



**“Help me, Lord,
to walk this Lent
with you wherever
you lead.”**

**HIGHLANDS UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

**MARCH 12, 2017 -- 2ND OF LENT
J.O.Y. SUNDAY**

“It’s A Lot To Ask”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor
Laura Sambito, DCE
Gibson Dixon, Director of Music
Anneliese Robbins, Church Admin.
10900 McCormick Road
Jacksonville, FL 32225
904-641-9622
hupcjax.org/hupc_jax@bellsouth.net

John 3:8 "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Today is the 2nd Sunday in the season of Lent. Lent is 40 days, not counting Sundays, beginning with Ash Wednesday and continue through Saturday night of Holy Week. Speaking of Holy Week, have you marked your calendars for the evens of April 9 – 16?

We welcome the leadership of J.O.Y. (Jubilant Offerings of Youth).

Music as we prepare for worship is a rendering of Psalm 121, the Psalm for the day. It is a choral arrangement by the Canadian composer Noel Edison. Psalm 121 is a 'psalm of ascent' that would have been chanted or sung as the pilgrims approached Jerusalem, just as we do in 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.'

Our opening Hymn is a classic! "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" is one of the hymns of the great composer Isaac Watts. This hymn is based on the 90th Psalm and is intended to bolster our faith in these days of Lent.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

March 12, 2017 – 2nd of Lent -- J.O.Y. Sunday

"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 "Festive Praise"

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

In this season of discipleship, God calls us to leave our comfortable lives,
**to journey, like Abraham and Sarah, into that unknown,
yet strangely certain, country called faith.**

On sleepless nights, in fear's shadows, we toss and turn with doubt's questions,

**hoping, like Nicodemus, to find Jesus and to listen willingly
to his responses.**

Reluctant to deny ourselves, convinced that everything, every thing,
depends on us,

**we struggle to affirm, as Paul did, that everything, every thing,
is in God's hands, and we can let go of all to which we cling.**

In this season of discipleship, we long to follow Jesus,

**wherever he may go, wherever he may lead, just like Abraham,
Sarah, Nicodemus, Paul, and so, so many others.**

Gather us, O God, of night and day, so that we might lift our voices to you.

Come, let us worship together!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**"O God, may your mystery surround us and your light shine on us.
May your Spirit explore with us and be our companion. May what we
do not understand send us on a journey with you today. We pray: In
this season of Lent, may we become more aware of the presence of
Holy God: In each other, in music, as we give and receive gifts of love.
Grant that we may all live that others can see this presence alive in our
actions. Here us as we pray your prayer, Lord Jesus, "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. 21

"Our God, Our Help In Ages Past"

***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:** (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"

*CONFESSION AND PARDON (Responsively)

Abraham obviously had no problem believing that God would help him and his family as they journeyed forth into the unknown; and Jesus was able to journey towards Jerusalem believing that God would be his strong help and guide on the way. We, too, can have that same assurance in the gift to us of faith:

We confess, O God, our readiness to affirm our belief in your guidance,
yet we fear to move into the unknown on behalf of the gospel .
Abraham ventured forth into a future not of his own making,
but in response to your call on his life, O God.

We find that it is risky enough trying to shape our own future.

Jesus must have been aware that the risks he was taking would lead him into trouble; but he carried on, knowing that your Spirit, O God, was helping him give shape to a future where justice and righteousness reign. We want to experience the new life that the Spirit breathes into us so that we too can give shape to that future

but we don't really want our present condition disturbed too much.

Break through our resistance and our fear O God, with your perfect and all-reaching love;

**so that we may hear and respond to your call, your promises,
your leadership in our lives with heightened enthusiasm and deepened faith.**

Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you;

help us when we hesitate, and strengthen us where we are weak.

Blow your Spirit afresh into our hearts and minds

so that we have courage to follow Jesus wherever he leads us. Amen.

**Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us!
Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us!
Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us!**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

“God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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 the 1st verse of "God Is Here!"

Our 'confession' in the Presbyterian Church is a 'corporate' or 'communal' statement of our general and specific offenses against God and one another.

Today we are led in a 'responsive' Prayer of Confession which reminds us of the great faith of Abraham. We look for inspiration to overcome our failure to follow God's call to us.

The "Kyrie Eleison" is a three phrase prayer seeking the mercy (eleison) of the "Kyrie," which is the latin word for "Lord." The prayer is simultaneously a petition and a prayer of thanksgiving; an acknowledgment of what God has done, what God is doing, and what God will continue to do.

Having confessed our sin and realized God's forgiveness the church gathered is prepared to hear the Word of God read and proclaimed.

"The Proclamation of God's Word" is central in the life of the worshipping community. This 'proclamation' includes the reading of scripture, the sharing of an anthem or musical expression of the day's theme, the Time With The Young Church and the preaching of the Word.

The J.O.Y. Choir is singing an anthem based on Philippians 4:8-9 entitled "Everything Good" by composer Don Schlosser.

Our LOGOS choir will share a "Lenten" anthem entitled "For Things That I Do Wrong" by Michael Bedford. In the mood of Lent it is a song that seeks forgiveness and direction from our God who is 'there to show the way.'

Our "Hymn of Response," "Nicodemus Sought Out Jesus" is by Presbyterian hymnist Carol Winfrey Gillette and written of this 2nd Sunday of Lent. The tune is the very familiar 'Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.'

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 12:1-4a

(OT: p. 10)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be To God!

ANTHEM

"Everything Good"

Schlosser

(based on Phil. 4:8-9 ^{ab} Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about^d these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

(NT: p.154)

*John 3:1-17

(NT: p. 111)

***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...)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

SPECIAL MUSIC "For Things That I Do Wrong" Bedford

"For things that I do wrong, O Lord, for things I fail to do. Forgive me, Lord, as I forgive others; I put my trust in you. You are with me in my times of need, You guide me through each day. When I cannot see what's best for me, You are there to show the way."

SERMON

"It's A Lot To Ask"

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

***HYMN OF RESPONSE "Nicodemus Sought Out Jesus" Gillette**

(Tune: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing)

"Nicodemus sought out Jesus at a lonely, quiet hour.

He said, "Teacher, God is with you! For in you we see God's power."

Jesus turned and gave an answer filled with challenge and with love:

"You can never see God's kingdom till you're born from heav'n above."

"Born again!" said Nicodemus. "Is that something one can do?"

Jesus said, "Don't be surprised now that you must be born anew.

And it's not by your own doing; wind and Spirit will blow free!

They are not for your controlling; trust in God for what will be."

**God, your Spirit still surprises like an ever-changing wind,
Bringing life and love and justice where despair and death have been.**

May we see your Spirit working as a gift from heav'n above.

Blest, may we then be a blessing to this world that you so love."

*STATEMENT OF FAITH

The kingdom of love is coming because:

**somewhere someone is kind when others are unkind,
somewhere someone shares with another in need,
somewhere someone refuses to hate, while others hate,
somewhere someone is patient - and waits in love,
somewhere someone returns good for evil,
somewhere someone serves another, in love,
somewhere someone is calm in a storm,
somewhere someone is loving everybody.**

Is that someone you? For God

the greatest giver

So loved

the greatest reason

The world

the greatest number)

That he gave

the greatest gift

His only son

the greatest cost

That whoever

the greatest invitation

Believes in him

the greatest condition

Should not perish

the greatest guarantee

But have everlasting

the greatest time

Life

the greatest possession. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH IN MISSION, PRAYER AND GIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, we heard the stories of our world this week.

Hear us as we pray about those times and places
that have lived a lesser good, where conflict has been chosen
over peace. (*Silent prayer*)

We lift our eyes to the hills, from where does our help come?

**Our help comes from you, the maker of heaven and
earth.**

We heard the stories of our world this week.

Hear us as we pray about places of division because of politics
and propaganda, where choices that benefit a few are chosen
over The many. (*Silent Prayer*)

We lift our eyes to the hills, from where does our help come?

**Our help comes from you, the maker of heaven and
earth.**

We 'say what we believe' as another corporate act in the Presbyterian Church. Our declaration of faith is part of our response to the Word as it is preached and heard. Today we are using the a statement of Faith the uses the words of John 3:16 as a guide for our statement of belief.

The "Prayers of the People" are intended to draw us closer to God, to one another, and to all of God's children in the world. We offer God praise, we give God thanks, we lift up our brothers and sisters and finally we pray for ourselves.

Please peruse the prayer concerns and requests on the back of our bulletin for new and continuing prayer needs and concerns.

The "Morning Offering" is another way that we respond to God in thanks for God's Word, Jesus Christ, and for the multitude of God's blessings in our living. We give, of course, to support the church and its mission in the community and in the world, but we also give as a sign and symbol of our recognition that it is God who is the source of all we have and all that we are. (If you give 'electronically' we thank you and encourage you to place one of the 'cards' in the plate as a symbol of that giving.)

Our Hymn of Parting is "I'm Gonna' Live So God Can Use Me" which is a challenge for us as we go into 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.

Thanks to J.O.Y. for leading worship today!

Please join us 'across the way' in the Dining Hall for a time of Fellowship.

We heard the stories of our world this week.
Hear us as we pray about the footprint we make on this world because of our lifestyle,
unsustainable and unjust in a world so poorly divided. *(Silent Prayer)*

We lift our eyes to the hills, from where does our help come?
Our help comes from you, the maker of heaven and earth.

We hear the stories of need around us,
of those in our congregation
of the sick and saddened
of the lost and alone
of the oppressed of mind, body and spirit *(Silent prayer)*
We lift our eyes to the hills, from where does our help come?

**Our help comes from you, the maker of heaven and earth.
who calls us to follow in Lent. Amen.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS OFFERTORY

***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**

Now, as when we began, and always, God is our keeper,
the shade at our right hand.

The sun will not strike us by day,
nor the moon harm us by night.

God will keep us from all evil.
God is our life.

God will keep our going out and coming in,
from this day forward and forevermore

***HYMN OF PARTING NO. 369**

"I'm Gonna Live So"

***BENEDICTION & *CHORAL RESPONSE**

**"Lord, make us more holy, Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy, Until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy, Until we meet again."**

* * * * *

* _ If comfortable, please stand





HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS
This Week at Highlands



Week of March 12 – March 18, 2017

This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship/ JOY Sunday
Monday:	9:00 a.m.	Crafty Ladies
	7:00 p.m.	Crafty Ladies Evening Group
Tuesday:	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Soup and Study
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
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 2nd Sunday in Lent. We continue our Lenten journey hearing the beginning of the story of Abraham and Sarah and listening in on a conversation Jesus has with a man of great curiosity – Nicodemus.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS! CARRY A NAIL: Jesus invites us to take up our crosses and follow him. As a Lenten reminder to follow Jesus on this journey to Holy Week and Easter we invite you to wear a simple cross during the season. You may have your cross from last year, but if you do not have a cross to wear please take a 'cross' from the basket and wear it or carry it during these Lenten days. We are also providing a 'nail' if you would like to carry one during Lent as a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice. When we come on Good Friday night we will use our crosses and nails as a part of our Good Friday "Tenebrae" observance.

OUR LENTEN 'SOUP AND STUDY' WILL BEGIN on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please join us as we study, "Returning Home: Lent in Conversation With Other Faiths."

LOGOS AND WELLNESS ARE ON WEDNESDAY. Our LOGOS theme for the day is "Running on Thirsty". You are invited to bring bottled water for Family Promise. Come and check out the fun we're having on Wednesdays! Wellness and Adult Logos begin at 10 a.m.

HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL IS ENROLLING for the Fall 2017 school year ages 15 months to 4 years old. We are excited to be an outreach of all the great Mission work at Highlands. Providing for a community of children on the campus of Highlands, you truly know God's blessings. Stop by for a tour and meet the staff anytime Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 6:00pm. Tell your family, friends and neighbors about our great pre-school.

EVERY SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP OUR FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE AND FRIENDS DO AN EXCELLENT JOB of keeping the coffee, juice and the plates full of goodies ready for us to enjoy. Let's show our appreciation by making a \$\$ donation in the basket and/or by bringing some baked goods to share, store bought is ok. Would you like to be a part of the Fellowship Team? Speak to Dene Ritter. Thanks!

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY INVOLVED IN AN ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS you are invited to attend the next quarterly series of classes at 9:00 a.m. in the Dining Hall. The topic "The Weapons of Non Violence" will be the subject for 3/19 and 3/26. We would love to see you at this or any of the wonderful Sunday Classes we offer!

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

CALL ALL EGG HUNTERS! Our Annual Egg Hunt will be Sunday, April 9th following fellowship. We hope that all children ages birth to 5th grade will join us for the fun! In order to make this a memorable Highlands activity, we are collecting donations to fill our eggs. Both candy and non-candy items (stickers, stamps, etc.) can be placed in the large tub labeled "Egg Hunt" in the Dining Hall. If you'd also like to donate plastic eggs, those would be greatly appreciated as well.

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. Eight jars of jelly were collected this week. Every grocery order going out of ACS has a jar of HUPC jelly!

YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE IS LOOKING for a few items for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance kits. They are collecting nail clippers (no metal files or emery boards), bars of soap (bath size in wrapper), and toothbrushes (singles in original package). With the help of the youth, fifty packages were recently sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Thanks for your continued love and support of this very basic and much needed program.

THANKS FOR YOUR EXCELLENT SUPPORT OF HAITI!! 30 sponsored children mean sustaining care for the children and staff of the Grace of Mercy orphanage in Haiti. Please remember your monthly pledge and **BE SURE YOUR CHECKS ARE MARKED "SPONSOR FOR HAITI CHILDREN"** to ensure the money goes into the right account.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY'S SERVICE

SPECIAL PRAYERS: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK: JoAn Ewing, Don Hall (Mayo Hospital), Jo Carmichael, Bill Byers, Nancy Hoot, Marilyn Reed, Al Hummel, Bill Duval, Pat Strader, Cathy Pate's son, Hank Greene, Rufus Taylor's brother, Earl Fouraker, 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 and Annette 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: Sigrid Savage, Sarah Shepherd and The Sholar Family.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeter: Twila Baker. Children's Church Leader: David Bauerlein. Nursery Attendant: Kim Arreola.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by Helen Middaugh in loving memory of Joe and Florence Toth.