



**HIGHLANDS UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

2nd Sunday of Lent

"I Reckon' That's Righteous"

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. David Lee, Pastor

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"He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mark 8:34-35)

Today is the 2nd Sunday in the season of Lent. Lent is 40 days, not counting Sundays, beginning with Ash Wednesday and continues through Saturday night of Holy Week. Speaking of Holy Week, have you marked your calendars for the events of March 25 – April 1?

Music, as we prepare for worship, is an arrangement of our first hymn, "The God of Abraham Praise" for piano. This comes from an album called "Come Down O Love Divine" by pianist Fernando Ortega.

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 Call to Worship is based in part on the 2nd half of Psalm 22.

Our opening Hymn is a "The God of Abraham Praise." Arranged Thomas Olivers. One night in London, [Olivers] was attracted to a service in a Jewish synagogue, where he heard a great singer, Leoni, sing an ancient Hebrew melody in the solemn, plaintive mode and he became impressed with a desire to write a hymn to that tune. The result was our hymn, *The God of Abraham Praise*, which in a sense is a paraphrase of the ancient Hebrew Yigdal, or doxology, though Olivers gave to it a distinctly Christian flavor. The story is told of a young Jewish girl who had been baptized into the Christian faith, and in consequence was abandoned by her family. She fled to the home of the minister, poured out her heart to him, and as if to show that, after all, her joy in her new-found Saviour was greater than all her loss of home and family, she sang, "The God of Abraham Praise."

HIGHLANDS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Celebration of Worship

February 25, 2018 – 2nd of Lent

"ENTER WITH REVERENCE TO WORSHIP GOD"

MUSIC AND TIME OF PREPARATION

(Take this opportunity to pause for a moment and pray for God's presence among us today, our worship leaders, those who worship with you and for yourself.)

WELCOME AS WE GATHER & SHARING LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE AND BRINGING THE LIGHT

"WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Which is better? "Faith reckoned as righteousness"
or "Get behind me, Satan."

Jesus says, "pick up your cross and follow."

We continue on our Lenten journey of faith.

Fully convinced that God does what's promised.

Let us glorify God who created all things,

yet who hears and responds to the cries of the weak and the needy.

"And you shall seek me and you shall find me..."

We proclaim the glory of God - ruler over all nations,

whose greatness is revealed in gracious and loving acts.

Let us worship and witness so faithfully that future generations will believe

and glorify God in their hearts and with their lives.

"And you shall seek me and you shall find me..."

We worship and praise God with thanksgiving in our hearts.

*GATHERING PRAYER (In Unison)

"Loving God,

you know us by heart and call us by name.

In this time of worship, help us to trust in your promises

that we might name ourselves proudly as your people

and as followers of Jesus. We pray his prayer together, "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. 488

"The God Of Abraham Praise"

* - If you are 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 flu season appropriate sign of peace.)

*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 AND PARDON"

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.

Today's Anthem is "Lenten Carol" by Mark Robinson. It is a beautiful and plaintive anthem that releases itself in praise of God for the gift of the Lamb who grants us the grace to go with him the 40 days of Lent.

Our "Hymn of Response," "O For A World" looks forward to the reconciliation of heaven and earth when all people will be at peace.

We corporately express our faith and today we use the words of the Apostle's Creed. We use the more modern "ecumenical" version of this ancient creed.

"THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

(OT: p. 13)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

"Lenten Carol"

Robinson

"The days are long, the nights are longer still, Lord, grant to us the will to walk these forty days.

The way is hard, the end is harder yet Lord, help us not forget to mix our cries for help with.

Glory to the Son, who walks these forty days. Walks beside God's people and walks to bring them grace.

Let us voices raise unto the Lamb who saves people whom he shepherds by going to the grave.

We walk as one, and yet we walk alone, Lord, can it be your home lies through this door of death?

And may our journey bring your death to mind, Lord,

grant that we may find re-newed life through the Spirit's breath.

As we journey through this season of Lent, our bodies weary are spent.

Grant us strength to face whatever may be. Grant to us, the grace to witness calvary.

Though private burdens bring our, bring our spirits low, grow from winter's chill to spring.

Amid life's storms and cares weigh down.

Give us your grace profound and teach our wounded souls to sing.

Glory to the Lamb, who dies to set us free. Dies a man of sorrows, for our iniquity.

Walk with us we pray whatever may be and grant to us the grace to witness calvary."

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Romans 4:13-25

(NT: p. 155)

*Mark 8:31-38

(NT: p. 44)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

INTERLUDE

(All children, ages 3 through 1st grade are invited to attend "Children's Church" after "A Time with the Young Church." Their leader will meet them in the back of the sanctuary. They may be picked up after worship in the Family Life Center, room #210.)

SERMON

"I Reckon' That's Righteous"

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

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

"I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen"



*Keeping
a Holy Lent*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (responsive)

When we were determined to remain at war with you,
you sent the Prince of Peace.

When our relationship with you was lying in pieces on the floor,
you offered the broken Bread to restore us to wholeness.

When petty pride stiffens our necks so much we cannot bow down in
your holy presence,
you massage our souls with grace's tender touch.

All: We worship you in joy, God, our God.

When our ears become stuffed with our selves,
you open them with songs of grateful praise.

When our mouths overflow with rich, sweet 'whine,'
you wash them out with living waters of hope.

When all we can say is 'Give me! Give me!'
you challenge us to submit to servant hood.

All: We worship you in sprit, Jesus, Water Giver.

When our souls are empty,
you fill them with living water.

When we are reluctant to follow Jesus,
you steer us in the right direction.

When we are tempted to boast,
your whispers of grace silence us.

All: We worship you in truth, Comforter of our hearts.

When we are lost in loneliness, stifled by convention, crying out in pain,
you come to us again and again.

When we are in need of renewal for our bodies and our spirits,
you break open the flood gates of your grace.

All: Giver of life we offer our prayers to you. 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**

When we follow the world,
God turns us towards the promise.

When we move towards old age,
God moves us towards a new age.

When we sort out our pension,
God sorts out our travel plans.

When we wonder if we get lost in the crowd,
God knows each of us by name.

So go: know that God goes before you,
and is beside us in the journey. Amen.

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.)

The Charge and Blessing reminds us that we do not dwell, here, in this place of worship. We are called to follow Christ as he leads us through these Lenten Days.

Our Hymn of Parting is
"Take Up Your Cross".

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

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

***HYMN NO. 393**

"Take Up Your Cross"

(Tune: Jesus Thou Joy...)

- 1. Take up your cross, the Savior said, If you would My disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart, And humbly follow after Me.**
- 2. Take up your cross, let not its weight Fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up And brace your heart and
nerve your arm.**
- 3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame, And let your foolish heart
be still; The Lord for you accepted death Upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.**
- 4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, And calmly every
danger brave: It guides you to abundant life And leads to victory o'er
the grave.**

***BENEDICTION**

***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 February 25 – March 3, 2018



This Week's Calendar of Events:

<p>Today:</p> <p>Monday:</p> <p>Tuesday:</p> <p>Wednesday:</p> <p>Thursday:</p> <p>Saturday:</p>	<p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>10:00 a.m.</p> <p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>10:00 a.m.</p> <p>4:00 p.m.</p> <p>7:15 p.m.</p> <p>5:30 p.m.</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>7:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Sunday School</p> <p>Worship Service</p> <p>Bring Your "Stuff" After Fellowship</p> <p>Crafty Ladies</p> <p>Quilting and Sewing Group</p> <p>Wellness (Yoga at 10 and Adult Logos at 11)</p> <p>Logos is celebrating 25 years at HUPC</p> <p>Adult Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Packing for Micah's Backpack</p> <p>Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p>Annual Yard Sale and Breakfast</p>
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"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 Second Sunday in the Season of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation, repentance and penitence leading up to our celebration of Holy Week and Easter. Lent is 40 days, beginning on Ash Wednesday, and not counting Sunday's. During Lent we invite you to join in our **Lenten "Soup and Study" on Tuesdays in Lent.** (March 6, 13 and 20). Soup will be ready at 6:30 and the study will begin at 7 p.m. Join us for the Lenten discipline of study, the fellowship and the soup!

NEXT SUNDAY WILL BE A WONDERFULLY BUSY DAY IN THE LIFE OF HUPC. We will share together Word and Sacrament as we come to the table for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We will receive our 'two cents' offering for JEMM during the Time With the Young Church. Our Highlands Handbell Choir will be playing. We will also be sharing together the Service of Ordination and Installation during worship. We welcome the Sessional Class of 2020: Rebecca Briones, John Morrison, Jennifer Terrell, and Julia Wolfson. And at the same time, we express our appreciation to the Sessional Class of 2017: Cat Briones, Audrey Regnier, Helen Middaugh, Christina Trombley, Diane Beirne and Gibson Grimm.

WELLNESS IN ON WEDNESDAYS: Our program begins with seated yoga at 10:00 a.m. and Adult LOGOS follows around 11:00 am. Seated yoga can easily be adapted to anyone's physical interest and we are looking forward to John Smith's usual presentation making Bible study amusing and informative.

WE'RE CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF LOGOS AT HUPC!! We're having a great time at logos – learning a little and laughing a lot; children of all ages are welcome to come and join us! The theme for this week is "Rules, Rules, Rules", and you are invited to bring the weirdest rule or law that you can find to share with your table.

THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS studies many different topics and looks forward to lively conversation. They will be studying "Spirituality" for the next few weeks. Please join us for this interesting and informative class.

FUNDRAISER # 3 BEGINS COLLECTING TODAY: Our PYC will welcome your gifts, your treasures, and your stuff, for their giant yard sale. Please bring items beginning today and leave them in the Dining Hall where each evening this week our PYC and their parents will be sorting and pricing. (If you have a feel for the value of a donated item, please mark it when you drop it off.) Do you need pick up for larger items? Please call Laura at the church. (641-9622) Pick up is usually on Friday evenings. We will have breakfast items on the morning of the sale beginning at 7 a.m. Please donate, shop, pass the word, eat some breakfast and say a prayer or two. Thanks

HEY HIGHLANDS?! HOW WAS THAT CUP OF COFFEE? How about that brownie? Oh, you had some fruit and a cookie too? Your Fellowship Committee and friends loves providing but could use some help. How about a contribution that's financial or from your oven? Want to help, speak to your Sunday morning servers. And most of all, say, **"THANKS!!"**

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

HIGHLANDS PRECIOUS GIFTS PRESCHOOL WILL BE ENROLLING for the Fall 2018 school year. Open Enrollment is now in progress for 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. Tell your friends and family to stop by for a tour and meet the staff anytime Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 6:00pm

WE HAVE SEVERAL MISCELLANEOUS SERVING TRAYS, BOWLS AND LIDS on a table in the fellowship hall. Please stop by and see if anything belongs to you. If it isn't claimed TODAY, it will find its way into the PYC Yard Sale.

HIGHLAND'S BABY SHOWER: In December, your donations of 20 blankets and 42 outfits became much appreciated gifts for 20 newborns here in Jacksonville. Your love and care for these precious babies is a blessing to their families and friends. Many thanks from your Highlands Mission Committee – for more information contact Susan Lee at 887-4661

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES: ACS needs the following items: toothpaste, powdered milk, canned milk, canned pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, canned tomatoes, canned potatoes, peanut butter, jelly- HUPC's specialty, and toilet tissue. Six jars of jelly were collected this week. Every grocery order going out of ACS has a jar of HUPC jelly. **Don't forget your jelly next Sunday!**

UPDATE FROM YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE. We need 15 more 16 X 26-inch hand towels, and especially fingernail clippers without files or tweezers in order to have another "batch" of kits ready to go. Thanks for your help!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED LOVE AND SUPPORT FOR THE CHILDREN OF HAITI. Please make sure your payments are marked "HAITI CHILDREN" to ensure the money goes into the right account.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND TODAY'S SERVICE –

SPECIAL AND ONGOING PRAYERS: PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

IN THE HOSPITAL THIS WEEK: Don Hall is at Mayo.

OUR FRIENDS IN CARE FACILITIES: *At Brookdale Southside:* (9601 Southbrook Dr., Jax, FL 32256); *Hank Green (N-122); At Clare Bridge:* Louise Keen; *At the Atrium (9960 Atrium Way, 32225):* Boyd and Doreen Harris (#528) , Doris Ruby (#219), *Others:* Fay Sweeney (# E10 A) at Cypress Village, 4600 Middleton Park Circle East , Jacksonville, FL 32224).

AT HOME: Nancy Moewe, Kit Fink, Jo and Hoagy Carmichael, Nancy Hoot, Kinzey Reeves, Patty Strader, Marilyn Reed, JoAn Ewing, Bruce and Annette Marley, Gwen Brown, Barbara Ash and Carolyn Starkweather.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Justin Marley (Bruce and Annette's grandson), Kenneth Moon (Barbara's son), Lenwood Lee (Dr. Dave's father), Ashley Parsons (DCE at Orange Park PC), Ed Mallard.

IN THE MILITARY: Jacob Loerop (Jacob.Loerop@CVN68.navy.mil, IT3 Jacob Loerop CVN 68 USS Nimitz Unit 100103 Box 1771 FPO AP 96620. Amelia Powell (amelia.powell@cwv7.navy.mil) AT2 Powell, Amelia N., VAQ-140, Unit 200107 Box 142, FPO AP 96601.

PRAYER BEARS: Prayer Bears and Caring Critters are available in the Fellowship Hall after each service.

MEMBER CARE: Bev Connell is our **Prayer Ministry Coordinator**. Bev's number is **(904) 868-9659**. Her email address is bevconn2016@gmail.com. Please contact Bev with your prayer request. As always, prayer requests can be made as well by calling the church office, completing the gray slips in the church pews, using the church website (hupcjax.org under "Contact Us") or by notifying your Shepherd.

FAMILIES WE ARE PRAYING FOR THIS WEEK: Rhiannon Parker, Cathie Pate and Lee and Lori Perdew.

OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MORNING ARE: Greeters: Jim and Jan Walters. Children's Church Leader: Chad Sambito.

THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God by Bob and Belinda Abbott.