



**"Come and See..."**

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

January 15, 2017 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

**"Come and See"**

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi", "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see."

Today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Epiphany. Epiphany is the season, following Christmastide, in which we are introduced to the light of the world. In Epiphany we hear of the calling of the disciples and we 'get to know Jesus' before the season of Lent.

Music as we prepare for worship is a selection called "Epiphany" by a jazz ensemble called "Kerygma Fire." Kerygma is the Greek word we would define as 'proclamation' or in the context of the church 'preaching.'

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'.

# HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## A Celebration of Worship

January 15, 2017 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

### "ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

#### 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

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. We live sustained by God's presence and love.

**Thanks be to God.**

As we give thanks for brothers and sisters who have lived in faith,

**God gives thanks with us.**

As we struggle for justice,

**God struggles with us.**

As we strive for peace,

**God strives with us.**

As we work to build the beloved community,

**God works with us.**

As we offer our gifts to all,

**God blesses us.**

Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

**Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God.**

##### \*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Responsively)

Lord, God of all peoples and nations, who makes no distinctions among us because we are all your children.

**Help us, by illuminating us to know you and recognize you in all we encounter .**

Lord, Jesus, lamb of God who takes away not just our sins, but the sins of all the world,

**expand our idea of the world to include people of all sorts, of all races, of all faiths, of all languages, and come to us this day we pray.**

Meet us, Holy Spirit, in our sameness and expand our hearts towards diversity, so that we may, in you, be truly one.

**Kum Ba Yah, O Lord. Come by Here!**

Hear us as we lift our voices in the prayer of our Lord Jesus:

**"Our Father .... Amen."**

##### \*HYMN NO. 338

**"Kum Ba Yah"**

\*If comfortable, please stand

### **\*PASSING THE PEACE**

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

(At this time you are invited to share a sign of peace:  
a hug, a handshake, a kiss...)

### **\*Choral Response:**

**“Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.”**

### **"SEEK FORGIVENESS"**

### **\*CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

Jesus came as 'the Lamb of God' so that we, straying sheep, might follow him and in his sacrifice, redeemed by his infinite love and mercy. We choose to go our own way and soon find ourselves lost. Once again Jesus comes and asks us 'what are you looking for?' Then he bids us follow him. Let us pray:

Lord, you are peace and reconciliation!

**Forgive us Lord, for often choosing jealousy and animosity rather than confidence and respect for each other.**

Lord, you give us an abundance of blessings in the unity of faith!

**Forgive us Lord, for often choosing isolation and refusing to be a blessing for each other.**

Lord, you have given joy to the afflicted, liberation to the captives, pardon to sinners!

**Forgive us Lord, for having closed our hands and turned our faces away from those who need help.**

Lord, you have gathered us together as a shepherd gathers his flock and then goes to seek the one sheep that is lost!

**Forgive us Lord, for having often strayed far from you, and pushed you away, thus underlining our divisions.**

Lord, on this day, even as you are recognized as 'the lamb of God', take away our love of sinning. Mold us, by the searing heat of your love into people whose lives are lived to serve you by serving one another.

**Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### **\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God says, "I will give [Jesus] as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." This day, light, forgiveness and salvation reach us.

**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.”**

In our final 'gathering act' we "**Pass the Peace**" as an act of caring, welcome, and mutual love. Please remain standing as we sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds".

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. We are "Called to Confession" as a reminder of our individual and communal sin. Our "Confession and Pardon" gives expression to our desire to know forgiveness. The "Kyrie Eleison" is a choral bridge between our prayers and the "**Assurance of Forgiveness**" which declares our forgiveness. Finally, we give praise to our triune God for the assurance that we are, by grace, forgiven.

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.

(We use the 'common lectionary' which is a guide that assigns readings over a three-year cycle. God's people are given the opportunity to hear and read along in God's Word from the Bible).

The Anthem for the day is also an opportunity, through sacred music, to give reflection and interpretation to the spoken word... Today's anthem is "Behold The Lamb of God" from The Messiah by G.F. Handel.

In response to the Word read there is the 'preaching of the word for our living today'. This includes words for 'the young church' and all who gather.

Tomorrow is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and we will share "An Affirmation of Faith and Hope For A World As One" in recognition. We believe that God calls us to unity and not division; to peace and not to conflict; to harmony and not division. God calls us to stand up for what is right as defined by the law of love in Christ and not by narrow minded human views of human value.

## **"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"**

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Isaiah 49:1-7

(OT: p. 679)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be To God!**

### **ANTHEM**

**"Behold, The Lamb of God"** from Messiah, by G. F. Handel

"Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world."

### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

(NT: p. 165)

\*John 1:29-42

(NT: p. 92)

### **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**

**"Come and See"**

## **"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 358 "Help Us Accept Each Other"**

**\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND HOPE FOR A WORLD AS ONE**

**I refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events which surround us. That we are so bound to racism and war, that peace, brotherhood and sisterhood are not possible.**

**I believe there is an urgent need for people to overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to violence and oppression. That we need to discover a way to live together in peace, a way which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of this way is love.**

**I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. The 'right' temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant. That peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.**

**I believe that what self-centered people would tear down, other-centered people will build up. By the goodness of God at work within people, I believe that brokenness can be healed.**

**"And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and everyone will sit under their own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid."**

**We believe that God's promises born in Jesus are true and good. We believe that Jesus calls us to see what he is doing every day. We believe the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us to the truth. Amen**

## BEING THE CHURCH IN MISSION, PRAYER AND GIVING

### Discipleship and Life In The Church As We Come to Prayer

#### \*LITANY OF THANKS AND INTERCESSION

God of all races and nations, we praise you for all your faithful servants who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with their God. For apostles, martyrs, leaders, and saints, and for humble folk whose names were never in the news, but are recorded in your book of life,

#### **We give you thanks, O God.**

Especially this day we thank you for people who have been pioneers in calling for justice for all people, for their prophetic voices and courage in the face of the insistent evil of racism and nationalism. For this courage and conviction, for this passion for peace, and for this tireless quest of a nation that keeps faith with its promises,

#### **We give you thanks, O God.**

For nameless multitudes who suffered and are suffering the tortures of slavery and the tyranny of oppression, who are assaulted with the vile nature of one persons hate for another; and for the nameless multitudes today whose lives are stunted and cut short by economic and social structures of brutality,

#### **We grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.**

And for children, women, and men of every race and age who are denied education, health care, jobs, housing, and hope in our land,

#### **We grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.**

We pray for those who are separated in our world, Lord, by race, politics, poverty, greed, and oppressive systems.

#### **We grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.**

At the same time, Lamb of God, we thank you for our own preservation and relative peace. For the way you touch our living and reach out in love and aid to those who are ill, saddened, confused, lost, and alone.

#### **We Give You Thanks, O God.**

In our midst, O God, there are those who need your peace. We pray for our brothers and sisters who are ill and looking for health, wholeness and wellness. We pray for those who struggle day to day with ongoing treatments, with difficult decisions to make and with future procedures to be faced.

#### **We pray for comfort and healing.**

We pause to pray, hesitantly and with humility for ourselves. For your continued blessings when we have been blessed so deeply, for your continued guidance when we so blithely go our own way, and for your grace which we, although undeserving, cherish. Help us to be more like you, Lamb of God.

#### **In the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

We, as God's own people, loved by the lamb of God have so very much for which to be thankful. We are blessed in a way to which most of the people of the world cannot relate. 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.

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.

Finally, we pray for ourselves that God will keep us ever faithful to the one who comes to us as 'Lamb of God' to take away our sins and promise us eternal life.

## GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY

### "I Heard Him Once"

Thornburg/Davis

*"I heard him once, the Risen Christ, and as he did so long ago,  
To those who walked beside the sea, he turned and said," Come follow me. Come follow me."  
"But, who am I?" I whispered back, and as he did so long ago,  
to those who sat upon a hill, he turned and said, "You are the light, you are the light."  
I froze, unable to respond, and as he did so long ago, to one who sat beside a pool,  
he turned and said, "Is healing what you want?"  
And then, confronted by the one who knew my name and sensed my aimlessness,  
I drew a fitful breath, "Yes, Lord, make me whole, and I will come and follow you."*

### \*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

Go to live new lives steeped in the promises of God, and do not weary in doing what is right. Trust that the God who creates all things new will never abandon you or forsake you, but will guide you and keep you always.

**We go in peace to love and serve our Lord.**

### \*HYMN OF PARTING

### "O Lord, You Called Disciples"

(Tune: Lancashire, "The Day of Resurrection")

**O Lord, you called disciples, proclaiming, "Come and see!"**

**And so an invitation began your ministry.**

**Then Andrew called his brother, and Peter came to you;**

**More men and women followed, and little children, too.**

**You met a busy woman out in the noon-day sun.**

**You shared God's love, you listened; you told all she had done.**

**She called her friends and neighbors and brought them face to face**

**With you, the living water, the bearer of God's grace.**

**O Christ, your invitation has reached from year to year!**

**Through some who heard you calling, a church was founded here.**

**As faithful people served you so many years ago, \***

**They soon invited others; your church began to grow.**

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*CHORAL RESPONSE

**God, by your Holy Spirit, now send us in your name**

**To serve the lost and outcast, the poor for whom you came.**

**Through gifts of hope and healing, through loving ministry,**

**May we reach out, inviting the world to "Come and see!"**

\* \* \* \* \*

\*If comfortable, please stand

**Please join us in the Dining Hall for Fellowship**

Our Offertory today is fitting for Epiphany as it describes numerous accounts of life-changing encounters between Jesus and those who followed him. In this sensitive, introspective anthem those same, life-changing experiences take on a personal, present-day form as the text considers how a relationship with Christ can transform one's life in a powerful way. "I heard him once, the risen Christ, and as he did so long ago to those who walked beside the sea, he turned and said, come follow me." This very personal anthem is a plea for Christ to make us whole. The act of commitment to follow Christ is presented in a most compelling way.

Our Hymn of Parting is by Carol Winfrey Gillette, "O Lord, You Called Disciples" places us in line with those called by Christ to follow him then and now. We'll sing vss. 1-3 and then vs. 4 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.

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.



**HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS**  
This Week at Highlands



**Week of January 15 – 21, 2017**

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

<b>Today:</b>	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	<b>Sunday School</b> <b>Worship</b>
<b>Monday:</b>		<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	10:00 a.m.  4:00 – 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	<b>Wellness Series</b> (Yoga at 10 a.m. & Adult Logos at 11 a.m.) <b>Logos</b> <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	7:30 p.m.	<b>Handbell Rehearsal</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	9:00 a.m.	<b>Quilting and Sewing Group</b>

**“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** the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Epiphany. Epiphany is the season, following Christmastide, in which we are introduced to the light of the world. In Epiphany we hear of the calling of the disciples and we 'get to know Jesus' before the season of Lent.

**NEXT SUNDAY THE REV. MS. HOLLY MEDEARIS WILL BE WITH US.** Some of your fellow Highlanders will share a worship experience on board a cruise ship. Leaving on Thursday they'll return on Monday morning. We'll be glad to have Holly back with us! Holly is an alum of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and of University of North Florida here in Jacksonville. She claims Jacksonville as home and is currently working as an RN at Brooks Rehabilitation Center. She has a passion for service and strives to help people live healthy, holistic lives through her calling as a Teaching Elder and her work as an RN. **We celebrate with Holly her brand new call to be the Stated Supply Pastor of the Middleburgh Presbyterian Church!** She is married to Joe (who is Stated Supply Pastor at Arlington Presbyterian), and they have a precious daughter, Lela, who is well and growing.

**LOGOS AND WELLNESS ARE ON WEDNESDAY OF THIS WEEK.** Our LOGOS theme for the day is "Anything but Ordinary". You are invited to wear your most extraordinary outfit!

**THERE ARE STILL SEVERAL OPENINGS ON THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2017.** The cost for 2017 is \$30.00 per week. The additional \$5.00 will help defray costs for 'special occasion' flowers. Thanks. You can also pick up some **Offering Envelopes for 2017.**

**LAST CALL FOR YOUR 2017 STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION.** Your Church Resources and Management Committee is working on the budget for 2017 and need your pledges as soon as you can turn them in. Thanks for your love and support of HUPC.

**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

**FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Our guests will be returning to Highlands February 5-12. We will need volunteers to spend the night, prepare meals, as well as serving as evening and Saturday hosts. Evening and Saturday hosts only require 2 to 3 hours of your time! We hope you will consider helping with 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 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. Some of you have paid for the year in advance and others will be making monthly donations. Your wonderful support will mean over \$600.00 a month for the children of Haiti! Hallelujah!

**MICAH'S VOLUNTEERS ARE PACKING, PACKING, PACKING!!!** 51 kids!!! We never thought we would need more instant oatmeal or granola bars, but we are low. Your support and encouragement is wonderful. Thank you. We will pack for the **Hunger Fight** again on **January 28<sup>th</sup>** at Grace Lutheran Church from 1:00p.m. – 3:00 p.m. We would love to have more volunteers to help. It's fun, fast-paced, great volunteer hours for students and a Micha's backpack t-shirt is included. Let Bonnie Vanderberg know if you would like to help.

**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:** hams or turkeys, canned hams, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned yams/sweet potatoes, canned fruit, cans or packets of gravy, jello, broth, dry potatoes in packet or box, canned potatoes, evaporated milk, pasta sides, peanut butter, pork and beans, canned tomatoes, and tuna or hamburger helper. Nine 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.

### PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY'S SERVICE

**SPECIAL PRAYERS: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:** The following are in treatment and appreciate our continued prayers: Joan Ewing, Jo Carmichael, Don Hall, Bill Byers, Jan Johnson, Nancy Hoot, Marilyn Reed, and Bill Duval. Others in need of continued prayer are Pat Strader, Al Hummel, 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](http://hupcjax.org) under "Contact Us") or by notifying your Shepherd.

**FAMILIES WE ARE PRAYING FOR THIS WEEK:** Charlie Obedia, Cathie Pate and Lee and Lori Perdew.

**OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE:** Greeters: John and Barbara Ruby. Children's Church Leader: David Bauerlein.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE** are given to the glory of God by Tom and Debbie Douget in honor of their anniversary.