

seeing isn't believing.

believing is seeing.

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

April 23, 2017

2nd Sunday of Easter

"The Death of Wonder"

Navy Chaplain Lieutenant Commander Nathan Solomon

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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"When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

April 23, 2017 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

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

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! Bring your doubts, your hopes, your faith.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Come! Bring your questions, your wonderings, your misgivings.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Come! Bring your fear, your sorrow, your joy.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Come, let us worship God.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

ALL: CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

*GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

"Sometimes we hide behind locked doors or in tombs of our own making, preferring to stay in familiar places of doom, gloom, self-pity, and fear, rather than to venture out into the new and uncertain dawn of resurrection. Come to us, God. Open our locked doors and hearts, enter in, dust us off, and make us new. We long to be your Easter people, to live and proclaim new life with all of our being.

"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. 111 "GOOD CHRISTIANS ALL, REJOICE AND SING!"

1. Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*- If comfortable, please stand

**2. The Lord of life is risen today!
Bring flowers of song, bedeck the way;
Let every tongue rejoice and say:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**3. Praise we in songs of victory
That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**4. Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*** PASSING THE PEACE**

We celebrate this faithful day!

**Jesus has shown us that love and light
are more powerful than the forces of evil in our world.**

Christ has shown us that life cannot be defeated by death,
and through faith we do not have to fear.

We give our thanks and praise

as we celebrate Jesus alive again and with us forever.

May the peace of the Risen 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:** (Ode to Joy)

“Worship now with shouts of gladness, For the Christ, the Holy One,

On this day of resurrection, For the world new life has won.

Let us pray and praise the Savior, trust the acts, believe the word.

Our salvation has been purchased by our loving, risen Lord.”

"SEEK FORGIVENESS AND FELLOWSHIP"

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

We gather here as a fellowship of people who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. One of the major marks of this fellowship is the sense of joy we experience as we gather to worship God, to give thanks for Jesus Christ and to witness to the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. But we are not always filled with joy. Yet, we admit that there are times when we feel afraid, abandoned, and lonely; when faith leads to doubt and questions rather than a sense of joy peace of mind. Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, unlike those first disciples, we cannot touch you or see you, and so it is all too easy to become downcast and given to despair.

Forgive us when, like the disciples, we find the truth of Easter hard to believe.

Come to us, risen Christ, come through the closed doors of our hearts and minds and take away our fears and doubts;

Come to us, risen Christ, breathe on us and fill us with the joy and peace of your presence.

All: Bless us all as people who have not seen you, but who believe that you are truly the risen Christ, Son of God. Amen.

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

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the good news: "If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"...and ... if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

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."

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

HISTORY LESSON

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

(NT: p.119)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be To God!

SOLO

"I Know My Redeemer Lives"

Patt Martin-McNorton

***NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS**

1 Peter 1:3-9

(NT: p.232)

John 20:19-31

(NT: p.115)

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 #207.)

SERMON

"The Death of Wonder"

Chaplain Nathan Solomon

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD "

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 355 "Hear The Good News..."

1. Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy!
Come to us from heaven above. Jesus Christ, how much I love You!
Jesus Christ, You save from sin!
How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

2. All the sins I have committed To my Savior now I bring.
I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing:
Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You save from sin!
How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

*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

AS WE COME TO PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The risen Christ meets us at the tomb, and turns our tears to joy.
For your love and goodness

we give you thanks, O God.

Christ comes through our locked doors, and turns our fear to courage.
For your love and goodness

we give you thanks, O God.

Christ comes to daily life and work, and turns our failure to new vision.
For your love and goodness

we give you thanks, O God.

Christ breaks the bread, and turns our despair to hope.
For your love and goodness

we give you thanks, O God.

The creation is alive with the glory of God, yet sometimes we wonder.

After the music has died away and we are faced with the challenges of a new day – sometimes we wonder...

Wonder whether we have the heart to keep going.

The way ahead seems unclear and so much is changing around and within us...

Sometimes we wonder whether we have the imagination to keep hoping.

When the pain and struggles of our hurting world catch at our throats and draw us into despair...

Then into our weariness new life is breathed.

Into our helplessness fresh dreams are poured.

And we rise upon wings like eagles.

We run and no longer feel tired. Thanks be to God.

God makes peace within us.

Let us claim it.

God makes peace between us.

Let us share it.

The peace of God is here...

to stay. Thanks be to God, in the name of our risen Christ. 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.”

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Listen to God's breath within:

it is the stirring of belief.

Voice those words of doubt:

it is the making of faith.

Touch those scars and feel those wounds:

it is the place of resurrection.

Let the breath of God sustain you this day and forever.

***HYMN OF PARTING NO. 121 “That Easter Day...”**

**1. That Easter day with joy was bright, the sun shone out with fairer light,
When, to their longing eyes restored, The apostles saw their risen Lord.**

**2. O Jesus, King of gentleness, Do all our inmost hearts possess,
And we to You will ever raise The tribute of our grateful praise.**

**3. From every weapon death can wield, Your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide In this our joyful Easter-tide.**

***BENEDICTION**

*- If comfortable, please stand



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of April 23 – April 29, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class/PYC
Monday:	9:00 a.m.	Crafty Ladies
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m.	Wellness @ 10 am / Adult Logos @ 11 am
	4:00 p.m.	Logos
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday:	7:30 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
Friday:	9:00 a.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group
		Lifeline Screening

“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 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER! We welcome you to this **Easter Worship!** We welcome all to this time of worship as we embrace our faith fulfilled by the promise come true – Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! **We are so very glad to announce and welcome to the pulpit Navy Chaplain Lieutenant Commander Nathan Solomon** who is a native of Maryville, TN. He was ordained a Baptist minister by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in 2000. Following ordination, he served as a pastor in Petersburg, Virginia. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Tennessee, Master of Divinity from the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, VA, a Master of Theology from Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA, and completed post-graduate work at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Chaplain Solomon is currently assigned as the Command Chaplain for HELICOPTER MARITIME STRIKE WING, ATLANTIC, headquartered at Naval Station Mayport, Florida. Nathan is married to the Rev. Tonya Douce of Tifton, GA. They have two children, Elijah and Maggie, and reside Jacksonville, FL. The Solomon family has worshipped with us on many occasions and we welcome them to our worship today.

DR. DAVE AND SUSAN WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK. Please refer special needs to the Church Office or to Laura.

A HUGE THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES, OUR CHOIRS, J.O.Y. AND ALL THEIR LEADERS for another worshipful and fulfilling Lent, Holy Week and Easter. The energy, creativity and love these folks bring to their tasks at HUPC are invaluable to our service to God. It is truly a blessing to be a part of a church that enjoys the experience of faithful service and worship. Happy Easter and a heartfelt thanks to all.

LOGOS AND WELLNESS ARE BACK THIS WEEK. This week's theme is "Guess Who". You are invited to bring a friend. We're having a great time at Logos this year – Come and check it out before we take a break this summer!

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.

FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS RETURNING: Our Family Promise guest will be at Highlands May 21-28, and there will be many volunteer opportunities! We will need helpers to prepare meals as well as serving as evening, overnight and Saturday hosts. Evening and Saturday hosts will only require two to three hours of your time! We hope you will consider this important mission...the signup sheet will be in the Dining Hall after worship today. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Mission Committee or call Sue Heckler at 891-6034. Thanks!

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

THE MEMBER CARE COMMITTEE is looking for additional persons to serve as Shepherds so that this program of our church can be maintained. The responsibility of a shepherd is to keep in touch with and support 5 – 7 families and/or individuals. This is a rewarding way to know your fellow members better and does not require a great deal of time. For information or to volunteer call Nancy Marsh at 645-3108 or 635-7582.

MICAH'S BACKPACK UPDATE: Thanks to generous donations, Micah's pantry is well stocked with oatmeal and granola bars! A need at this time is toothbrushes. Each child receives a toothbrush at the beginning of the school year, before Christmas break and at the end of the school year. We are packing for 41 kids here at HUPC. Also, contributions of little boxes of raisins make a nice change in the snack menu. Thanks for all you help and encouragement!

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. Ten 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: JoAn Ewing, Don Hall (Home), Jo Carmichael, Bill Byers, Nancy Hoot, Marilyn Reed, Al Hummel, Bill Duval, Pat Strader, Cathy Pate's son, Hank Greene, Rufus Taylor's brother, 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), Louise Keen is residing at Brookdale Southside -9601 Southbrook Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32256 along with Al and Pat Hummel. Al and Pat's address is 9601 Southbrook Dr., Apt E315, Jacksonville, FL 32256. Jacob Loerop's email is Loerop.Jacob@CVN68.navy.mil, Jacob's address is IT3 Loerop, Jacob CVN 68 USS Nimitz Unit 100103 Box 1771 FPO AP 96620. Amelia Powell's address is: AT2 Powell, Amelia N., VAQ-140, Unit 200107 Box 142, FPO AP 96601. You can also reach Amelia through her email. Her 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: The Terrell Family, Bill and Nancy Thomas and The Todd Family.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: John and Barbara Ruby. Children's Church Leader: David Bauerlein. Nursery Attendant: Kim Arreola.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by The Vach's in celebration of their anniversary.