

## DEPART TO SERVE GOD

\*Hymn #295

"O God of Love, O God of Peace"

[Adapted]

1 O God of love, O God of peace,  
Make wars throughout the world to cease;  
The anger of nations now restrain:  
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

2 Remember, Lord, your works of old,  
The wonders that your people told;  
Remember not our sin's deep stain:  
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

3 Whom shall we trust but you, O Lord?  
Where turn to but your faithful Word?  
None ever called on you in vain:  
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

\*Benediction

\*Closing Response

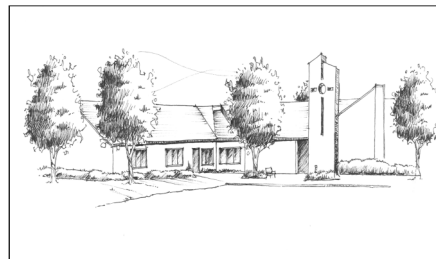
#537

**Farewell good friends, farewell good friends, shalom, shalom!  
Till we meet again, till we meet again, shalom, shalom.**

Postlude

*There will be a very brief Congregational Meeting immediately after worship. You are encouraged to attend before going to the Family Room for fellowship and refreshments.*

*Reverend Botts' sermons may be read online at [highlands-Presbyterian.org](http://highlands-Presbyterian.org).*



**Growing in Faith, Knowing Christ's Teaching, Showing God's Love**  
**Highlands Presbyterian Church, September 24, 2017, 10:30 a.m.**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Peace Sunday

**Thought for the Day:** "I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality." (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

*Welcome and Announcements*

### GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

*Prelude*

*Call to Worship*

One: Our world is overwhelmed with suffering and despair;

**All: Lord, focus our minds and hearts on your compassion.**

One: Our world is rife with greed, oppression, and exploitation:

**All: Lord, focus our hearts and minds on your sense of justice.**

One: Our world is filled with violence and hatred everywhere:

**All: Lord, focus our hearts and minds on your spirit of peace.**

*Opening Prayer*

\*Hymn #274

"O God of Earth and Space"

*Prayer of Confession*

*(spoken and silent)*

**Lord, we admit to being so shaped by the values of this age that your call on our lives goes unheeded. Transform us so that we are directed by your concern for the unloved and unlovely, and for the weak and powerless. Challenge us to respond to your priorities and not simply those convenient for us. Forgive us, O God, that we might be guided each day by Christ.**

(We pray our silent prayers of confession) Amen. **Amen.**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*Assurance of Pardon*

One: Though our lives are often a trail of sins, God's love continues to reach out to us in acceptance. We are restored to wholeness because the Lord cares and forgives. Thanks be to God!

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

*\*Our Response*

#280

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

*\*Passing the Peace*

One: Since God has forgiven us in Jesus Christ, let us forgive and greet one another...the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*The children and youth may leave for Sunday School.*

**PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

*Mission Moment*

CROP Walk

Kris Watts

*Prayer for Illumination*

*First Reading*

II Corinthians 5:17-20

*Second Reading*

Matthew 5:9-12

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon*

*"The Difficult Path to Peace"*

Rev. Ronald Botts

*\*Hymn #386*

"O for a World"

**GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

*\*Our Affirmation of Faith*

*from Colossians 1*

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven.**

*Bringing Our Gifts*

*Offertory*

*\*Doxology*

#88 Adapted

**All glory, praise, and honor to you, O God, we bring.  
We raise our song before you and let our voices ring!  
To you before all others our offerings we present;  
And gladly share our bounty, fulfilling your intent.**

*\*Prayer of Dedication*

**Lord, receive these offerings in grateful response to your many gifts to us. May we reflect your generosity in all our dealings with others, as Christ is our example. Take and use us in your service. Amen.**

*Call to Prayer*

*Sharing Our Joys and Concerns*

*Prayers of the People*

*The Lord's Prayer*

**...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.**