

70 x 7

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

24th of Ordinary Time

“70 X 7”

"Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." (**Matthew 18: 21-22**)

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 17, 2017 – 24th of Ordinary Time

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

TIME OF PREPARATION

Mission Yearbook – p. 265

(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.)

PRELUDE & BRINGING THE LIGHT

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

In sacred times of word, wonder, and awe, in ordinary days of work and play:

In Every Moment, God Is With Us.

Whether we are stuck in doubt's mud, or standing on faith's shoreline:

In Every Place, God Is With Us.

In those who teach us and those who trouble us;

in those who surprise us and those who forgive us:

In Every Person, God Is With Us.

Come, let us worship our God who is with us.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (responsive)**

"When we look over our shoulders at fear shadowing us today, you go before us into tomorrow, making a path through the sea of yesterday's doubts. When our legs tremble from the effort of standing up for what you hope for all creation, you stand at our side, offering your hope's strength. Cloud of grace, we offer our love to you.

When we turn our hearts into deserts of stony bitterness, you transform them into oases of joy. When we come up with all sorts of rules for those who come to us seeking to find you, you tear up the list, stretching wide your arms in welcoming grace. Servant of all, we offer our lives to you.

When we would clasp old worries to our hearts, you open our eyes to that hope which paves the path ahead of us. When we spend each day consumed with doubts and fears, you remind us that this day is the time to honor God, by serving God's children. Mist of mercy, we offer our hearts to you.

Forgiving God, as you are all to us, so we would offer all we are to you, even as we pray as Jesus taught us,

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

***HYMN NO. 281**

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

**1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.**

**2. Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.**

**3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.**

***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 AND FELLOWSHIP"

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

As we stand before God, we think of all the ways we bicker with others, all those times we have not shown mercy and grace to those around us. Let us bow our hearts and confess our sin to God, as we pray together, saying,

It is never easy for us to confess but deep down inside, we know that having received grace, we have trouble being grace-full to others; forgiven, we are eager to judge and punish all who hurt us; freed, we find ways to put restrictions on people we fear.

**Forgive us, servant God. You show mercy more often than we deserve;
you pardon us more times than we can count. And why? Because we belong
to you, sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, who died and lived again, so we
might live beyond death with you. Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.
Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us.
Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God's hand of mercy is stretched out to us, making a way through all that threatens us, to touch us with grace and hope.

**We Stand Before Our God, Singing Praise To The One Who Turns Our
Despair Into Joy, Our Fears Into Faith. Thanks Be To God! Amen.**

***THE GLORIA PATRI (Hymn No. 579)**

**“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.”**

“THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 14:19-31

(OT: p. 61)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be To God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

***NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS**

Romans 14:1-12

(NT: p. 163)

*Matthew 18:21-35

(NT: p. 20)

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 #207.)

SERMON

“70 x 7”

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 275**

“God of Our Life”

- 1. God of our life, through all the circling years, We trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.**
- 2. God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land; Be Thou our guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.**
- 3. God of the coming years, through paths unknown We follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone; Our refuge be.
Be Thou for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed (*Ecumenical version*)**

“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.”

BEING THE CHURCH IN MISSION, PRAYER AND GIVING

Discipleship and Moment for Mission As We Come to Prayer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Responsive)

Holy God of Freedom, we celebrate your name joined with voices through the ages who have shouted thanksgiving for your great works.

Our feet are wet from our journey through uncertainty.

Our necks are stiff from looking over our shoulders at the threats to our lives.

Now we seek to walk your way and look ahead, trusting in you.

May your Spirit give us the wisdom to journey alongside those who are suffering, to listen to their stories, and to trust in your steadfast power for justice.

We expect your presence to continue with those who are in prison,

those who face addictions, those who go hungry and thirsty,

those who are sick, Those who are homeless,

those who suffer loss, those who struggle mentally and emotionally.

Turn our rejoicing into trusting and our trusting into acting in your name.

That we may be your people,

freed, forgiven, loved, living in your grace and mercy.

Take our minds, hearts, and our very lives and make us your own.

So that freed we might always live for you, So that forgiven and forgiving we might bear your grace, mercy, love and peace in our lives.

With your blessings in our hearts we offer these, our prayers to you, O God of deliverance and forgiveness.

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.”**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

“Lord of grace, lead your people from death to life and from fear to hope.

May our giving strengthen our trust in your power and loosen our tongues and feet to celebrate your glory in our lives. Amen”

*HYMN OF PARTING NO. 386

“O For A World”

**1. O for a world where everyone Respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done With justice and with praise.**

**2. O for a world where goods are shared And misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, Equality achieved.**

3. **We welcome one world family And struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity And gives our vision voice.**
4. **The poor are rich, the weak are strong, The foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; Outcasts belong, Who perishes will rise.**
5. **O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, And all but love will cease.**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

May the powerful presence of God move before us and behind us in all
the joys and struggles of our daily lives.

We step out in celebration to honor the Creator, the Christ, and the Spirit.
Called to gracious living, called to forgive as well as be forgiven, called to live
as Christ, for Christ, in Christ in the world;

We go seeking the peace of Christ in our living and in our world.

***BENEDICTION**

***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.”**

*- Those who are comfortable may please stand