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HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

January 22, 2017 -- 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Rev. Holly Medearis

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make
you fish for people."**

Today is the 3rd 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.

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'.

A hymn which exhorts us to praise God in the sanctuary and in the firmament of God's power is "Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show". The text was written by Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847). Lyte is perhaps best remembered for his hymn "Abide With Me". A paraphrase of Psalm 150, "Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show" first appeared in Lyte's 1834 *Spirit of the Psalms*, a collection of free paraphrases of the Psalms. The alleluias were added to fit the tune later. This is a stirring song of praise who brings light to the world.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

January 22, 2017 – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

TIME OF PREPARATION

(Take this opportunity to pause for a moment and pray for God's presence among us today, our worship leaders, those who worship with you and for yourself.)

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME AS WE GATHER & SHARE LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

(Turn to face the light coming in through windows. We will pray responsively.)

To those who sit in darkness, light has dawned.

To those who dwell in gloom and despair,

God, who brings color and light to life, gathers us in this place;

**God's glorious presence has appeared like the light streaming
Through the color of these windows.**

God, who invites us to follow, is indeed our light and our salvation.

We will follow, unafraid, where God and Jesus lead us.

Let us worship our God of light and promise.

Let us celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation.

*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Let us pray:

God of light and love, we come this morning with eyes stinging from the brightness of your glory. We have become so accustomed to the darkness, that your radiant light sometimes overwhelms us. Open our eyes to the light of your dawn, that our souls may be flooded with love and mercy and joy. Open our hearts to receive your message of comfort and peace and security, that we may find rest in your loving, protective presence. Open our spirits to follow the path you put before us, that we may lead lives committed to your Way. This we pray in Jesus' name who taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen."

*HYMN NO. 481

"Praise The Lord, God's Glories Show"

*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 AND FELLOWSHIP "

***CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)**

Even when we know that we have been given light to dispel the darkness of our living we choose to cling to things that would harm or even destroy us. God persistently calls us and bids us to leave behind that which robs us of life for that which gives us life. Let us pray:

Spirit of God, you wander along the shores of our life and you see the many things we cling to...

trinkets and toys, the need to succeed, careers that do harm.

Release us, O Spirit, so we can follow Christ more faithfully.

Spirit of God, you wander along the shores of our life and you see the many things we cling to...

deadly habits, destructive anger, anxiety and depression.

Release us, O Spirit, so we can follow Christ more faithfully.

Spirit of God, you wander along the shore of our life and you see the many things we cling to...

harmful relationships, bad attitudes, divisions and discord.

Release us, O Spirit, so we can follow Christ more faithfully.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Receive this good news:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who lived in a land of great darkness, on them light has shined. This light came to our world in the person of Jesus Christ in whom the love of God was illumined fully. Receive this love and follow the light of the world as the Spirit of God guides you in new paths of service.

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 worshiping community.

"Pescador de Hombres" ("Fisher of Men"), the original Spanish title for the anthem, is the most popular and indeed, one of the more popular newer hymns in the hymnal. Written in 1979, "Tú has venido a la orilla" (the Spanish opening line) is based on the parallel passages found in the synoptic gospels on Jesus' calling of his first disciples (Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11). As found in the Scripture, Gabaráin captures the total obedience of disciples and their willingness to give up everything: "As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once they left their nets and followed him." (Matthew 4:18-20, NIV)

The hymn entreats us to follow Christ with the same obedience and commitment. The refrain is a call to surrender to Jesus in response to his command to follow him. The gentle melody, PESCADOR DE HOMBRES, is reminiscent of a rocking boat by the lakeshore.

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.

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:1-4

(OT: p.638)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks Be To God!

ANTHEM "You Have Come Up To The Lakeshore"

1. *You have come up to the lakeshore, Looking neither for wise nor wealthy. You only wanted that I should follow.*

Refrain: O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me, And, while smiling, have called out my name. Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me, Now with You I will seek other seas.

2. *You know that I own so little, In my boat there's no money nor weapons, You'll only find there my nets and labor. (Refrain)*
3. *You need the caring of my hands. Through my tiredness, may others find resting. You need a love that just goes on loving. (Refrain)*
4. *You, who have fished other oceans, Ever longed for by souls that are waiting, My dear and good friend, as thus You call me. (Refrain)*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

(NT: p. 166)

*Matthew 4:12-23

(NT: p. 3)

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

"The Rev. Holly Medearis"

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 391

"Take My Life..."

*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."

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hope invites us on a journey today that seems elusive, beckoning onward but never in our grasp:

God of wisdom and promise give us courage to travel on.

When dreams glimmer in the distance, fading, clouded and hidden or shining with new brightness:

God of wisdom and promise give us courage to travel on.

When things we trust most collapse into the uncertainty of the unknown and security dissolves into a memory:

God of wisdom and promise give us courage to travel on.

When the illusion of success offered by the world threatens to divert us and silence our souls' yearning:

God of wisdom and promise give us courage to travel on.

When we think our journey has ended in the star-lit glow only to find the end is a new beginning:

God of wisdom and promise give us courage to travel on.

God who calls us and challenges us with new possibilities for our living be with us along the way.

We thank you.

God of the powerful and of the weak, of the proud and of the meek, of the self assured and of those who seek;

Take us by the hand.

God who cares for the sick, the estranged, the confused, the sad, the lonely, the mentally troubled, the victim and the perpetrator;

Make us whole.

God of the church;

Make us bold in casting your Word on the waters of life so that others might be caught up in your mercy, grace and love.

God of peace;

Come to us once again on the shores of our living, bringing light to our darkness and hope into our existence as your children. Amen.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "His Eye Is On The Sparrow"

Duet: Nita Birge and Helen Middaugh

*DOXOLOGY

**"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."**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For all good gifts and abundant blessings and a call to serve;
We give you thanks, O God, 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 inviting us to come and 'fish' with him.

Our Hymn of Parting is "Jesus Calls Us" which is an old and much loved hymn of the church. Few can write a hymn-to-order for their preacher husbands, even if they are famous poets in their own right. But Cecil Frances Alexander did just that for her husband who asked for a poem to go along with a sermon on the calling of the disciples. She did and we have the hymn "Jesus Calls Us" because of her efforts on his behalf.

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".

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

We have received the light of God
in the words of scripture, in the faithful witness of our sisters and brothers, in the music of our voices.

Go now and be "fishers of people" to share this light
in words of peace, in a witness of love, in the sharing of wealth in the joy of good news. Amen.

***HYMN OF PARTING**

"Jesus Calls Us"

**"Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth saying, "Christian, follow me."**

**As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.**

**Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."**

**In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."**

**Jesus calls us: by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thy obedience, serve and love thee best of all."**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

"May the God of Hope"

**"May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.**

**May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new, Faithful when we hear Christ's call."**

* * * * *

*If comfortable, please stand



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
This Week at Highlands



Week of January 22 – January 28, 2017

This Week's Calendar of Events:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Today: | 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. | Sunday School Worship Confirmation Class PYC |
| Monday: | 7:00 p.m. | Session Meeting |
| Wednesday: | 10:00 a.m. | Wellness Series (Yoga at 10 a.m. & Adult Logos at 11 a.m.) |
| | 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Logos |
| | 7:15 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday: | 7:30 p.m. | Handbell Rehearsal |
| Friday: | 9:00 a.m. | Quilting and Sewing Group |

“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 3rd Sunday in the season of Epiphany and we hear another story of 'calling' today. We are so very glad to welcome back to our pulpit The Rev. Holly Medearis to bring us that story. As some of your fellow Highlanders will share a worship experience on board a cruise ship at this hour we are glad to be gathered in this place. We are 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 Middleburg 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 ON WEDNESDAY OF THIS WEEK. Our LOGOS theme for the day is "The Saints Come Marching In". You are invited to bring a jar of peanut butter for ACS. Come and check out the fun we're having on Wednesdays!

PLEASE RESERVE A PLACE TODAY FOR NEXT SUNDAY EVENING'S 'SUPER HERO SPAGHETTI SUPPER' AT 6 p.m. It will be a super fun evening of super food, super entertainment, a super dessert auction made up of super desserts made by our super PYC who are raising funds for a super summer of super exciting faith enlivening experiences. Now that sounds super!

The following Saturday we follow up with our annual Super BBQ! Please reserve your Boston Butt for your Super Bowl gatherings today! Cost is a super \$35.00! (Try that at Sonny's or Bono's!) Thanks for your SUPER support of our Youth!

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.

THANK YOU FOR RETURNING YOUR PLEDGE SHEETS! A new budget is being prepared for 2017.

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 NEEDS YOU TO VOLUNTEER: 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 sign-up sheet will be in the Dining Hall after worship today. If you have any questions or concerns, please see a member of the Mission Committee call Sue Heckler at 891-6034. **Support Family Promise!**

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 28th** 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. Eleven 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, Jo Carmichael, Bill Byers, Nancy Hoot, Marilyn Reed, Jan Johnson, 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 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: Deanna Picarelli and Family, Denis and Kim Plette and Jodie and Robert Raymond.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Mark and Bonnie Vanderberg. Children's Church Leader: Chad Sambito.