



A Journey Through Lent

**HIGHLANDS UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

“Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper”

MARCH 5, 2017 -- 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

“We Get To Choose”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word
that comes from the mouth of God.'**

**WELCOME TO
COMMUNION SUNDAY!**

God's people will be gathered today at the table of peace and grace.

Today is the 1st Sunday in the Season of Lent. Our worship begins a journey with Jesus and his followers towards Jerusalem, Holy Week and then Easter.

The Time of Preparation is provided for us to settle ourselves and offer a silent prayer before worship begins. Our music for preparation is a piano arrangement of "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley."

Our Service begins with a **WELCOME** to all who are gathered to worship together. We embrace the opportunity to share the good news of what we are doing outside of the sanctuary which is also our 'worship' and our 'service' to God.

Our "**Call to Worship**" leads into our first corporate prayer as the gathered body of Christ. The 'Gathering Prayer' reflects the themes of the day's worship.

Our first Hymn, "God of Our Life, Through all the Circling Years" which was written for a church's 50th anniversary. It speaks of God's loving care of the church in the past, in the present and as we move forward on our journey of faith into the future.

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

March 5, 2015 – 1st Sunday of Lent

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

"Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper"

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. We pray, seeking God's presence among us as we share the Lord's Supper.)

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

This is Lent:

**a journey; a wilderness; a grounding; a calling;
a presence; a silence; a pilgrimage; a revelation;
a hillside; a tomb-side; a resurrection.**

Our journey has begun.

Turn away from the calls of worldly success.

Repent, and turn back to God.

Turn away from the desire to have what everyone else has.

Repent, and turn back to God.

Turn away from greed and the race for power.

Repent, and turn back to God.

As we enter Lent, may we turn back to God.

**May we seek forgiveness, may we seek healing,
may we seek wholeness.**

May our hearts be renewed in this time of worship.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Responsive)

"Come, hold our journey. Shape our path. Call our souls.

Step out with us.

Come, share our journey. Steer our path. Guard our souls.

Step out with us.

Come, fill our journey. Make holy our path. Hallow our souls.

Step out with us.

We seek to do your will, to share your truth, to sing of your faithfulness, to proclaim the good news,

**as we follow Jesus into the wonder of your kingdom,
praying as he taught us, saying,**

"Our Father who art in heaven, ...Amen."

*HYMN NO. 275

"God Of Our Life"

*If comfortable, please stand

***PASSING THE PEACE** (Please Remain Standing)
May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And 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 "

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

As we enter this season of Lent, we gather to ask God’s forgiveness. We are failed, imperfect people with burdens to bear, secrets in our hearts, and pain in our living. We grieve one another and God in our sin and have no desire to change. But God in Christ promises us that all can be forgiven and redeemed. Let us not yield to the temptation to turn from God, but listen to God’s call to follow in these days of Lent. Let us pray:

Listening God, when we have taken one step too far
and pretend that we play your part in the world,

forgive us.

In the ease of choosing what is ultimately right or wrong
when we know only part of the picture,

forgive us.

Imagining we can make choices for others in our world
because we consider them less powerful than ourselves,

forgive us.

When we have taken one step too far and think ourselves wiser than
we are,

forgive us.

When we choose to turn our backs and ignore the evil that is around
us,

forgive us. Amen

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us.

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Count yourself blessed, you get a fresh start, your slate has been wiped clean. Count yourself blessed, God holds nothing against you –hold nothing back from God. Your guilt is dissolved, your sins have disappeared. Count yourself blessed, you get a fresh start:

Our slate has been wiped clean. Thanks be to God.

“THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

(OT: p. 2)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

In our final ‘gathering act’ we “Pass the Peace” as an act of caring, welcome, and mutual love. In any language, the love of God is translated into peace as we join hands and hearts together. We are re-gathered as a worshipping community with a verse from the Hymn “Blest Be The Tie That Binds.”

Corporate Confession:

In the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition, we do not offer individual confession save for that which we offer in our silent prayers. Our prayer today reminds us that we are not simply individuals but citizens of the world seeking the kingdom of God. Our prayer and the “Assurance of Forgiveness” echo themes present in our Epistle lesson for the day.

The ‘heart’ of our worship is “The Proclamation of God’s Word.”

(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 God’s Word from the Bible).

We stand for the reading of the gospel in a very old tradition of the church. 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.

(On Communion Sundays we invite the young church to remain with us. There is a nursery for the youngest of us.)

The remainder of the service is **"Sharing Our Response to God"** which is our opportunity to respond to the Word read, preached and heard. Which today also includes our gathering at the Table for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Today's Offertory Anthem is an arrangement of the familiar Communion Hymn "For the Bread Which Thou Hast Broken"

On the first Sunday of each month we are invited to gather at the table for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Today we do so in great hopes for peace that comes in the communion of God's people here and around the world. As we receive the elements today we remember that others, both different and the same, are gathered today in the breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Romans 5:12-19

*Matthew 4:1-11

(NT: p. 156)

(NT: p. 3)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

COMMUNION MEDITATION "We Get To Choose"

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD & PREPARATION FOR THE TABLE"

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "For The Bread Which Thou Hast Broken"

*"For the bread which thou hast broken, for the wine which thou hast poured,
For the words which thou hast spoken, Now we give thee thanks, O Lord.*

By this pledge that thou dost love us, By the gift of peace restored,

By thy call to heaven above us, Hallow all our lives, O Lord.

In thy service, Lord, defend us, In our hearts keep watch and ward,

In the world where thou dost send us, Let thy kingdom come, O 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."**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR LENT

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs. We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted. We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child. We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts. We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine. We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us. This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen. (from St. Coumba)

*HYMN AS WE COME TO TABLE NO. 80

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

(The Lord's table is open to all who confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.)

As we begin this Lenten journey, Jesus pauses with us here, at the table of grace, so that we might be fed.

We gather, forgiven, in the blessing of his presence in our midst. We embrace the call and gather at the table.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of discipleship be with you.

And also with you.

Let us begin our Lenten journey with open hearts.

We offer them to the One who walks with us.

Let our voices resound with thanksgiving to the One who shows us faithful care.

We rejoice in our God of hope and love.

You held nothing back, Gardener of grace, as the Spirit led creation into the hinterlands of nothingness:

spreading rich soil in the valleys, planting seedlings and flower bulbs, making mountains from river clay, sprinkling water over everything. Mornings came in Eden's beauty, all that wonder and goodness given for your children, but we listened to evil's whispers, believing those lies so easily told. Like a crew launching a boat to rescue those who are adrift, prophets came, counseling us to let go of our stubbornness and return to your side, but with our eyes wide open, we followed that path which took us away from the middle of the garden. So you sent Jesus to us, that free gift of grace for all. With the faithful who have gone before us, with companions through this journey today, we offer glad songs of deliverance: So, we join our voices with those who call out to you in every age, singing of your hopes for us:

(No. 581 Sung) **"Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest; Hosanna in the highest."**

You alone are holy, Hope of our lives, and Jesus Christ is your blessed righteousness. When we got what we wanted in knowing both good and evil, he came, so we might receive what we need most - your grace. When we left the garden to enter the desert of temptation, he came to show us the path back to your heart. When we had given control of our lives to sin and death, he came, to break their hold on us as he was resurrected from the grave. As we begin to follow him to Jerusalem, as we would choose to embrace his suffering, we speak of that free gift called faith:

(No. 582, Sung) **"Dying, you destroyed our death; Rising, You restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory."**

You hold nothing back from us as the Spirit comes to rest on the gifts of the bread and the cup, so that those gathered might be fed. And when our journeys in and out of the wildernesses of the world are ended, you will gather us around the great Feast of the Lamb, where we will sing glad songs of joy to you,

(No. 584, Sung) **"Amen, Amen."**

"The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving" is shared from the table and acts as a 'blessing' or 'grace' as we gather. This prayer recounts God's gracious creative power, our sinfulness and Christ's coming to redeem us and make us whole.

The 'table' is not an altar for sacrifice, but a table upon which are symbols of Christ's body and blood given freely for us. We believe that Christ is the 'lamb of God' sacrificed for us once and for all on the cross.

The Words of Institution are a scriptural evidence of the sharing of the Lord's Supper in the very early church. "Instituted" means in this case to be established as the norm for future use. These words with some variation have been used throughout the history of the church to bring the present-day table into the context of Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

We are a 'communal' fellowship of believers, therefore we will receive and hold the elements and 'commune' (eat and then drink) together. As we wait, we will be offered concerns for our silent prayers.

We share our "Prayer of Dedication" as we acknowledge the presence of Christ in the meal and the spiritual nourishment offered us in the sacrament.

As we 'go into the world' we are charged and blessed with words of encouragement to take with us into our week ahead.

The 'Benediction' offers the final 'good words' said over God's people as they continue to worship in their living day by day.

After worship we invite you to our time of Fellowship in the Dining Hall. Join us!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE MEAL

(Elders will bring the elements and it is our tradition to receive them, hold them, and commune together. Please say, as you pass the bread, "This is Christ's Body for You," and as you pass the cup, "This is Christ's blood for you.")

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

"Loving God, source of all blessing, we give you thanks for inviting us to share this meal as your family. Strengthen us to be a blessing to one another and a blessing to all the world, glorifying you in all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

*CHARGE AND BLESSING (responsive)

We have been called to join the way:
to move out into the world,

To make the choice for God,
and trust God's grace is always with us.

As we go into the world,
**May our lives be a blessing as we are blessed with life,
Our words be full of hope as we have been hope-filled,
Our dealings just as we have been justly dealt,
And our faith a journey as we journey in faith.**

Go in peace,
**in faith,
in love,
to serve God,
and journey in God's presence. Amen!**

*HYMN OF PARTING NO. 81 "Lord, Who Throughout..."

*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 5 – March 11, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Sunday School Worship Confirmation Class and PYC at 5:30 p.m.
Monday:	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Crafty Ladies Committee Meetings
Wednesday:	10:00 a.m. 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Wellness Series (Yoga at 10 a.m. & Adult Logos at 11 a.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 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT. LENT IS A SEASON OF FORTY DAYS, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencen*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to 'take something on' like volunteering and giving of themselves for others. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

A HUGE THANKS TO OUR DEAR FRIEND MARGE RODDY for playing for us today. Gibson was taken ill and Marge has come to our rescue. Thank you Marge!

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 March 14. (Dr. Dave will be in NC this week.) Please join us as we study, "Returning Home: Lent in Conversation With Other Faiths."

CHURCH COMMITTEES MEET ON MONDAY AT 7 p.m. Want to be more involved in the life of the church? Join a committee. ALL of our committees are looking for new faces!

LOGOS AND WELLNESS ARE ON WEDNESDAY. Our LOGOS theme for the day is "Follow Your Leader". You are invited to bring a memory from a long trip you've taken. 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. Next week's class will be about, "Where Is God When Disaster Strikes?" Other topics in this quarter will include: Medical Ethics, Pro Life/ Pro Choice, Spiritual Disciplines for Different Personalities, The Weapons of Non-Violence, Gun Control, Mormons, and What Do Presbyterians Believe. We would love to see you there!

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

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**. We delivered ten gift bags this week. Thanks for all the gifts and especially the beautiful crocheted baby blankets! Our goal is 20 gift bags and we will meet that goal again with your 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. Seven 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, 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 Anette 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: The Sasser Family, Pat Saunders and Kristen Savage.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeter: Diane Beirne. Nursery Attendant: Rhiannon Parker.