

Blessed are they who...

do justice,

love kindness,

walk humbly with God.

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

January 29, 2017 -- 10:00 a.m.

4th Sunday After Epiphany

“What God Wants”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor
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"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God... what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Today is the 4th Sunday in Epiphany. We hear from Jesus today a theme that will become the heart of his message. Love and concern for the poor and the promise of eternal life.

As we gather the music in our Time of Preparation is by G.F. Handel. With deep concern for the poor and needy Handel offers to compose and present a concert for the "Foundling Hospital." Foundling means 'orphan' about whom Handel was most concerned. The outcome was a concert later in May 1749 in which Handel presented a program of his recent music, culminating with an anthem produced specially for the occasion, "Blessed Are They That Considereth The Poor And Needy" now known as the Foundling Hospital Anthem. The event was a success in every respect: it was attended by the Prince and Princess of Wales, attracted a capacity audience and raised more than £350 for the charity. The text of the anthem is in part from Matthew 5 and our gospel for the day.

We are happy to have our Handbell Choir playing for us this morning.

Our opening Hymn, "**God, You Spin The Whirling Planets**" is a hymn by Jane Parker Huber that reminds us that God, and God alone is Lord of all.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

January 29, 2017 – 4th Sunday After 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.)

WELCOME AS WE GATHER & SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

"Give Me Jesus" D. Wagner
Highlands Handbell Choir

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

What shall we bring when we come to worship God?

Shall we bring burnt offerings and sacrifice animals?

Does God want us to show off with impressive gifts?

Does God want us to wallow in guilt?

How shall we worship God?

Seek justice!

Love kindness!

Act humbly!

Let us worship God!

*GATHERING PRAYER OF INVOCATION (responsive)

Teacher of our hearts, when we are generous to the poor,

your kingdom of justice is built;

when we love kindness more than we do power,

we are heirs of creation's grace;

when we walk hand-in-hand with the humble-hearted,

we are in step with you;

when we share a picnic of hope and joy with the forgotten of the world,

we follow you up the hill of faithfulness.

Wisdom of Weakness, when our differences with one another become stumbling blocks to life together,

you come with your hopeful foolishness so your children

might be at peace, and a blessing of life to a world in need of healing.

God of all, hear us as we pray as Jesus has taught us, saying,

"Our Father ..."

*HYMN NO. 285 "God, You Spin The Whirling Planets"

*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)**

God is here. God is calling us to be what we need to be. Sometimes we hear and respond and at other times we fail to even act as if God is present. Let us confess as we pray:

Lord of us all, we offer our confession and our hope for the pain we have caused and the pain we have known. We pray for those among us who are poor in spirit, celebrating the simplicity of their lives. And we confess times when we are greedy and selfish. God of justice and mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those among us who mourn, especially for those whose grief we may have caused by injustice or unkindness or pride. God of justice and mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the meek, for the vulnerable, for the innocent, that we may be taught by their experiences. We confess those times when we have ignored the most needy and used our power to keep them powerless. Forgive us for turning our back on those who are vulnerable and who flee poverty and political harm. Forgive us for foregoing our humanity in favor of our perceived security. God of justice and mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those who hunger for righteousness and for the merciful who feed them with peace and justice. We confess those times when we have abused your call to peace. God of justice and mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the peacemakers and for the persecuted, those who have lived for peace and those who have died for peace. We confess our own anger and aggression. Forgive us for equating peace with a stronghold on others. God of justice and mercy,

receive our prayer.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God has promised that those who do what is right may abide in God's tent and dwell on God's mountain. Through faith in Christ, your sins are forgiven. Seek justice, love kindness, live humbly in the presence of God. Amen.

Thanks be to God!

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.

Our Confession today is based on Micah 6:8 and the Gospel Lesson about the Beatitudes.

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.

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.

Miriam Therese (M.T.) Winter, writer of our Hymn of Response, "O For A World," discovered the magic of words and music as a child. She wrote her first poem when she was just six and a year later began to learn the piano. Her love of music followed her when, many years later, Winter joined the Medical Mission Sisters in Philadelphia, ready to begin her dream of traveling to developing nations and providing much needed medical care. During her travels, she developed a new dream, that of spreading care and love through song rather than medicine, and she continues to transform the world. Winter wrote this text for the Presbyterian Women's triennial Conference in 1982 and revised in 1987, when it was recorded for the Medical Mission Sisters. It was published in The Presbyterian Hymnal (1990)

***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."

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Micah 6:1-8

(OT: p. 866)

ANTHEM

"I'm A Poor Wayfaring Stranger"

Highlands Handbell Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

(NT: p. 166)

*Matthew 5:1-12

(NT: p. 4)

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

"What God Wants"

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 386 "O For A World"**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical) in Unison)

"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

Loving God, whose foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and whose weakness is stronger than human strength, pour out your blessing upon your creation as we pray:

Lead us to do justice and to love kindness; and to walk humbly with our God. Fill your Church with your blessing, O Holy One, that we may hunger and thirst for righteousness, and strengthen our mission to proclaim Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God. Lead us to do justice and to love kindness;

and to walk humbly with our God.

Almighty One, inspire our leaders with purity of heart that they may see with Godly vision and become peacemakers, children of God. Help us to see that there is more power in humility than vanity. Lead us to do justice and to love kindness;

and to walk humbly with our God.

Merciful One, look with mercy on the meek and poor in spirit and protect all who are persecuted falsely throughout the world. Lead us to do justice and to love kindness;

and to walk humbly with our God.

Loving God, bless our community with your grace, that we may be compassionate peacemakers, pure in heart and willing to suffer for the sake of your healing and reconciling work. Lead us to do justice and to love kindness;

and to walk humbly with our God.

Compassionate One, visit us with your grace and strengthen those who call upon your help, especially our brothers and sisters battling the trials of illness. We give you thanks for all the blessings you bestow upon us, especially the knowledge that you, and you alone, are the Lord of all. Comfort all who mourn as we remember that our Lord is a Lord of compassion who seeks the lost, who embraces the stranger in our midst, who comes for peace and not the sword. Lead us to do justice and to love kindness;

and to walk humbly with our God.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably upon your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERORY “What Shall I Bring to the Lord?” Lau

“What shall I bring to the Lord when I come to worship Him? Shall I bring my best as offering to Him? What shall I bring? What shall I bring to the Lord when I come worship Him? Will the Lord require something special from me? Oh, what shall I bring for a King? I could bring riches, power; now is the hour to lift our voices and sing. I could bring wisdom, glory, I could tell the story of Jesus, my King, of Jesus, my King, my King. But Hear What the Lord Says: Do justice, have mercy, and walk, walk humbly with your God. What shall I bring to the Lord?”

***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.”

What is it that God wants from us? In our prayer today we will seek an answer to that question and do our best to live by doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with our God.

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.

Robert Lau’s anthem “What Shall I Bring to the Lord?” asks questions that ‘we’ want to ask about what we need to do for God and then revisits the powerful words of Micah 6:8. He asks musically ‘what shall I bring?’ and then with great clarity the men sing “But hear what the Lord Says:” and the choir responds: “Do justice, have mercy, and walk, walk humbly with your God.”

Our Hymn of Parting is "Today We All Are Called To Be Disciples Of The Lord" which means that we are supposed to be and do the things that Christ shows us and calls us to be and to do. To be a true disciple, follower of Christ, a Christian means to sublimate 'me' in order to do what 'he' wants us to be and to do.

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**

Dare to go forth believing you can do foolish things for God.

**We dare to believe that we who are weak can be strong
in our weakness;**

that we who are humble can be powerful in our humility;

that the broken can heal through their brokenness,

That the foolish can teach wisdom in their innocence.

Go forth to be fools for God.

We go in faith to serve the Lord!

***HYMN OF PARTING NO. 434 "Today We Are All Called to Be"**

**1. Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.**

**2. God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud, we sow not peace but strife,
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.**

**3. Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for a harmony of peace.**

**4. May we in service to our God act out the living Word,
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.**

***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 doing so, please stand



HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
This Week at Highlands



Week of January 29 – February 4, 2017

This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Super Hero Spaghetti Dinner
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m.	Wellness Series
		(Yoga at 10 a.m. & Adult Logos at 11 a.m.)
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch Bunch – The Fish Company
	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
Saturday:	3:00 p.m.	Super BBQ pick up

“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 4th Sunday in the Season of Epiphany and today our scriptures seek to enlighten us on the question of what it is God wants of us. We welcome our Handbell choir this morning.

PLEASE JOIN US TONIGHT FOR THE "SUPER HERO SPAGHETTI SUPER" AT 6 p.m. It will be a super fun evening of super food, super entertainment, 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!

RESERVE YOUR BOSTON BUTT TODAY. They will be ready for pick up on **February 4TH at 3:00 p.m.** Please reserve your Boston Butt for your Super Bowl gatherings today! Cost is a super \$35! (Try that at Sonny's or Bono's!). Thanks for your super support of our Youth!

THE CRAFTY LADIES ARE COMING BACK! Their first meeting of 2017 will be Monday, February 6th at 10:30 a.m.

LOGOS AND WELLNESS ARE BACK 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! Wellness and Adult Logos begin at 10 a.m.

February "Lunch Bunch" for all available adults seeking a chance to share some food and fellowship with your Highlands brothers and sisters will be on Wednesday at 12:30 at "The Fish Company." (725-12 Atlantic Blvd, Atlantic Beach) Join us in the new year for an opportunity to share in the life of the church 'off campus.'

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 NEED 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, please see a member of the Mission Committee or 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.

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. Twelve 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, April 30, May 21, July 16 and December 31st.

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 jlouerop50@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: Ken and Marilyn Reed, Kinzey and Betty Reeves and Rick and Eileen Regnier.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Scott and Sue Heckler. Children's Church Leader: Erika Conner.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by Dennis Kleppen.