



## **HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

### **SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

January 9, 2017

“J.O.Y. Sunday”  
Baptism of the Lord Sunday

“It’s the Name...”

### **HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor  
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<sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16-17)

Today we celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday which is in the season of Epiphany. We welcome the leadership of J.O.Y. (Jubilant Offerings of Youth).

Music as we prepare for worship is a selection called "Baptized in Water" by Timothy James Ueker who says, "Life came into existence by a song, at least that's what the poets say in the Book of Genesis. I gather that sometimes the music was loud and aggressive (like the Big Bang theorists talk about), sometimes it was soft, slow, even seemingly motionless in its evolution, like a gentle wave that changes the landscape by its ebb and flow. Any way that the song might've been sung, the poets say that 'It was Good!'. "

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 "God Is Here" which was written by Fred Pratt Green a British hymnist. In the first three words of the hymn, "God Is Here," we acknowledge something that so often we forget—God is here in worship and calls us first. We thank God for the gifts in the church, through Christ, and remember together that we bring thanks to God for the "varied skills and arts" as we invoke the "coming of the Spirit" into "open minds and hearts."

# HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## A Celebration of Worship

January 9, 2017 – J.O.Y. and Baptism of the Lord 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

"

#### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

God's voice thunders...

God's voice is powerful...

God's voice flashes forth flames of fire...

God's voice shakes the wilderness...

**We give glory and praise to our great God!**

God blesses the people with peace...

God gives us strength in our weakness...

God refreshes us in the waters of Baptism...

**Come, let us worship God.**

#### \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Responsively)

Loving God, you breathe your Spirit into us to remind us that we are your beloved people.

**This is good news!**

You send your Spirit to teach us how to make strangers and enemies into beloved friends.

**This is good news!**

As we received your good news, help us become good news for others. Guide us into the ways of peace in the name of Jesus who teaches 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. 461

**"GOD IS HERE!"**

\*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)**

The psalmist tells us that the One whose voice can knock trees to the ground listens to our hesitant prayers which speak of our sin, of how we have hurt others, as well as God. Join me, as we pray to the One who will bless us with peace and forgiveness:

You would have all people hear of your grace, Servant God,  
**but we hinder your efforts by hoarding your Word for ourselves.**

You would have hope flow through our neighborhoods,  
**but we thwart your plans by damming it up in our hearts.**

You would have us skip into your kingdom,  
**but we frustrate your future by clinging so tightly to those grudges we have carried for so long.**

Have mercy on us, Shaker of our wildernesses, and unlock the shuttered doors of our hearts.

**Remind us that at our baptism you touch us with the waters of life, promise to be with us always, and call us your beloved, even as you sang your joy to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, at the waters of the Jordan.**

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

### **\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

You know the good news God has proclaimed to you: we are called to let go of the past, and to walk, hand in hand with the Spirit, into the kingdom.

**God forgives us, accepts us, and sends us forth to do good, and to testify about the One who baptizes us in the water and the Spirit. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **\*THE GLORIA PATRI**

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen."

In our final 'gathering act' we "**Pass the Peace**" as an act of caring, welcome, and mutual love. Please remain standing as we sing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

We practice **.Corporate Confession.** In the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition. We do not offer individual confession save for that which we offer in our silent prayers. We believe that we are a community of faith and as such share in the sins of all. We are "Called to Confession" as a reminder of our individual and communal sin. Our "Confession and Pardon" gives expression to our desire to know forgiveness. The "Kyrie Eleison" is a choral bridge between our prayers and the "**Assurance of Forgiveness**" which declares our forgiveness. Finally, we give praise to our triune God for the assurance that we are, by grace, forgiven.

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

**"The Proclamation of God's Word"** is central in the life of the worshipping community.

(We use the 'common lectionary' which is a guide the 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).

The Anthem for the day is also an opportunity, through sacred music, to give reflection and interpretation to the spoken word.."

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 this "Baptism of the Lord" Sunday we will share an "Affirmation of Belonging, Baptismal Remembrance and Calling." We claim God's claim on us in calling us by name. We respond to God's claim in how we live and in what we do. We will be invited to come to the font and touch the water and 'remember our baptism' as an occasion of the verbalization an realization' of God's call and claim upon our living.

## **"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"**

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Isaiah 42:1-9

(OT: p. 670)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be To God!**

### **ANTHEM**

### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Acts 10:34-43

(NT: p. 129)

\*Matthew 3:13-17

(NT: p. 3)

### **TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH**

#### **INTERLUDE**

(In the 11 a.m. service, all children, ages 4 through 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.)

### **SERMON**

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## **"SHARING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD"**

### **\*HYMN OF RESPONSE**

#### **"Christ When For Us You Were Baptized"**

(Tune: Azmon)

**Christ, when for us You were baptized, God's Spirit on You came,  
As peaceful as a dove and yet As urgent as a flame.**

**God called You "My beloved Son," the suffering servant true,  
Sent You the kingdom to proclaim, God's holy will to do.**

**Straight-way and steadfast until death you then obeyed God's call  
Freely as Son of Man to serve and give Your life for all.**

**Baptize us with Your Spirit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,  
That, likewise in God's service, we may perfect freedom find.**

### **\*AFFIRMATION OF BELONGING, BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE AND CALLING**

God creates all beings; God created you! And God says...

**"You are the delight of my life!"**

God delights in all beings; God delights in you! And God says...

**"You are the delight of my life!"**

God breathed the divine spirit into all beings; God breathed divinity into you! And God says...

**"You are the delight of my life!"**

God calls us all to live justly and fairly; and God says...

**"You are the delight of my life!"**

Before all time, beyond all time, God says...

**"You are the delight of my life!"**

God calls us to the water to find a new way:

a new grace, a new hope, a new faith, a new life.

**God calls; we come.**

Come to the water and let go of the outworn:

outworn habits, outworn pains, outworn angers,  
outworn burdens.

**God calls; we come.**

God blesses the water and it heals us, cleans us, renews us,  
refreshes us.

**God blesses; we praise.**

Come to the water and receive blessing, freedom, mercy, love.

**God blesses; we praise.**

Come to the water to remember your baptism and to allow  
God's Spirit to flow over you once again.

**God blesses, we praise.**

Let us pray:

**Our Gracious God, you sent the Spirit to move over  
the waters of chaos to bring forth cosmos. Your  
Spirit moves in the waters of the womb to bring forth  
life. Your Spirit rains and pours and floods in rivers  
and oceans and veins cleansing, purifying, anointing  
all creation for your service.**

In the waters of our Baptism your call and claim upon us was  
being formed. Nurtured in us it comes to fruition when your  
people confirm what you have done in and through us.

**All praise be to our 'calling God' who offers us grace;  
who nurtures the young and cares for the old;  
who offers comfort in our pain and solution to  
our ills; who recognizes need and sends us,  
the church, to respond; who calls us by our  
name and claims us in Baptismal joy.**

Walk with us, Lord, down to the rivers of our lives, so that we  
can be renewed and refreshed and restored to wholeness and  
health,

**Always living to serve you. Amen.**

**\*WE SING**

**"Down To The River To Pray"**

***As I went down to the river to pray, Studyin' about that good old way,  
And who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way,  
O sisters, let's go down, Let's go down, come on down,  
O sisters, let's go down, Down to the river to pray.***

***As I went down to the river to pray, Studyin' about that good old way,  
And who shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord, show me the way,  
O brothers, let's go down, Let's go down, come on down,  
O brothers, let's go down, Down to the river to pray.***

Even if we have not been physically baptized we are claimed by God and invited to come and touch the water as a promise of what is to come.

As we sing 'Down to the River to Pray' we will be by coming forward to 'touch the water' in the font." For those unable to come forward the 'waters' will be brought to you. We will also be bringing the morning offering forward and placing it in the basket at the font.

*As I went down to the river to pray, Studyin' about that good old way,  
And who shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord, show me the way,  
O fathers, let's go down, Let's go down, come on down,  
O fathers, let's go down, Down to the river to pray.*

*As I went down to the river to pray, Studyin' about that good old way,  
And who shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord, show me the way,  
O mothers, let's go down, Let's go down, come on down,  
O mothers, let's go down, Down to the river to pray.*

*As I went down to the river to pray, Studyin' about that good old way,  
And who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way,  
O sinners, let's go down, Let's go down, come on down,  
O sinners, let's go down, Down to the river to pray.*

*As I went down to the river to pray, Studyin' about that good old way,  
And who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way.*

As we share our Prayer of Dedication and Commitment we remember all of our congregation and others who we lift before God in prayer. Please be in prayer this week for those who are listed on the last page of the bulletin.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Baptized to begin lives of faith,  
**we would witness to all you do in our communities,  
in our midst, in our world.**

Baptized to serve,  
**we would speak up for the voiceless,  
we would bring justice to those who have none.**

Baptized to speak,  
**we would heal, and not hurt;  
we would bless, and not curse.**

Baptized to do what is right,  
**we would not play favorites,  
but treat each as your Beloved.**

Go to live new lives steeped in the promises of God, and do not weary in doing what is right. Trust that the God who creates all things new will never abandon you or forsake you, but will guide you and keep you always.

**We go in peace.**

Thanks be to God.

**Amen!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE**

**"Baptized in Water"**

(Tune: Morning Has Broken)

**"Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,  
Marked with the sign of Christ, our King;  
Born of the Spirit, We are God's children,  
Joyfully now God's praises we sing."**

\* \* \* \* \*

\*If comfortable, please stand

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



**HIGHLANDS' HIGHLIGHTS**  
This Week at Highlands



**Week of January 8 – January 14, 2017**

**This Week's Calendar of Events:**

|                   |                         |  |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Today:</b>     | <b>9:00 a.m.</b>        | <b>Sunday School</b>                       |
|                   | <b>10:00 a.m.</b>       | <b>Worship / Joy Sunday</b>                |
| <b>Monday:</b>    | <b>7:00 p.m.</b>        | <b>Committee Meetings</b>                  |
| <b>Wednesday:</b> | <b>10:00 a.m.</b>       | <b>Wellness Series</b>                     |
|                   |                         | (Yoga at 10 a.m. & Adult Logos at 11 a.m.) |
|                   | <b>4:00 – 7:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Logos</b>                               |
|                   | <b>7:15 p.m.</b>        | <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>                     |
| <b>Thursday:</b>  | <b>7:30 p.m.</b>        | <b>Handbell Rehearsal</b>                  |
| <b>Friday:</b>    | <b>9:00 a.m.</b>        | <b>Quilting and Sewing Group</b>           |

**“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 1<sup>ST</sup>** 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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY** and we welcome **J.O.Y.** to lead us in worship. Jesus Baptism and God's claim on him declaring him to be 'beloved' allows us to faithfully seek and claim God's blessing upon us. We are God's own people and today we will remember our baptism.

**THE LITURGICAL DECORATION** for the day, in blue, reminds us that the love and grace of God flow to us from the Word and Sacrament. As the stream of God's love, in the water, connect table to font we are reminded that the Baptism of Jesus takes place as a sign and symbol of his own willingness to go into death so that we might have life. This blue represents the 'living waters' of our faith in which we find a cleansing symbol of the love of God which flows over us in the grace of Jesus.

**THE POINSETTIAS IN THE SANCTUARY WERE BEAUTIFUL,** but now it is time for them to find a new home. Please take yours home today if you haven't already done so. Thanks!

**LOGOS AND WELLNESS ARE BACK ON WEDNESDAY OF THIS WEEK.** Our LOGOS theme for the day is "Hair We Go Again" and we're invited to wear our craziest hair do.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**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 28<sup>th</sup>** 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. Twelve 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:** JoAan 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.), 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://hupcjax.org) under "Contact Us") or by notifying your Shepherd.

**FAMILIES WE ARE PRAYING FOR THIS WEEK:** Jim Moss, Debra Nord and Regan and Kelly Norton and family.

**OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE:** Greeter: Jane Bauerlein. Children's Church Leader: Jessica Sorrells.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE** are given to the glory of God by Bill Byers in memory of Hope Byers.