

Faith in Action

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

September 9, 2018

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

“Doing Faith”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor
Laura Sambito, DCE
Gibson Dixon, Director of Music
Anneliese Robbins, Church Administrator
10900 McCormick Road
Jacksonville, FL 32225
904-641-9622
hupcjax.org/hupc_jax@bellsouth.net

“Mark 7:37 They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Today is the 16th
Sunday following
Pentecost and the 23rd
Sunday in Ordinary
Time..

As we prepare for
worship we'll listen to a
really fun song by the
"The Acapella Project,"
a group of young men
who sing
unaccompanied. This
song, "Doer of Your
Word" asks a good
question for the day,
"What does it mean to
call You Lord of my life
if I ignore the things
You say? Help me
remember that my
greatest delight is
following Your
commands and give
me strength to stand
and be a doer of Your
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.
Today we echo the
gospel lesson from
Matthew.

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 9, 2018 – 23rd 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 & SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

We Come to hear the Word.

And we are asked to do the Word.

We Come to experience Comfort.

And we experience Challenge.

We Come counting Cost.

And we discover Joy.

We Come defending human freedom,

And find ourselves bound to Community.

We Come to find Church.

And in the church, we find God.

Those who trust in God are like the mountains, immovable and abiding.

God shelters the people: today and for eternity.

Rich or poor, God creates us to pursue justice and to care for one another and to,

Be a blessing to those who are good and upright in heart.

God calls us to be rich in faith, to honor our heritage as heirs of the Kingdom.

**We are blessed when we share our blessings,
that peace may be upon the people.**

Come, let us worship our magnificent God.

*GATHERING PRAYER (In Unison)

**"Holy One, we call upon your name, for we know that your name
and favor are more precious than human riches. You hate
wickedness and abhor the neglect of your people. You call us to
righteousness, to reach out to others with justice and mercy.
You teach us right from wrong, that we may truly live in your grace.
In the shadow of that grace, we offer compassion and mercy to
others. Abide with us this day, that we may serve you forevermore.
Hear us as Jesus has taught us, saying, Our Father who art in heaven,
... Amen."**

* - Those who are comfortable will please stand

***HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 482 “Praise Ye The Lord, The Almighty”**

***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 (Unison)**

If it was easy to follow Jesus, we would not need to ask for forgiveness. But it is tough – tough to say 'yes,' tough to be graceful, tough to be loving. Yet whatever we do, God loves us enough to forgive us and to remind us that we are his own. Let us pray together, saying,

Gracious God, we come before you today knowing that we often fall short of your call to love one another well. We allow ourselves to be blinded by wealth and power.

We ignore those around us who suffer injustice, poverty, and rejection. We tune out the cries of the poor and those on the edges of our communities. Help us to see your great generosity, hear your word of mercy, and feel your great love for all who need your redemptive grace. Strengthen us to reach out in service to those who are in need. Make us aware of those outside our own communities, that we may see them as your precious children and serve them in humility and joy. May we continue to grow in grace as we learn how to serve you in the name of the great Servant, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

(a few moments of silence)

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

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

We have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God. May we understand the grace and forgiveness bestowed upon us by God, that others may find the Kingdom within us and among us. In Christ we are forgiven.

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.”**

Our Hymn of Praise is one of the classic hymns in the Christian tradition, “Praise Ye The Lord, The Almighty.” Loosely based on Psalm 103: 1-6 and Psalm 150, with echoes from other psalms, this is a strong hymn of praise to our covenant God, who heals, provides for, and defends us. Let "all that has life and breath" sing praise to the Lord! According to the American hymnologist and composer Austin Lovelace, the exuberance of the text is matched by its "galloping dactylic rhythm." How about that?!

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 150th Psalm. It was composed by the great composer of numerous hymns, Charles Hubert H. Parry. On a Sunday when we are discussing ‘doing faith’ we are reminded in song that our first priority is praising God.

As we respond to God’s Word preached, we sing together a hymn for the day sung to a familiar tune: “Be Doers of the Word of God.”

“THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

(OT: p.604)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be To God!

ANTHEM

“What God Can Do”

*“When I see the sun in the morning on the flowers fresh with dew,
I can feel the wonder of God’s great love and I see what God can do.
When I hear the song of a sparrow and the wind that blows through the trees,
All the sounds of God’s creation help to keep my heart at ease.
There’s beauty all around me in every living thing.
God’s miracles astound me, and they make my spirit sing.
In the quiet shadows of evening when the day is almost through,
I can look ahead to tomorrow for I’ve seen what God can do.
This is my Father’s world. He shines in all that’s fair.
In flowers and trees, in skies and seas His love is everywhere.
All the wonders of creation God has made for us to share.
We can see God’s presence all around for God’s works are everywhere.
In this gift of life which God gives us as we start each morning anew,
We can feel God’s love grow within us and we see what God can do.”*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

James 2:1-10, 14-17

(NT: p.229)

*Mark 7:24-37

(NT: p.42)

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

“Doing Faith”

“SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD”

*HYMN OF RESPONSE “Be Doers of the Word of God”

(Tune: I Sing the Mighty Power of God, No. 288)

**“Be doers of the word of God, Not simply those who hear.
Be ones who look into God’s word, Obey, and persevere.
Be quick to listen, slow to speak, And slow to anger, too.
Put wrath aside; instead, be meek And let God work in you.**

**Religion that is undefiled, Religion that is pure
Will reach to help the orphaned child And welcome all the poor.
If people come here poorly dressed, To judge them is a sin.
The rich aren’t better than the rest; God welcomes poor ones in.**

**O Christ, you save us by God’s grace From having to obey.
Then freed to love, we can embrace A life that seeks your way.
May we be doers of the word; May faith shine through our deeds;
And as we seek to trust in God, May ethics follow creeds.**

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (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."

BEING THE CHURCH IN MISSION, PRAYER AND GIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Responsive)

God of Light, from whom comes every perfect gift, hear our prayers which we offer fervently to you, and in the name of our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for the church, that we might show forth our faith in action, regard all with impartiality, and be quick to listen and slow to anger. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for our nation, that whenever trials may befall us, that God may grant us endurance and wisdom. In this tenuous time of discernment, Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the world, that the lowly may be raised up, and that mercy may fall on us all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick, the injured, the vulnerable, and those undergoing all forms of adversity, that they might all be raised up; especially those suffering in the terrible place called poverty, and those with an unknown address called 'homeless.' We pray for those who are displaced and disheartened, for those who are oppressed and for their oppressors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those celebrating this week, who have found unbridled joy in living, who have found reprieve from illness, who have experienced the release from the constraints of this life to the freedom of your kingdom. Lord, with joy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God let our prayers be offered to you with the gentleness that is born from your wisdom from above, that is pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, and full of mercy. **Amen.**

**GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY**

***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."**

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 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.

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

Please join us in the Dining Hall following worship for a time of fellowship.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

God does not ask us to solve all the world's problems,
nor even to carry all of a neighbour's burdens.

**God knows our frame,
and remembers that we are made of dust.**

But we are asked to go out into the world in good spirits,
sharing to the best of our ability God's love and grace.

With God's help, we will.

Go then in peace and joy, with the blessing of the Companion God upon
you, around you, and within you.

In Our Holy God Do We Trust! Amen!

***HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 367 "Jesu, Jesu"**

**Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with Your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from You.**

**Kneels at the feet of His friends, Silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)**

**Neighbors are rich and poor, Varied in color and race,
Neighbors are near and far away. (Refrain)**

**These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love.
All are neighbors to us and You. (Refrain)**

**Loving puts us on our knees, Serving as though we are slaves,
This is the way we should live with You. (Refrain)**

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE**

**Kneel at the feet of our friends, Silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with You.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with Your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from You.**

* * * * *

Please join us in the Dining Hall for a time of fellowship.



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of September 9th – September 15th, 2018



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Service
Monday:	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Crafty ladies Committee Meetings
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group Crafty Ladies – Evening Group
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Wellness (Yoga @10:00 & Adult LOGOS @ 11:00) LOGOS Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday:	5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Micah's Backpack Packing 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: We had an exceptional kickoff dinner last week, and we are excited to get all of the programs in "full swing" this week! This week's theme is "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" and you are invited to join the fun by bringing a smile ☐ and a positive attitude. **WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT LOGOS THIS WEEK!!**

WELLNESS: A **WELCOME** 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 ARE BACK. 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!

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

LAST WEEK WE SHARED IN THE SCARAMENT OF BAPTISM for Meg Linda Norton. She is the daughter of Chad and Abby Norton and the little sister to Kaelyn. She is also the granddaughter of Tyler and Candy Cole. We joyfully welcome Meg into the love and grace of God's family.

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.

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 "End Times" September 9th and 16th. 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.

MICAH'S BACKPACK volunteers are packing and delivering food for 102 children. Micah's packs every Thursday at 5:30 PM in Harris Hall and you are welcome to join us!

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 Family Promise returns to HUPC in late September.

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 had eight 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 and Carolyn Starkweather.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Kenneth Moon (Barbara's son), Lenwood Lee (Dr. Dave's father), Ashley Parsons (DCE at Orange Park PC), Ed Mallard, and Rebecca Briones' mom.

IN THE MILITARY: Jacob Loerop (Jacob.Loerop@CVN68.navy.mil), IT2 Jacob Loerop CVN 68 USS Nimitz Unit 100103 Box 1771 FPO 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: The Briones Family, Gwen Brown and Jeff and Bekki Burch.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeter: Rick Stevenson. Children's Church Leader: Erika Conner.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by Patt Martin-McNorton and Steve Pohlhammer for their mom.