

FOURTH SUNDAY IN
LENT



***HIGHLANDS UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

MARCH 26, 2017

4TH OF LENT --- MID-LENT

“Enlighten Us”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor
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John 9:39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called Mid-Lent or "Laetare Sunday" - from the first word of the traditional collect for the day (Laetare = Rejoice). It is also known as "Refreshment Sunday". It was a day when the austerity of Lent was relaxed a little, and the violet vestments of Lent could be replaced with rose colored ones. The idea was that the penitents and those on the journey with Jesus to the cross would be in need of a respite from the rigors of the Lenten fast. (So if you gave up chocolate - have a candy bar today.)

Accordingly today we note that in the gospel Jesus heals a man born blind, thereby giving him the gift of light and sight. Hopefully, today we will recognize God's refreshing Spirit being shared with us as we gather for worship.

Music as we prepare for worship is a song that's familiar to a generation of "Montreaters." A jazz violin rendition of "Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord" by Trevor Dick. The words of the song echo the theme for the day, "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, I want to see You, To see You high and lifted up, Shinin' in the light of Your glory. Pour out Your power and love As we sing holy, holy, holy."

We welcome the Highlands Handbell Choir who will play "Bell Prayer." As the name suggests, this piece is intended to be a musical prayer. As a quiet prelude, we will appreciate the memorable melody for its beauty and contemplative quality. A. Steven Taranto is a church organist and musician in Oxford, Ms.

Our Service begins with a **WELCOME** to all who are gathered to worship together.

On this 4th Sunday in Lent we lift our hearts in joy and sing "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee."

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 26, 2014 – 4th of Lent – Mid-Lent

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.)

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME AS WE GATHER & SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

"Bell Prayer"

A Sten Taranto

The Highlands Handbell Choir

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice, Jerusalem! Once we were in darkness,
but now we live in the realm of light.

Once we were in death,
but now we live in the gift of life.

Once we were in bondage,
but now we live in the truth of freedom.

Once we walked in the valley,
but now we live in green pastures.

We come to worship the love that knows no limits,
and opens our eyes to focus on the light.

Rejoice Highlands! Let us worship Almighty God!

*OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

"O God, as we gather here, may we find space enough to be gathered into your love and to celebrate it together. May we recognize you in every act of love we meet today. In the name of Christ who teaches us to 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. 464

"JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE"

*PASSING THE PEACE

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."**

*** - If you are comfortable, please stand**

"SEEK FORGIVENESS AND FELLOWSHIP"

*CONFESSION AND PARDON (Unison)

Jesus, our servant King and Light of the world penetrates the darkness of the world with love and life, graciously enlightening us in ways which enable us to see the world and our neighbors as you see them. We confess, however, that there are times when we choose to reject the gift of His insight, preferring to 'close our eyes' to the pain and suffering which are daily experiences for so many people. Let us pray:

When selfishness blinds us to the needs of others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

When our insensitivity blinds us to the hurt we cause others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

When our prejudices blind us to the equal dignity and worth of others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

When our pride blinds us to our own faults;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

When the lure of materialism blinds us to the poverty of others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us.

Jesus, Light of the world, help us to walk in your light so that goodness, righteousness, and truth are made visible as we reflect your love and your mercy in and through all we say and do.

Amen.

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! "Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light". Know that we can "live as children of the light" (Ephesians 5: 8) because in Jesus, Light of the world, we are enlightened; we are healed; we are forgiven

Thanks be to God!

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Samuel 16:1-13

(OT: p.)

ANTHEM

"Anthem of Healing"

arr. Hunter

*"O Son of God, in Galilee You made the deaf to hear,
The mute to speak, the blind to see; O blessed Lord, be near.
Oh listen to the silent prayer Of your afflicted ones.
Oh, bid them cast on you their care; Your grace to them make known.
Make strong their hands and hearts and wills, and drive disease afar,
Help strive against the body's ills and wage your healing war.
Your grace to healing of the sick and blind, Christ mercy did proclaim;
Let us to better know His mind, and to declare His name.
Let us to know Your perfect will; make clean our heart and soul,
and heal us of our earthly ills, And make the sufferer whole."*

Our 'confession' in the Presbyterian Church is a 'corporate' or 'communal' statement of our general and specific offenses against God and one another.

Today we pray earnestly that our 'vision' will be corrected through the eradication of our sinfulness allowing us to see not as we see, but as Christ sees.

The "Kyrie Eleison" is a three phrase prayer seeking the mercy (eleison) of the "Kyrie," which is the latin word for "Lord." The prayer is simultaneously a petition and a prayer of thanksgiving; an acknowledgment of what God has done, what God is doing, and what God will continue to do.

Our Anthem today is "Anthem of Healing" which is a call for us to embrace the healing comfort of Jesus as he encounters us in our need for wholeness. The anthem is 'ethereal' in nature with choral challenges that allow its message to soar through. The composer, Erik Meyer was raised in Collingswood, NJ, where he began his church music career at thirteen, and continues as a choir master and concert organist.

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. 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.

Our "Hymn of Response," tells the story from John. "A Man Who Could Not See" is written for the 4th Sunday in Lent by Carol Winfrey Gillette who once again displays her gift of sharing a scriptural story through a hymn paired with a familiar tune.

As Presbyterians we stand together in Affirmation of our Faith using one of the creeds of the church. We are using the Ecumenical version of "The Apostles' Creed" which is inclusive of all of Christianity.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Ephesians 5:8-14

*John 9:1-41

(NT: p.)

(NT: p.)

*PASSING THE PEACE

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...)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

INTERLUDE

(In the 11 a.m. service, 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

"Enlighten Us"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE "A Man Who Could Not See"

(Tune: "The God of Abraham Praise")

**"A man who could not see received the gift of sight;
O Lord, you spoke and he believed and saw the light.
His joy was greater still than sight that was restored;
He saw, when you had made him well, that you are Lord.**

**Some leaders were distressed and said it was a sin,
For it was on the day of rest that you healed him.
They could not see the grace or know how much God cares;
The lack of vision in that place was truly theirs.**

**O Christ, you are the light to all who follow you;
You give to us the gift of sight — a new world-view.
When culture hems us in with values that destroy,
Lord, help your church to see again your kingdom's joy."**

*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 Life In The Church As We Come to Prayer

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (responsive)

Send your sight giving Spirit upon us, O God.

Help us to be your faithful servants with eyes wide open.

We pray, loving God, that we might be a people

who pause to give you thanks for things we see great and small, in moments of grandeur and in ordinary moments each day.

Send your sight challenging Spirit upon us, O God.

Help us to be your faithful servants eyes willing to see.

We pray that we might be a people

who see and celebrate diversity and difference within our community, and in the world around us.

Help us to learn from you and with one another.

Send your sight giving Spirit upon us, O God

Help us to be your faithful servants with eyes that are accepting.

We pray that we might be a people

who appreciate the wonders of your world, and see the goodness in your creation.

Help us to appreciate the gifts of each person, and to value your vision for each part of your world.

Send your sight giving Spirit upon us, O God.

Help us to be your faithful servants with eyes open to new visions.

We pray for new vision for the good of your world, of our world.

For leaders of nations and communities, of churches and schools, for those who teach and those who learn.

Make us all leaders, using our gifts for justice and righteousness in your name.

Send your sight giving Spirit upon us, O God.

Help us to be your faithful servants with compassionate eyes.

We pray for all who mourn today, may their losses be consoled.

For those who are in pain, For those whose bodies are staving off illness, For those called to serve in all levels of life.

Send your sight giving Spirit upon us, O God.

Help us to be people who see, display, and share your glory.

Help us to be your faithful servants. Amen.

The "Prayers of the People" are intended to draw us closer to God, to one another, and to all of God's children in the world. We offer God praise, we give God thanks, we lift up our brothers and sisters and finally we pray for ourselves.

Please peruse the prayer concerns and requests on the back of our bulletin for new and continuing prayer needs and concerns.

The "Morning Offering" is another way that we respond to God in thanks for God's Word, Jesus Christ, and for the multitude of God's blessings in our living. We give, of course, to support the church and its mission in the community and in the world, but we also give as a sign and symbol of our recognition that it is God who is the source of all we have and all that we are. (If you give 'electronically' we thank you and encourage you to place one of the 'cards' in the plate as a symbol of that giving.)

Today we include in our 'liturgy' a portion of the church's life in a congregational meeting. We have the meeting within the context of worship as a recognition that 'all' that we do as the church is intended to be an act of worship. At this meeting of the congregation we are called to order for the purpose of electing 4 Elders to the Sessional Class of 2019 and 1 Youth Elder who will serve a one year term. 2nd, we will hear a nomination to fill an open position on our Board of Trustees. And finally we will receive a report from the Session concerning the budget adopted for 2017.

As we go 'into the world' we will sing out an exclamation point on the theme of the day with 'Open My Eyes That I May See.'

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

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS **OFFERTORY "Be Thou My Vision"**

***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."

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING (responsive)**

Once you were in darkness,
now we will live as children of the light.

Awake, rise from the dead.

We will go in the light of Christ.

Once you walked through the shadowed valley,
now we are led to green pastures.

Awake, rise from the dead.

We will go in the light of Christ.

Once you were blind,
now we witness to Christ the Lord.

Awake, rise from the dead.

We will go in the light of Christ. Amen.

***HYMN OF PARTING NO. NO. 324 "Open My Eyes That I May See"**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

**"Lord, make us more holy, Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy, Until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy, Until we meet again."**

* * * * *

* _ If comfortable, please stand





HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of March 26– April 1, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

<p>Today:</p> <p>Monday:</p> <p>Tuesday:</p> <p>Wednesday:</p> <p>Thursday:</p> <p>Friday:</p> <p>Next Sunday:</p>	<p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>10:00 a.m.</p> <p>4:00 p.m.</p> <p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>7:00 p.m.</p> <p>10:00 a.m.</p> <p>4:00 p.m.</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>11:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Sunday School</p> <p>Worship/ Congregational Meeting</p> <p>Confirmation Class and PYC</p> <p>Crafty Ladies</p> <p>Lenten Soup and Study</p> <p>Wellness Series</p> <p>(Yoga at 10 a.m. & Adult Logos at 11 a.m.)</p> <p>Logos</p> <p>Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p>Quilting and Sewing Group</p> <p>Congregational Meeting after Worship Service</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

TODAY IS the 4th Sunday in Lent. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called Mid-Lent or "Laetare Sunday" - from the first word of the traditional collect for the day (Laetare = Rejoice). It is also known as "Refreshment Sunday". It was a day when the austerity of Lent was relaxed a little, and the violet vestments of Lent could be replaced with rose colored ones. The idea was that the penitents and those on the journey with Jesus to the cross would be in need of a respite from the rigors of the Lenten fast. (So if you gave up chocolate – have a candy bar today.) Accordingly today we note that in the gospel Jesus heals a man born blind, thereby giving him the gift of light and sight. Hopefully, today we will recognize God's refreshing Spirit being shared with us as we gather for worship.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: . At this meeting of the congregation we are called to order for the purpose of electing 4 Elders to the Sessional Class of 2019 and 1 Youth Elder who will serve a one year term. 2nd, we will hear a nomination to fill an open position on our Board of Trustees. And finally we will receive a report from the Session concerning the budget adopted for 2017.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS! CARRY A NAIL: Jesus invites us to take up our crosses and follow him. As a Lenten reminder to follow Jesus on this journey to Holy Week and Easter we invite you to wear a simple cross during the season. You may have your cross from last year, but if you do not have a cross to wear please take a 'cross' from the basket and wear it or carry it during these Lenten days. We are also providing a 'nail' if you would like to carry one during Lent as a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice. When we come on Good Friday night we will use our crosses and nails as a part of our Good Friday "Tenebrae" observance.

OUR LENTEN 'SOUP AND STUDY' WILL CONTINUE on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please join us as we study, "Returning Home: Lent in Conversation With Other Faiths."

LOGOS IS BACK! This week's theme is "Survivor: LOGOS Edition". You are invited bring something you need to survive (food for ACS or Micah's Backpack, toiletries for FP). Come join the fun on Wednesdays! Wellness and Adult Logos begin at 10:00 a.m./ Afternoon Logos is at 4:00 p.m.

LIVING STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL REPORT:	MONTH -FEB.	YEAR-TO-DATE-FEB
Operating Income	\$23,033	\$54,651
Operating Expense	\$23,509	\$50,821
Net Favorable (Unfavorable)	(\$476)	\$ 4,207

HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL IS ENROLLING for the Fall 2017 school year ages 15 months to 4 years old. We are excited to be an outreach of all the great Mission work at Highlands. Providing for a community of children on the campus of Highlands, you truly know God's blessings. Stop by for a tour and meet the staff anytime Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 6:00pm. Tell your family, friends and neighbors about our great pre-school.

EVERY SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP OUR FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE AND FRIENDS DO AN EXCELLENT JOB of keeping the coffee, juice and the plates full of goodies ready for us to enjoy. Let's show our appreciation by making a \$\$ donation in the basket and/or by bringing some baked goods to share, store bought is ok. Would you like to be a part of the Fellowship Team? Speak to Dene Ritter. Thanks!

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

CALL ALL EGG HUNTERS! Our Annual Egg Hunt will be Sunday, April 9th following fellowship. We hope that all children ages birth to 5th grade will join us for the fun! In order to make this a memorable Highlands activity, we are collecting donations to fill our eggs. Both candy and non-candy items (stickers, stamps, etc.) can be placed in the large tub labeled "Egg Hunt" in the Dining Hall. If you'd also like to donate plastic eggs, those would be greatly appreciated as well.

MICAH'S VOLUNTEERS ARE PACKING, PACKING, PACKING!!! 52 kids!!! We never thought we would need more instant oatmeal or granola bars, but we are low. Your support and encouragement is wonderful.

THANKS AGAIN for all your support for the **Highlands Baby Shower Mission Project**. Our goal was 20 gift bags and we were recently able to meet that goal. We are already working on our next twenty gift bags, can you help? Thanks Again!!!

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES: ACS needs the following items: toothpaste – **critical need**, powdered milk, canned milk, canned pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, canned tomatoes, canned potatoes, peanut butter, jelly- HUPC's specialty, and toilet tissue. Fifteen jars of jelly were collected this week. Every grocery order going out of ACS has a jar of HUPC jelly!

YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE IS LOOKING for a few items for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance kits. They are in **desperate need** of 16 X 26-inch hand towels. They also need nail clippers but no nail files now. Thanks for your continued love and support of this very basic and much needed program.

THANKS FOR YOUR EXCELLENT SUPPORT OF HAITI!!! 30 sponsored children mean sustaining care for the children and staff of the Grace of Mercy orphanage in Haiti. Please remember your monthly pledge and **BE SURE YOUR CHECKS ARE MARKED "SPONSOR FOR HAITI CHILDREN" to ensure the money goes into the right account.**

PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY'S SERVICE

SPECIAL PRAYERS: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK: Bill and Nancy Thomas' grandson, Johnny; JoAn Ewing, Don Hall (Mayo Hospital), Jo Carmichael, Bill Byers, Nancy Hoot, Marilyn Reed, Al Hummel, Bill Duval, Pat Strader, Cathy Pate's son, Hank Greene, Rufus Taylor's brother, Earl Fouraker, Fay Sweeney (9960 Atrium Way, Unit 529, 32225), Linda Youmans (c/o Teri Grimm, 4206 Harbour Island Dr. 32225), Kit Fink, Kenneth Moon, and Bruce and Annette Marley, Justin Marley (grandson), Randy R. and his family, Louise Keen is now residing at Brookdale Southside (9601 Southbrook Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32256). Jacob Loerop's email is jloerop50@comcast.net. Jacob's address is IT3 Loerop, Jacob CVN 68 USS Nimitz Unit 100103 Box 1751 FPO AP 96620. Joey Guckenberger's email address is joeybsa@yahoo.com. Joey's address is ETSN Guckenberger, Joseph, CVN 71 USS Theodore Roosevelt, Unit 100250 Box 2078, FPO Appreciate 96632-5020. Amelia Powell's address is: AT2 Powell, Amelia N., VAQ-140, Unit 200107 Box 142, FPO AP 96601. Amelia's email address is: amelia.powell@cvw7.navy.mil.

PRAYER BEARS: Prayer Bears and Caring Critters are available in the Fellowship Hall after each service.

MEMBER CARE: Nancy Moewe is our Prayer Ministry Contact. Nancy's information is: Email: nmoewe48@gmail.com. Her cell phone number is 904-707-8064. Email requests can be sent directly to Nancy, but please also call her or the church office if it is an emergency request. As always, prayer requests can be made as well by completing the gray slips in the church pews, calling the church office, using the church website (hupcjax.org under "Contact Us") or by notifying your Shepherd.

FAMILIES WE ARE PRAYING FOR THIS WEEK: Steve and Eva Skipper, John and Bev Smith and Joanna and John Sorrell.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Victor and Kim Arreola. Children's Church Leader: Erika Conner. Nursery Attendant: Kim Arreola.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by the Whitfields.