



**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

JANUARY 1, 2016

“Sojourners”

“The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper”

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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‘Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to
Egypt,’ Matthew 2:14

(This column and these notes are intended to enhance our worship with some inspiration and information.)

The Music and Time of Preparation is provided for us to settle ourselves and offer a quiet prayer before worship begins. Today's music is entitled "Epiphany" which is a composition by Matt Moore. It is a colorful expression of the explosion of light and life in the world as news of the Christ Child becomes known.

Today is the First Sunday of Christmas. Christmastide is a 12 day 'season' that goes from Christmas Day to Epiphany which is January 6. Traditionally the Epiphany is the Celebration of the coming of the light. It also represents the stories of the 'good news' going into all the world. Some years this Sunday is about Wise Men. This year we hear the story of the family of Jesus sojourn into Egypt.

Our 'Gathering Prayer' invites us to enter into a 'sacred place' with God who calls us and invites us to worship.

**HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
January 1, 2016 – 1st Sunday of Christmas**

"WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP"

MUSIC AND TIME OF PREPARATION *Mission Yearbook – P.*
(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. May we also prepare our hearts as we come to the table.)

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME AS WE GATHER & SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT
"Greensleeves" Purvis

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Angels Unfurl Their Wings
Roadways Straighten
Stars Slide
Brokenness Heals
Time Hesitates
Creation Bows
Promise Whispers
Blind Folk See

Darkness Fades

Deserts Bloom
Captives Walk Out
Valleys Fill
Flesh Stretches
Yokes Are Broken
Prisoners Go Free
And Straw Makes A Bed

For Those Who Hold Their Breath....And in Wonder Know....

CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN! CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!

Christmas is here in us! Let us Worship!

***GATHERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray together:

Creative Spirit of life and love, we have gathered in this sacred place, at the start of a new year. May we continue to create here a circle of love, ever expanding, ever growing. A place of wisdom. A place of connection. A place of hope.

A place where the light of your Word shines through.

Here us, Lord, as we pray the prayer Christ 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. 22 “Angels From The Realms of Glory”**

***PASSING THE PEACE (please remain standing)**

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:**

**“Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart, and soul, and voice;
Come ye one and come ye all, embrace the faith that does enthrall;
Jesus Christ will come to save!
Calls you one and calls you all To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ will come to save! Christ will come to save!”**

“WE CONFESS OUR SIN AND SHARE OUR GIFTS”

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsively)**

We gather today as seekers. Seekers of the light. Seekers of truth. Seekers of comfort and joy. Seekers of peace. Seekers of the Christ child. Seekers of the WORD made flesh. Christ Jesus comes to us, abides with us as Lord, Emmanuel. Let us pray that we, as followers of a promise, might be also seekers of justice and mercy.

**Lord of all, we come seeking today. But even as we do so
we know that we seek to live in this world on our own
terms. We want our faith package and wrapped like
Christmas gifts, which we can open, keep what we want,
and exchange the rest for something that pleases us more.
Forgive us, lord, for so easily accepting from you the
greatest of all gifts, but so easily allowing that gift to be put
on a shelf out of sight and out of mind. Help us, to embrace
your gift and be enlightened by the light it brings to our
living. Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” The good news comes blazing to us like the sun. In Jesus Christ, the babe of Bethlehem, the bright and morning star, the Word Incarnate, we are forgiven. Amen”

Thanks be to god. Hallelujah!

***THE GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 579)**

“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 Carol, “Angels From the Realms of Glory” rings out the good news of Christmas and invites us to “Come and Worship, Worship Christ the New Born King!”

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 final two verses of “I Come With Joy.”

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.

“WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD”

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

“**The Proclamation of God’s Word**” is central in the life of the worshipping community.

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

Today’s ‘special music’ is a solo piece by Alfred Burke, “Some Children See Him” which speaks to the different ways Jesus is perceived around the world. No matter what the perception, for all Jesus is ‘love that’s born on Christmas night.’

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.

In the Reformed Tradition the portion of worship that follows the Proclamation of the Word is how we, having heard the Word read and preached, respond to that word in the remainder of worship, as in our Offering, and also as we go into the world.

Today we also respond to the Word in the Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-16

(OT, p. 690)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Some Children See Him”

Burke

Solo, Patt Martin-McNorton

“Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night.

Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown, The Lord of heav’n to earth come down.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown, with dark and heavy hair.

Some children see Him almond-eyed, this Savior whom we kneel beside.

some children see Him almond-eyed, with skin of yellow hue.

Some children see Him dark as they, sweet Mary’s Son to whom we pray.

Some children see him dark as they, and, ah! they love Him, too!

The children in each different place will see the baby Jesus’ face like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace, and filled with holy light.

O lay aside each earthly thing and with thy heart as offering, come worship now the infant King. ‘Tis love that’s born tonight!”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

*Matthew 2:13-23

(NT: p.)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH INTERLUDE

(All children, ages 4 through 2nd 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 #207.)

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“Sojourners”

"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"

WE OFFER OURSELVES, OUR CONCERNS AND OUR SERVICE

OFFERING GIFTS TO GOD OFFERTORY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Giving God we come to you on a journey of faith bringing with us our humble gifts.

With adoring shepherds and gift bearing magi we come offering ourselves.

And even as we give we know that you give far more.

Life and light and flesh dwelling with us full of grace and truth.

Most of all we bring to you our thanks for your great love for us all.

Alleluia! Amen!

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*COMMUNION HYMN NO. 68 "What Star is This?" (vss. 1-2)

Invitation to the Table (responsive)

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

He is our light and our life.

The Lord of light invites us to come to the table and find here grace in bread and cup.

We come to taste and to see the goodness of the Lord.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer"

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord,

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for making your love evident since the very beginning of time when you spoke the word which replaced the darkness of chaos with life-giving light. A light which has nurtured generations of people, and plants and creatures, great and small. A light which also revealed the fear and powerlessness caused by corrupt and evil actions. And so you spoke the Word which would once and for all dispel the darkness of chaotic lives. Through your love for the world the Word became flesh and lived among us full of grace and truth. The angels caroled glory to you in the highest heavens and peace to all people on earth, and we join with them and with all people to praise your holy name :

**(sung) Angels sang about His birth, Wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.**

Holy God, as the travelers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we also are overwhelmed on finding out the depth of his love for us. For Jesus showed just how beloved we are to him, by loving us and giving himself for us.

**(sung) Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, But no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!**

Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, O God, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh - Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit in us that we may be one body with him - living out his ministry in the world today and every day. This we pray in Jesus' name.

Come, Lord, Jesus, Amen.

In the Presbyterian tradition all who claim and call upon Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited and encouraged to gather with the church at the table in a communal act of acknowledging the saving grace of Christ.

"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.

It is in Christ that we have HOPE for the PEACE that is to come in the fulfillment of Christ promise and presence with us.

The Words of Institution area 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.

Today we will come forward down the center aisle, receive communion by 'intinction' which means we will take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup to commune. Elders will be stationed on the right or left. After pausing to commune you will return down the side aisles. Please pause for a moment at the blanket stand to offer prayers over the prayer blanket being dedicated today.

Our parting hymn is the remainder of "What Star is This?" which embraces the theme of Epiphany.

[Thanks to all who have helped to make God's house a welcoming reminder of the way all creation sings to God's glory in the Advent and Christmas promise of the one who comes to us.]

All are invited to come 'across the way' to our Dining Hall for a time of Fellowship following our Service of Worship.

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements (Intinction)

Prayer of Dedication

"God of goodness, guide us with your light, help us to recognize Christ in this meal of grace and welcome him with love, for he is our Lord now and always. In the name of the world's light we pray, Amen."

*COMMUNION HYMN NO. 68 "What Star is This?" (vss. 3-4)

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Where are we going?

We go to befriend the lonely.

Where are we going?

We go to heal the sick.

Where are we going?

We go to feed the hungry.

What are we going to do?

We are going to celebrate the Christmas born in us!

Let us go, then, to be God's presence in our world,
to journey with those who need to know that

they are not alone.

And know that God – companion of the sojourner, friend of the sinner,
and comforter of the lost – will be with you wherever you go.

*RESPONSE:

**"For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets bards foretold,
when with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold:
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors sing,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing!"**

*POSTLUDE

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so

HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS

This Week at Highlands

Week of January 1 – January 7, 2017



This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday:	Office will be closed	

"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

WELCOME TO ALL ON THIS FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS which is also New Years Day! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year is the greeting of the Day. Today we embrace the joy of Christmas, hear a story of Epiphany, celebrate a New Year opening to us and come, together, to the table of grace. We are glad you are here this morning.

WE WISH TO THANK YOU ALL FOR ANOTHER WONDER FILLED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS HERE AT HUPC! So many people work so hard to assure that together our congregation has the opportunity to full hear the story, to worship, to enjoy the emotions, to taste the goodness, and to once again learn of God's intention to life us up out of darkness into the glorious light of the coming to us of Jesus to save us. Please take a moment to say thanks to our church leadership, to our musicians, our children and youth, our Fellowship, Nurture and Worship committees, and to one another for your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your love.

THE POINSETTIAS IN THE SANCTUARY WERE BEAUTIFUL, but now it is time for them to find a new home. Please pick up your poinsettias after service today. Rumor has it that you can plant them on the north side of your home and they will grow and bloom again next year – it may be worth a try. (Thanks once again to Lyle and Jan Sim for securing our Poinsettias for us, not once, but twice this year!)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

LOGOS AND WELLNESS IS WILL BE BACK ON JANUARY 11, 2017. We looking forward to seeing you in the new year!

YOUR 2017 FLOWER CHART is posted in the Dining Hall. The cost for 2017 is \$30.00 per week. The additional \$5.00 will help defray costs for 'special occasion' flowers. Thanks. You can also pick up some **Offering Envelopes for 2017.**

PLEASE BRING YOUR 2017 STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION. Your Church Resources and Management Committee would appreciate your doing so as soon as possible. We are working on the budget for 2017 and need your pledges as soon as you can turn them in. Thanks for your love and support of HUPC.

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

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

MICAH'S VOLUNTEERS ARE PACKING, PACKING, PACKING!!! 51 kids!!! We never thought we would need more instant oatmeal or granola bars, but we are really 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. Seven jars of jelly were collected this week. Every grocery order going out of ACS has a jar of HUPC jelly! Now that's MISSION!!

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 means sustaining care for the children and staff of the Grace of Mercy orphanage in Haiti.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY'S SERVICE

SPECIAL PRAYERS: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK: Bill Byers, Jan Walters, 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.), Lamar Lewis, 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: John and Kristy Morrison and family, Mark and Ginny Morrison and Sam Morrison.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: The Prewitt Family.