starts at 2:00 pm, doors open at 12:00 pm with the meal being served from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. Purchase your ticket from Family Promise or a board member and help support homeless families with children. The ticket of \$60 includes the meal, nonalcoholic beverages, tax, gratuities and a donation to Family Promise. **Ticket sales end October 22.** For tickets, call Beth Mixson at 904-537-3645 or email bethmixson@familypromisejax.org.

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. Every grocery order going out of ACS has a jar of HUPC jelly. We collected thirteen jars of jelly last week. **Don't forget your jelly next Sunday!**

PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY'S SERVICE

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

IN THE HOSPITAL AND UNDER GOING TEST THIS WEEK: Patty Strader (Memorial)

OUR FRIENDS IN CARE FACILITIES: At the Atrium Rehab Center – Bruce Marley; 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: JoAn Ewing, Tim Douget (Tom's brother), Jim Walters, Reinhard Bohling, Jim Moss, 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, Carolyn Starkweather and Annie Lietzow.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Kenneth Moon (Barbara's son), Lenwood Lee (Dr. Dave's father), Ashley Parsons (DCE at Orange Park PC), Ed Mallard, Rebecca Briones' mom, Ms Anna's mother in law, and the Robbins' friend Grace.

IN THE MILITARY: Jacob Loerop (Jacob.Loerop@CVN68.navy.mil), IT2 Jacob Loerop CVN 68 USS Nimitz Unit 100103 Box 1771 PPO AP 96620. Amelia Powell (amelia.powell@cvw7.navy.mil) 1163 SW 2nd Avenue, Oak Harbor, WA 98277.

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: Bill Byers, Richard Carlton and Jo and Hoagy Carmichael.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeter: Alan and Anneliese Robbins. Children's Church Leader: Jessica Sorrells.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by Lyle and Jan Sim in honor of their two great grandsons.