

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.

DEPART TO SERVE GOD

*Hymn #411

"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

*Benediction

*Closing Response

#2166

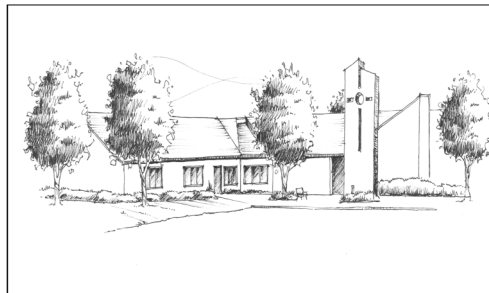
**Christ beside me, Christ before me;
Christ behind me - King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me – never to part.**

Postlude



Please join us in the Family Room for fellowship and refreshments.

Reverend Botts' sermons may be read online at highlands-Presbyterian.org.



Growing in Faith, Knowing Christ's Teaching, Showing God's Love
Highlands Presbyterian Church, October 22, 2017, 10:30 a.m.
20th Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Sabbath

Thought for the Day: "So long as little children are allowed to suffer, there is no true love in this world." (Isodore Duncan)

Welcome and Announcements

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: Come, praise God who has made each child in the Creator's image.

All: We will praise God by recognizing each child's sacred worth.

One: Come, praise Christ who received and blessed the children.

All: We will praise Christ by being a blessing to those in need.

One: Come, praise the Holy Spirit who ever moves among us.

All: We will praise the Spirit by working together for justice.

One: Come, praise the Lord who created, redeems, and sustains us.

All: We will praise the Lord by honoring and caring for each child, in our families and in every family.

Opening Prayer

*Hymn #228

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

(adapted)

1. I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
And all the stars obey.
2. I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed,
Where'er I turn my eyes;
If I look at the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!

**Please stand as you are able.*

3. There's not a plant or flower below
But makes your glories known;
And clouds arise, and winds do blow,
The force of nature shown;
While all that has its life from you
Is ever in your care,
And everywhere that we might be,
Our God is present there.

Prayer of Confession (spoken and silent)

God of new beginnings, we confess that we are stuck in old ways. You taught us about an upside-down world, and yet we still live our lives seeking power, wealth, and status. We have failed to protect those who are most vulnerable, especially children who live in poverty and are subject to exploitation. Forgive us, we pray. Open our hearts and our hands, our eyes and our ears, that we realize your higher calling and live our lives in grateful obedience.

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

Assurance of Pardon

One: When we know we have done wrong, when we truly seek release, when we trust that God can make us whole, Jesus assures us, "Your sins are forgiven." Friends, that is our good news today and every day.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Our Response*

#555 Adapted

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our youthful days, has blessed us on our way
With countless mercies shown, and still does so today.**

**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 may leave for Sunday School.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

Second Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Children in Our Midst"

Rev. Ronald Botts

**Hymn #322 (sing twice)*

"Spirit of the Living God"

**Our Affirmation of Faith*

Adapted from St. John's-Grace Church

We are a community of faith. We share a vision of God whose essence is love, accessible to all yet entirely other. God is the source of all being, the path leading to wholeness, the life force which pervades everything. We follow Jesus who healed the afflicted, taught, suffered, and died. He shows us the way of compassion, justice, and peace. The Spirit is the breath of life who makes God real, who strengthens us for the challenges we face, and who inspires us to respond with love. This we believe. This we live.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Bringing Our Gifts

Offertory

**Doxology*

#229

**From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Prayer of Dedication*

These gifts, O Lord, are but the expression of joyful hearts. Our blessings are many and varied; our gratitude is genuine and sincere. We now return a part of what we have received, that it might be used to your glory and service. Amen.

Call to Prayer

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People