

LET LOVE BE GENUINE REJOICE IN HOPE
HALLOWED GROUND LOVE ONE ANOTHER
DONOT REPAY EVIL FOR EVIL
HATE WHAT IS EVIL CONTRIBUTE TO THE SAINTS
GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO DRINK
REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE
HOLD FAST TO WHAT IS GOOD
TAKE UP YOUR CROSS EXTEND HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS
IF YOU ENEMIES ARE HUNGRY FEED THEM
BURNING BUSH BLESS THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU
WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP
OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD PERSEVERE IN PRAYER
LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL LIVE IN HARMONY
BE PATIENT IN SUFFERING

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

“Great Words”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor

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Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. (Romans 12:9-13)

**WELCOME TO
COMMUNION**

SUNDAY! God's people will be gathered today at the table of peace and grace.

Today is the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary time. Great stories of the faith are shared with us today as we feed on the bounty of God's Word.

This morning in our 'time of preparation' we'll be doing a bit of practice for an element we're including as new in our communion service.

Our Service begins with a **WELCOME** to all who are gathered to worship together. We embrace the opportunity to share the good news of what we are doing outside of the sanctuary which is also our 'worship' and our 'service' to God.

Our "**Call to Worship**" leads into our first corporate prayer as the gathered body of Christ. The 'Gathering Prayer' reflects the themes of the day's worship.

Our opening hymn is one of the great hymns of the church, "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise." Written by Walter Chalmers Smith, a pastor of the Free Church of Scotland, in the late 19th century, it is based on 1 Timothy 1:17, which in the King James Version says: "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." It tries to express the inexpressible—the nature of God—and so it uses words like this: "In light inaccessible hid from our eyes"—that are mysterious as well as beautiful.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A Celebration of Worship
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
September 3, 2017 -- 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time -- 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. As we come to table let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive the gift of God's grace in the cup and loaf.)

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

"I am who I am" comes to us and greets us today.

God calls us to come closer.

We are called to seek God's presence continually.

God calls us to come closer.

Turn aside here to seek God, to seek God's presence.

God calls us to come closer.

Turn aside from the familiar path and say, "Here I am."

God calls us to come closer.

God says, "Come! Stand here! Stand in silent awe."

We stand on holy ground.

Let us worship the God of burning bushes and challenging words.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (In Unison)**

God of all earth and sky, you shaped us from your own ground into being, you breathed spirit in our souls and your word into our ears. You burn around us in unexpected places, calling us to turn aside and feel your presence, to turn aside and hear your voice, to turn aside and be grounded in you. Here we are, Holy God: open, waiting, hoping to know you more deeply, more fully, more wholly. In Christ we pray even as he 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 OF PRAISE NO. 263 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"**

*If 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:**

**“Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.”**

"SEEK FORGIVENESS AND FELLOWSHIP"

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

God, through the apostle Paul, calls us to live out our faith in everyday actions beginning with loving one another with a love that is completely sincere - love with no thought of gain for self but love totally at the service of others. We know we do not attain perfect love. These words burn but do not consume us. Let us pray for forgiveness:

God calls us to hate evil and to hold fast to what is good;
to care for and honor one another,
to allow nothing to be lukewarm about our worship,
our witness and our service
to make our faith visible through our joy and our hope -
our patience - even in suffering, and through our persevering in prayer,

Forgive us, Lord, when we fail.

We are called to share what we have with those in need,
and we are to extend hospitality not just to those we know
and like - but to strangers.

**Forgive us when we find excuses not to open our hearts,
our homes and our lives to welcome and be generous to
others.**

Renew and strengthen us with your Spirit, O God, so that by denying ourselves and following Jesus, we will not be overcome with evil but will overcome evil with good.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news: God's love for us is truly revealed in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. And so I declare to you, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***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.”

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“O Taste and See”

G. Young

“O taste and see how gracious the Lord is; Blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
O taste and see...that the Lord is good. O Fear the Lord...for there is no want to them that fear him.
O taste and see.... O Fear the Lord.”

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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 worshipping community with a verse from the Hymn "Blest be the Tide that Binds"

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 present in our Epistle lesson for the day.

Our Offertory Anthem today is "O Taste and See" by Gordon Young. The anthem is based on the 34th Psalm in which the Psalmist declares both God's goodness and our wisdom in trusting in God. We are invited, at the table, to literally 'taste and see' God's

The 'heart' of our worship is **"The Proclamation of God's Word."**

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

We stand for the reading of the gospel in a very old tradition of the church. 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.

(On Communion Sundays we invite the young church to remain with us. There is a nursery for the youngest of us.)

The remainder of the service is **"Sharing Our Response to God"** which is our opportunity to respond to the Word read, preached and heard. Which today also includes our gathering at the Table for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

***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."

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Exodus 3:1-15

(OT: p. 50)

*Matthew 16: 21-28

(NT: p. 18)

May the presence of God's Word be sweet on our lips.

Thanks be to God!

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

SERMON

"Great Words"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 514 "Let Us Talents..." (vss. 1-2)

"Invitation to the Table"

(The Lord's table is open to all who confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.)

At this table we give thanks for unity in Christ.

At this table we give thanks for friends and strangers together in community in this safe place.

At this table we welcome old and young.

A place at the table is open. All are invited.

Come as one to share the meal of grace.



"Great Prayer of Thanksgiving"

May our God of goodness be with you.

And also with you.

Offer your hearts to God and rejoice in hope.

We bring them to the One who blesses us with love.

Join in singing thanksgivings to the One who calls us to this feast.

We praise our God who feeds us with peace.

Reaching into your imagination, God of wonder, you wove that community we call creation: your steadfast love swimming in the waters, your joy teaching songs to the birds, your peace placing stars in the skies. You made ready your guest room for those shaped in your likeness, but we set our minds on sin's things, wanting to walk down the road to death. You sent prophets to offer us your words so that they might delight our hearts, but we would not even try a taste, preferring to party with hypocritical temptation. You would not wash your hands of us, but sent your Child into our world, to be with us, to save us. With all those who cling to goodness, with those who long to live in harmony, we sing aloud our thanksgivings:

(Choir)

You Are Holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand.

You are always at hand. Blessed are you coming near.

Blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread,

raised from soil, raised from dead. You are holy, you are wholeness; you are present.

Let the cosmos praise you, Lord! Sing Hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

In Jesus, you walked faithfully toward us, God of holiness, so we might see your love wherever and whenever we looked. In Jesus, you sat down with those considered worthless in the world's eyes, so we might feast on your words of mercy and hope. In Jesus, you reached out to pry us out of wicked hands, to break ruthless grips on us. In Jesus, you showed us the cost of delivering us, as he lost his life so we might be saved by grace.

Because we want to follow Jesus, because we want to be your people, we would proclaim our faith:

All: Christ died for us x 3

Let the people praise you Lord!

Christ is risen x 3

Christ will come to us again!

Pour out your Spirit upon the gifts of the Table, and on the people being woven into your community in this place. As we eat of the bread, may we find that life of serving the poor, the hungry, the lost, the hopeless. As we drink from the cup, may we find the strength to lose ourselves in sharing your peace, in giving water to the thirsty, in becoming friends with the oppressed.

When this journey through life has ended, and we gather in your house around your table with those of every place, and of every time, we will sing your praises forever. And when we are clothed with our new self, when we are united with our sisters and brothers gathered around the Table of Glory, we will sing our praises to you forever as you satisfy the thirsty with your grace, and fill the hungry with your love. **Amen and Amen.**

"The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving" is shared from the table and acts as a 'blessing' or 'grace' as we gather. This prayer recounts God's gracious creative power, our sinfulness and Christ's coming to redeem us and make us whole.

The 'table' is not an altar for sacrifice, but a table upon which are symbols of Christ's body and blood given freely for us. We believe that Christ is the 'lamb of God' sacrificed for us once and for all on the cross.

The Words of Institution are scriptural evidence of the sharing of the Lord's Supper in the very early church. "Instituted" means in this case to be established as the norm for future use. These words with some variation have been used throughout the history of the church to bring the present-day table into the context of Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

We are a 'communal' fellowship of believers, therefore we will receive and hold the elements and 'commune' (eat and then drink) together. As we wait, we will be offered concerns for our silent prayers.

We share our "Prayer of Dedication" as we acknowledge the presence of Christ in the meal and the spiritual nourishment offered us in the sacrament.

As we 'go into the world' we are charged and blessed with words of encouragement to take with us into our week ahead.

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

After worship we invite you to our time of Fellowship in the Dining Hall. Join us!

"Words of Institution"

"Sharing of the Meal"

[As you remain in your seats, Elders will bring the elements to you. It is our tradition to receive the bread and say as you pass it, "The body of Christ, given for you." And likewise as you receive and pass the cup say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." We invite you to hold the elements, bread and then the cup. We commune together as the Pastor says, "Take and Eat...", and "Take and Drink...".]

(In the tray the inner circles are wine and the outer circles are grape juice.)

"Prayer of Dedication" (responsive)

At your table, Lord of Grace, you call us once again with resolve to live for you, to lay aside our yoke for yours. With great thanksgiving we continue along life's way filled with your love and grace divine.

In one hand, we embraced a piece of one common loaf.

Sharing one cup, we drank of the Christ's new covenant of unity.

With one voice, we lifted up our prayers to you, the one great God, who embraces our differences yet rejoices in our unity in this one communion act. Amen.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Let us go forth in faith in our nonperishable God,
who gives us daily what we need to feed our bodies and spirits.

Our common need for nourishment unites us together as the body of Christ.

May the holy Bread of Life create sustenance for the journey, calm for troubled spirits, grace-filled movement for aching limbs, and joyful activity for all bodies as we seek to live in sacred community.

Go from this place into the world around us as one in Christ,
We go to love and serve the Lord.

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE**

**"Jesus calls us in, sends us out Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
This Week at Highlands
Week of September 3 – September 9, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Service
Monday:	Office Closed	
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Wellness Is Back (Yoga @ 10 and Logos @11) Lunch Bunch – Soul Food Bistro – Atlantic Blvd Logos Kick-Off Supper to begin our 25th year!

“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 come to hear God's Word and to be invited by the Word to come to the table to 'taste and see how gracious the Lord is!' The 'Word' is God's LOGOS, God's spoken presence in our midst as God's gathered people. Our LOGOS program begins its 25th year on Wednesday with a special celebratory meal in the Dining Hall at 6 p.m. We hope you will join us for the celebration! (Please fill out a reservation slip and drop it in the offering plate.)

THE BARNABAS CLUB WILL MEET again today as we contribute financially to Hurricane Harvey and flood relief in Texas. Baskets for the offering are in the back of the sanctuary. Please mark your contributions for "Relief." Thanks to those who have already given. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for more information on the response of "Presbyterian Disaster Assistance."

OUR WELLNESS PROGRAM RESUMES THIS WED, SEPTEMBER 6TH. Our program begins with seated yoga at 10:00 a.m. and Adult LOGOS will follow 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. **And**, since Sept. 6th is the first Wednesday in the month we will have **LUNCH BUNCH**, too. Everyone is invited to join us for Lunch Bunch at Soul Food Bistro in front of Wal-Mart at Atlantic and Kernan Blvd.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS will be on Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. Session meets this month on September 18.

THANK YOU TO ALL who are participated in the Blood Drive last week.

OUR FAMILY PROMISE GUEST WILL be with us September 10 – 17. There will be many opportunities to volunteer. Your time (as few as 2 hours) will help 3 homeless families get back on their feet and into their own home. If you are willing to volunteer to help give these families a "leg up", please stop by the Family Promise table this Sunday and see what volunteer opportunities are available. **Please sign up today!**

THE CRAFTY LADIES will not meet on Monday Sept. 4th. They will have their monthly meeting on the 11th. Their annual craft show is just around the corner, so start spreading the word and thinking about the delicious treats you can make for the bake sale.

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS resumes next week on September 10th at 9:00 a.m. in its new location in Harris Hall. The first five sessions will focus on **Making Moral Decisions**. We are looking forward to lively discussions, so come and join us!

MICAH'S BACK PACK is off to a great start! Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and supporters! The 'food list' is available in the office. We can use any and all items on the list and we, of course, gladly accept financial contributions. Make sure you mark your checks, "Micah's." Set up team and packers have resumed this great program as school has started! Want to help? Call Bonnie or come on the Thursday at 5:15 p.m. Thanks!

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

READY FOR A GOOD LAUGH? Arlington Presbyterian Church invites our congregation to an afternoon of comedy skits presented by the Vintage Players. The show is free, but voluntary donations will be accepted to help defray expenses. Come for an entertaining afternoon and enjoy refreshments afterwards on September 23, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. The show will be in Showalter Hall of Arlington Presbyterian, 1351 Sprinkle Drive (corner of Sprinkle and Commerce). Everyone is invited. Contacts are Elaine Faloon at 365-3529 and Eunice Johnson at 221-9741.

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU to Sally and Sigrid for the beautiful handmade baby quilts and blankets. They send a wonderful message to the challenged newborns and families in Jacksonville. They are used by the Little Miracles office at the University of Florida Hospital here in Jacksonville. (formerly known as Shands) They make gift bags for those in need. Our mission to fight poverty in our own community is important. Another wonderful way Highlands is The Church! Many Thanks!! Mission Committee.

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. Five jars of jelly were collected this week. Every grocery order going out of ACS has a jar of HUPC jelly!

YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP. We are looking for a few items for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance kits. We are in need of 16 X 26-inch hand towels and single pack toothbrushes. (The one your dentist gives you would be great). Thanks for your continued love and support of this very basic and much needed program.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF HAITI CHILDREN. Please mark your gift "**SPONSOR FOR HAITI CHILDREN**" to ensure the money goes into the right account. **(This ministry is in desperate need of a vehicle here as Pastor Eliot visits churches for support.)**

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), Al Hummel (Apt. 126), Louise Keen (Clare Bridge); Hank Green (N-122); *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), Linda Youmans (c/o Teri Grimm, 4206 Harbour Island Dr. 32225), Tiffani Riccilli (Annie Lietzow's granddaughter) under hospice care.

AT HOME: Kit Fink, Don Hall, Mary Lou McNaughton, Nancy Moewe, Bill Duval, Jo and Hoagy Carmichael, Nancy Hoot, Kinzey & Betty Reeves, Patty Strader, Marilyn Reed, JoAn Ewing, Bruce and Annette Marley, Gwen Brown, Barbara Ash.

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: Jim and Marianne Drank, Georgia and Bill DuVall and Ruth Eggert.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: David, Karen and Caleb Prewitt.