

Matthew 5
Love Your Enemies
Pray For Your Persecutors
Turn The Other Cheek
Go The Second Mile Be Perfect

***HIGHLANDS UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

February 19, 2017 -- 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“You Have Heard It Said”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Matthew 5:46 For if you love those who love you,
what reward do you have?

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

February 19, 2017 -- 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today is the 7th
Sunday in
Epiphany/Ordinary
Time.

As we prepare for
worship we'll listen to
a version of the
classic song "Let
There Be Peace On
Earth." Reflective of
today's theme we will
hear as the song
says, "Let it begin with
me."

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'.

We welcome the
Highlands Handbell
Choir to our worship
this morning. They
share today's prelude,
"Percussive Praise" by
one of the prolific
composers for bells,
Kevin McChesney.
This piece is unique in
that it is played using
only 'mallets.'

The Call to Worship
and our Opening
Prayer introduce the
theme of today's
worship with allusions
to the gospel reading
for today. We continue
reading through
Jesus' "Sermon on the
Mount" as Jesus
exhorts us to rethink
our notions of right
and wrong, of justice
and of peace.

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 & SHARE LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

"Percussive Praise"

McChesney

Highlands Handbell Choir

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

God would teach us to love, even the imperfect people,
so we can love others as we love ourselves.

God would teach us to deny ourselves,
even walking the extra mile with us,

so we can give ourselves to others
as generously as Christ has been given to us.

God would teach us new ways to journey through life,
so we can follow the footprints of the Word.

Let us seek God together.

We have come to worship.

*OPENING PRAYER (responsive)

When we see you sharing your hope with the poor,
the immigrant, the stranger;

when we watch you build a ramp for those in wheelchairs;
when we experience your willingness to help us in spite of our
stubbornness;

when we hear your call to love over our yearnings to hate:
we know what holiness looks like, God of Creation.

When you refuse to speak harshly to those who judge you;
when you wipe away the tears of those who would hurt you;
when you choose to respond nonviolently to those who would crucify you:
we know what peace looks like, Light of the World.

When we hear you whisper of fair play and justice;
when you fill our hands with grace to be shared with others;
when you build our lives on the foundation of Christ's peace and love:
we know what power looks like, Spirit alive in us.

We know what you look like, and so we pray as Jesus has taught us,
even as we yearn to be your image here on earth,

"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."

* - If comfortable doing so, please stand

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

***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: (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 (responsive)**

God would teach us all we need to live in peace, to love others, to walk the right paths. Let us confess how foolish we are not to listen to such wisdom, as we pray together, saying,

A friend hurts us, we hurt back; someone hits us, we strike back;
a family member ridicules us, we gossip about him or her.

That's how we have been taught to deal with those around us.

**But now, God of mercy, you call us to a different life:
the life of forgiving, not revenge;
the life of peace, not anger;
the life of love, not hate.**

As you forgive us of all we have done, may we walk in your new ways of living,

as we follow Jesus, our Savior, our Teacher. Amen.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

It begins with God and ends with God - that love which can create, renew, restore. God loves you and forgives you - now and forever.

**As we listen to God's songs of mercy, we are cradled in grace -
now and forever. Thanks be to God!**

“THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be To God!

(OT: p. 106)

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”.

In our final ‘gathering act’ we “**Pass the Peace**” as an act of caring, welcome, and mutual love. Please remain standing as we sing verse on of “God Is Here”.

We practice **Corporate Confession** in the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition. We do not offer individual confession save for that which we offer in our silent prayers. We believe that we are a community of faith and as such share in the sins of all.

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 worshipping community.

This portion of the service including scripture readings, an anthem, a time with the young church and the sermon seeks to enlighten and enliven our faith through interaction with God’s Word.

The Anthem for the day, shared by the Highlands Handbell Choir is “Round of Praise.”

Our Hymn of Response joins the powerful, questioning words of Hymnist Constance Cherry with one of the most loved of all hymn tunes by one of the truly great composers of hymns, Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, 1st Baronet (27 February 1848 – 7 October 1918) who was an English composer, teacher and historian of music. Constance Cherry wrote the hymn in 1986 in a growing desire to raise up prayers for peace. The plaintive ‘when will?’ questions are reflective of a deep desire for peace. Since 2000, Cherry has served on the faculty of The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies located in Jacksonville, Florida.

Today’s Affirmation of Faith allows us to acknowledge the call of Christ in our faith to be as one. We are to be united in our shared belief in the love of God for all people. Like Jesus’ word to ‘turn the other cheek’ this does not condone wrong doing but instead calls us to first and foremost live according to God’s plan and purpose.

ANTHEM

“Round of Praise”
Highlands Handbell Choir

Helman

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

(NT: p.167)

* Matthew 5:38-48

(NT: p. 5)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

INTERLUDE

(In the 10 a.m. service, 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 #205.)

SERMON

“You Have Heard It Said”

***HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 401 “When Will People Cease Their Fighting”**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR UNITY AND PEACE**

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.

This God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.

We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ.

We believe that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought.

We believe that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity, and hatred between people and groups is sin.

We believe that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

We believe that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this church.

Therefore, we reject any behavior that would hinder the visible and active unity of the church.

We believe that this spiritual unity is truly being maintained in the bond of peace.

We believe that to pursue this visible unity is a vital gift from God.

We believe that God's message for us and the gift of the mission of unity is at the heart of our faith.

Thanks be to God who calls us to be instruments of peace; and not division of truth and not falsehood; of love and not hate; of faith and not doubt; of grace and not judgment.

May God lead us in the ways of peace and allow us the joy of being the church.

Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH IN MISSION, PRAYER AND GIVING

As We Come to Prayer

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (responsive)**

Lord, you call us to love. Lead us, the Church, to care for the enemy and outcast, to forgive and love, to build up on a Christ-foundation. Holy God,

make us instruments of your peace.

Sovereign of all creation, we pray for the elected leaders of our towns, cities, counties, states and nation, that they may be and become your servants. Help them to lay aside all notion of personal gain for the nobler task of seeking the well being of those governed. Lead each one of us toward a greater desire for peace for people everywhere.

Let us sow love, pardon, hope, faith, light and joy.

We pray for the people of nations embroiled in civil wars as they struggle against the oppression of ethnic, religious and political turmoil. Direct their hands, that they may cease violence and force as solution to their ills. Grant the rest of us the courage to follow their example of bloodless change for good. Holy God,

help us seek the consolation, understanding and love for the others as much as we do for ourselves.

Boundless God of Compassion, we thank you for healing us. Heal everyone in need now, both in the fellowship of our church and beyond us. Bring healing to every place where hurt is stark reality, where suffering is a way of life, where freedom is a dream, and wholeness seems so far away. Help us, as faithful servants to trust you and keep hope alive. Humble us to help, turning the other cheek, disdaining revenge and retaliation, helping without reservation and loving with your love... Holy God,

Help us to give, to pardon and to give thanks for eternal life.

We lift these prayers to you for your glory and the care of others, especially the poor, the saddened, the sick, the oppressed and yes, even our enemies.

In the name of the one who is the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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.

With our blessings we are called by God to follow not simply the idea of Jesus, but the ideal of Jesus. Following Christ means sublimating our agenda for Christ's agenda which is the love and well being of all of God's people. When in our minds, hearts, or actions we acquiesce to the thinking of the world we fail to be true disciples of Jesus. Jesus calls us to follow him and not the winds that would foment isolationism.

Finally, we pray for ourselves that God will keep us ever faithful to the one who comes to us who invites to be 'as one'.

Our Offertory Anthem is a beautiful portrayal of the Prayer of St. Francis. The music complements these often repeated and very important words of St. Francis concerning our calling to be as Christ.

Our Hymn of Parting is Fred Kahn's "Help Us Accept Each Other." Written in 1975, this is one of the most powerful hymns on reconciliation and forgiveness composed in the last half of the 20th century. Romans 15:7 provides a scriptural basis for stanza 1: "Receive one another, then, just as Christ also received you, to God's glory." The hymn also reflects Ephesians 4:15: "But practicing the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head."

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

We hope this Service of Worship has given you an opportunity to express your thanks and praise to God, to hear God's Word, to offer something of yourself, and to be challenged to go into the world refreshed and renewed as our 'service' continues in the world.

* Worship is an interactive event. Whether we are comfortable standing or not we are all an important part of the service.

Please join us for Fellowship across the way in our "Dining Hall".

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "An Instrument of Thy Peace" Scroggins

*"Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."*

***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**

We have been called to join the way:
to move out into the world,
To make the choice for God,
and trust God's grace is always with us.
As we go into the world,
may our lives be a blessing as we are blessed with life,
Our words be full of hope as we have been hope-filled,
our dealings just as we have been justly dealt,
And our faith a journey as we journey in faith. Go in peace,
**in faith, in love, to serve God,
and journey in God's presence. Amen!**

***HYMN OF PARTING NO. 358 "Help Us Accept Each Other" Vss. 1 - 3**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE NO. 358 "Help Us Accept Each Other" Vs. 4**

**"Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
Renew us with Your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!"**

***Please stand if you are comfortable doing so**



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS

This Week at Highlands



Week of February 19 – February 25, 2017

This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Worship
Monday:	Office Closed 7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting Wellness Series (Yoga at 10 a.m. & Adult Logos at 11 a.m.)
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Logos Choir Rehearsal Handbell Rehearsal
Thursday:	7:30 p.m.	Quilting and Sewing Group
Friday:	9:00 a.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 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Epiphany. We continue with the "Sermon on the Mount" with its challenges to be faithful in difficult situations. Next Sunday is "Transfiguration of the Lord" Sunday which is the final Sunday before Lent begins on March 1. On March 1 you are invited to come to LOGOS supper for our annual "Fat Tuesday on Ash Wednesday" celebration and then remain for our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. which will include the 'imposition of Ashes' as our first spiritual discipline of Lent. Tell your friends and neighbors that Dr. Dave will be in our circle drive in front of the church on Ash Wednesday beginning at 7 a.m. for a 'drive through imposition of ashes.'

ONE PERSONS'S TRASH IS ANOTHER PERSONS'S TREASURE!! Our PYC is looking for your super treasures! You can bring your goodies to the church starting today! If you need to arrange for pick-up of some larger items there is a sign-up sheet in the dining hall or call the church at 641-9622. The yard sale will begin at 7:00 a.m. next Saturday with a super delicious breakfast and super good deals on all kinds of items. Come and join the fun! With your help, we will have a super yard sale.

LOGOS AND WELLNESS ARE ON WEDNESDAY OF THIS WEEK. Our LOGOS theme for the day is "Go Take a Hike...with Jesus" as we approach "Transfiguration Sunday." You are invited to bring "hiking snacks" for Micah's Backpack. Come and check out the fun we're having on Wednesdays! Wellness and Adult Logos begin at 10 a.m.

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

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED HOST OUR FAMILY PROMISE FAMILIES! Your efforts on behalf of Family Promise mean that our families have a safe transition from home to no home and back to home! Please be in prayer for these folks and those who are homeless everywhere.

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. Eighteen 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 collecting nail clippers (no metal files or emery boards), bars of soap (bath size in wrapper), and toothbrushes (singles in original package). With the help of the youth, fifty packages were recently sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency. 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, 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 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'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: Alan and Anneliese Robbins, Alex Robbins and Ashton Robbins.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeter: Sharyn' Going. Children's Church Leader: Erika Conner.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the Glory of God in memory of my parents, Kurt and Ferne Baaske by Olivia Ehmer.

WE EXTEND THE SYMPATHY OF OUR CONGREGATION TO THE FAMILY OF JAN JOHNSON on the occasion of her physical death on Wednesday, February 15. A memorial service for Jan will be held here on Sunday, February 26th at 11:30 a.m. Please continue in prayer for Jan's sister, Sigrid Savage, and all of her extended family as they gather.