



# ***HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

## **SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2017**

**TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD SUNDAY**

**“Mountain to Valley”**

### **HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**“Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son,  
the Beloved; listen to him!”**

# HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

February 26, 2017 – Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

## 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

### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

You are with us, God of sunrises:

**you awaken us with each bright new day, overflowing with promise.**

You are with us, Inviting God:

**calling us to respond to all the chances to share the spirit of grace and hope.**

You are with us, Glory of God:

**gathering us into the presence of your peace, listening to the deep sighs of our hearts.**

Let us worship together in joy!

### \*OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

**“Loving God, shine your light in our hearts.**

**Help us to “see” with our whole being, not just with our eyes.**

**Help us to see with our ears and our hearts and our minds, to know you are always with us. Help us to see your beauty in the people and world around us, and help us look for places where we can bring your love. We pray in the name of the one whose glory we would bear,**

**‘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 “We Have Come At Christ’s Own Bidding” (Hyfrydol)

**“We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place,  
Where we wait with hope and longing For some token of God's grace.  
Here we pray for new assurance That our faith is not in vain,  
Searching like those first disciples For a sign both clear and plain.**

**Light breaks in upon our darkness, Splendor bathes the flesh-joined  
Word, Moses and Elijah marvel As the heavenly voice is heard.  
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder How the Law and Prophets meet:  
Christ with garments drenched in brightness,  
Stands transfigured and complete.**

\* - If you are comfortable, please stand

Today is “Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday” which ends the season of Epiphany. Today we gain one final glorious glimpse of Jesus on the mountaintop before we begin Lent in the valley below. We carry with us the words “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” As we proceed into Lent, beginning on Wednesday, let us remember these words and truly listen to what Jesus has to say to us.

As we prepare for worship we’ll listen to “The Transfiguration” by JJ Wright who is a church organist and jazz liturgist.

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

We share news of our life together as a church in our service because what we do, outside of worship, is a very vital portion of our ‘service to God’.

Our opening hymn, “We Have Come At Christ’s Own Bidding” was written for “Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday.” It includes us, along with Peter, James and John, as those invited to go up the mountain with Jesus.

**Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline,  
We like Peter find it tempting to remain and build a shrine.  
But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess,  
That our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.**

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 one of "God Is Here."

**\*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 PARDON"**

**\*CONFESSION AND PARDON (In Unison)**

We can become so burned out by our hectic days that we lose sight of the One who gives us life. We can become so impatient waiting for God to astound us with wonders, when we have the simple pleasure of each day. In these quiet moments, away from all those things which distract us, let us bring our brokenness to the One who listens to our hearts and heals our souls. Join me, as we pray, saying,

**The radiance of your grace is poured out in every moment,  
shaper of mountaintops, but we dull its luster by living in the  
shadows. We indulge in fantasy games and watch shows which  
claim to be 'real,' but we have trouble simply sitting in your  
presence, in your healing silence. We can become so infatuated  
with your love for us, we overlook those who hunger for  
acceptance and hope.**

**Revealer of mystery, forgive us. In silence, may we hear your  
whispers of grace. In mercy, may we feel your forgiveness lifting  
the burden of guilt from us. In trust, may we go forth to serve your  
world, filling it with the light and love of the One who is the Light of  
the world, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

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.

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The promise is true--God's Light has come into the world, and into our lives. We are graced with glimpses of God's glory, even as we are filled with mercy and forgiveness.

**Here we find the peace and quiet we need;  
here we are set free from all that keeps us from serving;  
here we are given mercy and hope.  
Here we give thanks to our God. Amen.**

**“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 is “Christ Upon the Mountain Stands” which celebrates the vision of Christ on the mountain top.

We ‘Affirm our Faith’ using an ‘ecumenical’ version of the very old and well known creed. Ecumenical means that this version of The Apostles’ Creed is used by many Christian denominations. Our hope is that this version will be something easily memorized, through usage, for the broad range of Christian backgrounds in our congregation.

## “THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 24:12-18

(OT: p. 70)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM

**“Christ, Upon The Mountain Stands”**

Lehman

*“Christ, upon the mountain stands Vision of the Father’s blessing  
Blazing forth to all the lands, Saints and angels now professing, Alleluia!”*

*Law and prophets have their place, In the cloud of wondrous glory  
Chosen witnesses of grace, There to see and tell the story. Alleluia!*

*God, in majesty, descends, Then proclaims to all before him,  
This is my beloved Son! Nations, come now and adore him. Alleluia!*

*Faithful hearts are lifted high. Joyful strains, our voices raising  
For this vision’s mystery, Songs of wonder, hymns of praising. Alleluia!”*

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

2 Peter 1:16-21

(NT: p. 236)

\* Matthew 17:1-9

(NT: p. 18)

### 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

**“Mountain to Valley”**

#### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 425

**“Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining”**

**\*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

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Responsive)

Glory of all creation:

**as the sun nudges us out of bed each morning, so you gently lift the veil of doubts and fears from our hearts that we might see your joy. At the setting of the sun, you do not leave us alone, but you sit with us through the night, sharing stories of hope. And we do not lose heart.**

Joyous Face of God:

**on the peaks of promise, we discover your grace, sparkling with gentle delight as it comes to rest within our weary lives. In the valleys of despair, as we trudge long, our burdens dragging behind us, we turn to discover you putting them on your shoulders, the gentleness of your compassion lighting the way to the kingdom. And we do not lose heart.**

Listening Spirit:

**in the hard times which life may offer, you are there with us, hearing not only our struggles, but the hopes singing silently in our souls. In the barren seasons through which we may walk, we find you ahead of us, planting the seeds of joy which will once more blossom in the springtime of God's love. And we do not lose heart.**

God in Community, Holy in One,

**we lift our hearts, our hopes, our voices in intercession for those who this day are in particular need. We lift up those who are suffering from the inequities that bring about economic crisis, for those who are sick and for those determined to get better, and for those whose lives have lost meaning and direction. For those who face daily fears of reprisal and who must bear the burden of shame, we ask for your blessings, O God of transformation. Heal us, Lord, make us whole and allow us to be the ones that transmit your glory into the world around us by being your true followers, the church.**

In the name of the God who offers us peace beyond our capacity for understanding,

**Amen.**

### GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS OFFERTORY

#### \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Hymn No. 592)

**“Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”**

In 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 Hymn of Parting is by Carol Winfrey Gillette and is written for worship on Transfiguration Sunday.

Our Charge and Blessing is intended to be a kind of 'cheer' for us as we go into the world encouraging us to be faithful and apply what we have experienced in worship to our lives in the world.

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".

## **\*HYMN OF PARTING "God, The Mountains Tell Your Glory"**

(Tune: Glorious Things of You Are Spoken)

**God, the mountains tell your glory, lifting praise to you above!  
In your Word, each mountain story shows your presence and your love.  
Noah built as you commanded; soon the waters swirled around.  
Those you saved, Lord, safely landed;  
you set them on mountain ground.**

**Lord, when Moses was returning to the mountain that he knew,  
There a bush was brightly burning. There it was he heard from you.  
Later Moses felt your presence; in the heights he knew your grace.  
He brought down the Ten Commandments  
from your holy mountain place.**

**Christ, you taught upon a mountain, showing us God's kingdom view.  
In the heights when you were praying, God's own glory shone on you.  
Climbing to a quiet garden, in your grief and faith you cried.  
On a hill for our own pardon, you, O Lord, were crucified.**

## **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Sisters and brothers, we've come up this mountain and...

**We have seen Jesus praying.**

**We have seen him changing!**

**His face... his robe... they're dazzling white!**

**They're shining like the sun!**

And we've seen Elijah and Moses! Talking to Jesus.

**This is amazing! We could stay here forever!**

**Is that thunder? Let's be quiet and see what we hear!**

And with the voice everything's changed again.

Now look: there's only Jesus... Jesus and us. Gathered.

**There's Jesus... and we're supposed to listen to him...**

**We cannot stay, we must go.**

Go in the glory of God to be the glory of God, shining in the world.

Take the presence of God with you wherever you go.

**We Go in joy TO SERVE THE LORD!**

## **\*BENEDICTION**

## **\*RESPONSE**

**"Thank you now for blue-green mountains,  
red-brown mesas, high peaks, too.**

**Here may we enjoy creation, know your presence, learn from you.  
Here may we sing out your glory, hear your call and find your grace.  
Risen Christ, we'll tell your story, from these heights to every place."**

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



**HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS**  
 This Week at Highlands  
 Week of February 26 – March 4, 2017



**This Week's Calendar of Events:**

<p><b>Today:</b></p> <p><b>Monday:</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday:</b></p> <p><b>Thursday:</b></p> <p><b>Friday:</b></p>	<p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>10:00 a.m.</p> <p>11:30 a.m.</p> <p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>7:00 a.m.</p> <p>10:00 a.m.</p> <p>12:30 p.m.</p> <p>4:00 – 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>6:00 p.m.</p> <p>7:00 p.m.</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Sunday School</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>Memorial Service for Jan Johnson</p> <p>Crafty Ladies</p> <p>Drive Through Imposition of Ashes</p> <p>Wellness Series (Yoga at 10 a.m. &amp; Adult Logos at 11 a.m.)</p> <p>Lunch Bunch @ Bonjourno's Philly Cheese Steak (Mayport Road)</p> <p>Logos – Fat Tuesday on Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Service</p> <p>Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p>Quilting and Sewing Group</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 1<sup>ST</sup>** 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** "Transfiguration of the Lord" Sunday which is the final Sunday before Lent begins on March 1. **On ASH Wednesday, 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 ca. 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.'

**WHEW! THANK YOU FOR DONATING YOUR SUPER TREASURES** and then buying super treasures of your very own. We had a super yard sale thanks to your fantastic support. We are getting closer and closer to having out trips paid for this summer! Look out Montreat and Massanetta – Highlands Super Youth are coming!!!

**LOGOS AND WELLNESS ARE ON WEDNESDAY OF THIS WEEK.** Our LOGOS theme for the day is "Fat Tuesday on Ash Wednesday". You are invited to join the party and wear your best Mardi Gras attire. Come and check out the fun we're having on Wednesdays! Wellness and Adult Logos begin at 10 a.m.

**YOUR MARCH THROUGH EASTER HIGHLANDER IS IN THE MAIL.** It was designed to be 'in your hands' by now, but we've had some 'copier' difficulties this week. Please read and be aware of all that is happening in the life of YOUR church. Also, please go to our hupchax.org website for news and information. The more you visit the more 'visible' it becomes to church seekers!

**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.**

**THE FOLLOWING DATES ARE STILL AVAILABLE ON THE FLOWER CHART:** February 26 and April 30.

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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:** Doris Ruby, John and Barbara Ruby and the Sambito Family.

**OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE:** Greeters: Mark and Michelle Todd. Children's Church Leader: Chad Sambito.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE** are given to the Glory of God in memory of Janalee Johnson by all of her nieces and nephews and by her siblings, Rick, Bruce and Sigrid.

**Following Worship today at 11:30 a.m. we will share a memorial service for Jan Johnson** will be held here today at 11:30 a.m. Please continue in prayer for Jan's sister, Sigrid Savage, and all of her extended family as they gather.