

Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

APRIL 16, 2017

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION

“Joy To The World!”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**"Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.
He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said."**

Today is EASTER SUNDAY! We revive the "Alleluias!" and center our thoughts on Resurrection News.

Music as we prepare for worship is "Now The Green Blade Riseth" for Trumpet and Organ being played by our guest trumpeter, Patrick Campbell, and our own Gibson Dixon. Patrick is a student at Douglas Anderson and we are overjoyed to welcome him to our worship. The first verse of the hymn says, "Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain, Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green." What a great metaphor for Jesus' resurrection! And a beautiful duet.

On the table today, a pure **white cloth** reminds us of the cloth in which they wrapped the body of Jesus. A **sachet** reminds us that very early on Easter Day some women came to the tomb to prepare Jesus' body for proper burial. The **stone** reminds us that on the resurrection morning, the tomb was open. **Bread and Cup** are enduring symbols of Christ life and love. The **cross** is empty. The **lilies** represent new life. The **open font** reminds us that under the waters of Baptism we enter into death with Jesus. The **Christ candle** reminds us that Jesus Christ is the living light of the world.

"Rondeau" by Mouret is the familiar and joyful Trumpet and organ duet for our **Prelude**.

Our **Call to Worship and Easter Praise Hymn** is our bold declaration of resurrection and the great Easter hymn, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today,

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH "An Easter Celebration of Worship"

April 16, 2017 – Easter Sunday

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

MUSIC AND TIME OF PREPARATION

"Now The Green Blade Riseth"

Patrick Campbell, Trumpet & Gibson Dixon, Organ

(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.)

WELCOME AS WE GATHER & SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

"Rondeau"

Mouret

*CALL TO WORSHIP & EASTER PRAISE HYMN NO. 123

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!"

What a great day this is! Shout Alleluia!

Alleluia!

We can do better than that! The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed. So shout it as though you mean it, with everything you have.

ALLELUIA!

Welcome to this joyous Easter day!

Praise God for the brightness and color.

The darkness has been overcome. Jesus Christ has defeated our greatest fear, death.

He is risen from the dead. ALLELUIA!

Sing your praises to the Lord!

For God has given to us new life! ALLELUIA! AMEN.

Don't weep! Don't mourn! There is great Good News!

Christ the Lord is risen today!

Put away your garments of mourning; let the light of God's love flood into your lives.

Christ the Lord is risen today!

No more do we have to fear the darkness; it has been overcome by God's light. Let us sing the resurrection news!

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

*- Please stand if you are comfortable doing so

**But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

(short instrumental interlude)

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

***GATHERING & PASSING THE PEACE**

We celebrate this wonderful 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.”**

***GATHERING PRAYER HYMN OF ADORATION AND PRAISE**

“Thine Is The Glory”

Yours is the glory, O God, for raising Jesus from the darkness of death. We pray that the Holy Spirit, your life in us, will so conform us to your image that we radiate your glory here, through our rejoicing and praise, and in all the places where people's lives are still affected by the powers of sin and death. Death hath lost its sting! Yours is the glory, O Christ, for being prepared, through your sacrificial love, to conquer death and give us the gift of eternal life. And, as if that were not enough, you greet us by name, as you greeted Mary in the garden, and transform our lives forever with your Easter life. Christ is Risen!

**Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes Where Thy body lay.**

**Lo! Jesus meets us, Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, Scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness Hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting!**

In our final 'gathering act' we "Pass the Peace" as an act of caring, welcome, and mutual love. Please remain standing as we sing the 3rd verse of the Easter Hymn, "Celebrate With Joy and Singing" to the timeless tune of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." Let us greet one another with great joy on this Easter Day.

Our 'confession' is replaced today with our "Gathering Prayer Hymn of Adoration And Praise." Today we realize the full import of God's love, grace and forgiveness in the defeat of death and the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

The Prayer contains our faithful declaration of Christ glory in song as we sing, "Thine is the Glory Risen Conquering Son."

Having 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 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.

In resurrection light we read God's promises from Isaiah 25 with new insight. For our God nothing is impossible. Death is no barrier to life.

Our anthem for the day is "The Day of Resurrection" for Trumpet and Choir. This anthem, which shares a tune with a familiar Palm Sunday Hymn, is a classic Easter Anthem.

The power of God in Christ through resurrection is the theme of our "Easter Affirmation of Faith."

**No more we doubt Thee, Glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without Thee; Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors Through Thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan To Thy home above.**

**Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.**

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ISAIAH 25:6-9 (responsive)

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

No More Hunger!

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

No more death!

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

No more sorrow!

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited;

Let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be To God!

ANTHEM

"The Day of Resurrection"

(Text is Hymn No. 118)

THE EPISTLE

Colossians 3:1-4

(NT: p.201)

***THE GOSPEL**

Matthew 28:1-10

(NT: p.33)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

EASTER PROCLAMATION

"Joy To The World!"

***AN EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)**

"We believe in an Easter God who transforms darkness into light, despair into hope. We believe God is working for good, changing the darkness of the tomb into a vision of Easter joy! We believe in the risen Christ who touches us through song and silence, word and witness; who calls us by name to enter the promise of paradise. We believe in the Holy Spirit who invites us to leave behind the empty burial cloths and walk in resurrection power, always renewing the church and making us people who act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God. We believe we are Easter people, welcoming everyone, and although we are not perfect, we are by God's grace a sign that with God all things are possible.

We believe our God brings Joy to the World!"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Joy to the World!”

**“Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.**

**Christ is alive! We sing today! Good news to all we send!
We share the news with all our kin: In Christ all death shall end;
In Christ all death shall end; In Christ, In Christ all death shall end!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Risen Lord, with peace you soothed Mary's grief, forgave Peter's failure, and restored Thomas' faith; give us your Spirit to offer peace to all people at all times and in all places that the resurrection begun in you may continue through us until you bring it to fruition on the great day to come.

For those overcome by war, violence, and degradation

You are resurrection.

For those overwhelmed by fear, illness, and desperation

You are resurrection.

For those who work at the centers of power and those who live on the margins

You are resurrection.

For those oppressed by sin and those set free by praise

You are resurrection.

For our friends and all who warm us with love

You are resurrection.

For our enemies and all possessed by envy, rage, and hatred

You are resurrection.

For those blessed as they mourn or die

You are resurrection.

For those blessed to comfort others and live

You are resurrection.

Almighty God, on the Day of Resurrection you restored fellowship to the disciples and hope to the human race; as you raised Jesus from the dead, so lift us from the depths of doubt and despair, resurrect in your Church the ministry of peacemaking and in all people the work of your Kingdom. **Amen.**

Our Hymn of Response is thought by most to be a Christmas Hymn and it is, but it is also truly a hymn of the timeless nature of our God who brings “Joy to the World” and entreats us to “Let Heaven and Nature Sing”, and to “Repeat the Sounding Joy”, and to “Make His Blessings Flow Far As The Curse is Found”, and to celebrate the “Wonders Of His Love.”

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's **Offertory** is the "**This Joyful Eastertide**," for Trumpet and Choir.

Our final **Declaration of Easter Joy** is "**Christ Is Alive!**" The Choir will sing and after the Benediction all will join in for our Choral Response.

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 'across the way' in the Dining Hall for an Easter Sunday Celebration of Fellowship.

OFFERTORY

"This Joyful Eastertide"

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***RESPONSE** (Hymn No. 106)

**"Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give Praise to His Name.
Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Savior.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give Praise to His Name."**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

"Look," says God, "I am making a new heaven and a new earth!"

Alleluia!

"The events of the past will be completely forgotten."

Alleluia!

"Be glad and rejoice forever in what I create!"

Alleluia!

"Wolves and lambs will eat together. There will be nothing harmful or evil on my holy mountain," says our God.

Alleluia!

This is the same God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and whose spirit goes before you into the world. So go in peace: the God of Creation, Resurrection, and Eternity be with you this day and forever.

Alleluia!

***DECLARATION OF EASTER JOY (Choir)**

"Christ Is Alive!"

**"Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now, And touching every place and time.**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

"Christ Is Alive"

**"Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life, Our Savior in the God-head reigns.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring Good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring With joy, with justice, love, and praise."**

*- Please stand if you are comfortable doing so

**You are invited to the Dining Hall to embrace one another
and the Fellowship of the Church of the Risen Christ
on this Easter Day!**



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
 This Week at Highlands
 Week of April 16 – April 22, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Early Easter Service Sunday School Worship Service/ Easter Celebration Office Closed Crafty Ladies are not meeting this week Session will not meet this month Wellness, Adult Logos & Logos will not meet this week Packing for Micah's Backpack – Harris Hall
Monday:		
Wednesday:		
Thursday:	5:30 p.m.	

“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 CELEBRATION OF THE DAY OF DAYS – EASTER SUNDAY! We welcome you to this **Easter Sunday Celebration of Worship!** We welcome all to this time of worship on the culmination of our Lent, Holy Week and Easter experience for this year. Our faith is once again fulfilled by the promise come true – Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! **You are all invited by our Fellowship Committee to a Easter Fellowship Celebration at the close of this service.**

A MOST SPECIAL WELCOME TO PATRICK CAMPBELL WHO IS OUR GUEST MUSICIAN FOR THE DAY. Patrick is a junior at the Douglas Anderson School for the Arts and has according to his proud band director 'a big orchestral sound!' You will no doubt agree with his assessment. Please help to make Patrick feel welcome this morning as he helps to enhance our Easter worship.

DR. DAVE AND SUSAN WILL BE AWAY NEXT WEEK. We are so very glad to announce and welcome to the **pulpit next Sunday, 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 worshiped with us on many occasions and we welcome them to our worship on April 23.

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 OFF NEXT WEEK. Please join us again on April 26th for more mid-week fun as we start to wind down our LOGOS year. Wellness and Adult Logos will reconvene on the 26th also.

THE DONOR LIST FOR EASTER LILIES IS AN INSERT IN THE BULLETIN. THANKS!

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.

LIFELINE SCREENING, a provider of community-based preventive health screening, will be at Highlands on Friday, April 28, 2017. They have created a special Advantage Club webpage for our members. The webpage will provide ease and convenience for pre-registration and preferred appointment times, elite discount pricing, educational information, videos and testimonials to help our members determine the screenings that would be most beneficial to them. You can register online at www.lifelinescreening.com/advantageclub to receive your "advantage" club discount and your preferred appointment.

"SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES FOR DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES" is the topic for **The Thoughtful Christian Class** for next Sunday. Come join us if you are not already involved in another adult Sunday School class.

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 your 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. Eight 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. 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: Fay Sweeney, Tom and Cindy Sweeney and Rufus and Nancy Taylor.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Charles and Betsy Goodyear.