

# HALF TRUTHS



**Sunday, June 3, 2018**

This short 5-part **Summer Series** by Dr. Rabey is based on the recent book (2016) by Adam Hamilton titled: *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and other Things the Bible Doesn't Say*. In the introduction Hamilton states:

“Most of us as Christians have things we believe, and tell others, and even count on, that we’ve not carefully examined. Some of the things we accept and repeat to others sound so true, and we’ve believed them for so long, that they become what some call “sacred cows” - things above question or criticism. When these beliefs are questioned we become defensive or irritated. We may even worry that if the beliefs aren’t true, the rest of our faith may crumble...

Here’s why I believe it’s important to examine these particular half truths: I think they can sometimes hurt people. I think they can lead people to conclusions about God that not only are untrue but that may push some people away from God. Yes, there is some truth to be found in the ‘truths’ we’ll explore. I invite you, though, to consider whether these truths are as Christian or as true as you may suppose. And, if I’m right, I hope you might think twice before you say them again. More than that, I hope that examining these and other half truths will lead you to the greater truths we find in Jesus Christ.”

- Adam Hamilton

**Greeters:**

Nancy Holtzapple  
Fran & Ronald Stefany  
Patti & Keith Faller  
Linda Keener

**Ushers:**

John Wolfe  
Sandy Leaman  
David Levens  
Leigh & Kathleen Shuman  
Ben & Jennifer Switch

**The Chancel flowers are Presented by:**

Phil, Nancy, Evan and Brenna Smith & Jillian Calderon-Smith, in memory of Drew Smith, son, brother,  
husband and my Daddy.

Vickie Kutz, in memory of her mother, Alice R. Goddard  
Carla & Jerry Rothacker, in honor of their 48th Wedding Anniversary

The White Rose is to announce the death of John Mitchell on Sunday, May 27th, 2018

**Gathering in God's Name**

Chimes & Welcome

Prelude

*Bist du bei mir*

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship (from Psalm 19 - The Message)

Rev. Dr. Roger Rabey

Leader: The heavens cannot keep silent!

**All: The skies are shouting, too!**

Leader: God's majesty compels creation to speak.

**Women: To speak, and to shout, and to sing.**

**Men: Day and night, night and day, God's glory is the talk of the universe.**

Leader: The roar of praise reaches the farthest star in the cosmos.

**Women. The sound of "hallelujahs" is deafening!**

**Men: The chorus of worship simply cannot be contained.**

Leader: Let us join creation in ascribing honor to our God!

**All: The heavens cannot keep silent, and neither can we!**

**Let us stand and sing praise to our mighty God!**

Opening Hymn 470

*O Day of Radiant Gladness*

**Proclaiming God's Word**

Prayer of Confession (Silent & Corporate)

Rev. Dr. Roger Rabey

Eternal God, You do no change.

You have revealed yourself to us in your Word.

You call us to worship you in spirit and in truth.

But we confess that we often worship

Not your true self but who we with you to be.

We too often ask you to bless what we do

rather than seeking to do what you bless.

Forgive us for seeking concessions

when we should be seeking guidance.

Forgive us when our worship shapes you into what we want

Instead of shaping us into what you want.

Help us to meet you here,

That we might bow before your unspeakable majesty

And so live for you now and ever, in Christ. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison 572

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

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

Gloria Patri 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. Amen**

Scripture

Deuteronomy 30:19-20a (NRSV)

*[Then Moses said to the Israelites,] I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving that Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days.*

Communion Mediation

**“Everything Happens For A Reason”**

Rev. Dr. Roger Rabey

**1st in Series: Half Truths**

### **Responding to God’s Word**

Communion Hymn 505

*Be Known To Us In Breaking Bread*

Communion

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Dr. Noé Juárez

**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.**

Distribution of Elements

Prayer of Dedication

*It is our custom at Highland to eat the bread when served, representing your individual relationship with God. However, please hold the cup until all are served, so we may partake together, representing our relationship as the body of Christ.*

*Gluten, Egg and dairy **free** bread is located in the central dish of the serving tray.*

*HOME COMMUNION will be served today and during this week to approximately 35 members of the church family by members of our church working in teams of two. This ministry is under the direction of the Worship Council. If you know of a Highland member who would like to receive communion at home, please email Carla Rothacker at [crothacker@aol.com](mailto:crothacker@aol.com). Also, if you would be interested in serving home communion, please contact Carla. You do not have to be an elder or a deacon to serve.*

Presentation of Offering

Rev. Dr. Noé Juárez

*Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" during the Offering. When it gets to the end of the row, pass it back so you can put names to faces and greet them following the service. There are a bunch of members who don't know each other in this church.*

Offertory

*Our God, to Whom We Turn*

J.S. Bach

\* Doxology 592 (inclusive)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **Going in God's Name**

Ministry Highlights & Greeting

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Graduates Recognition

Jenny Kutzner

\* Closing Hymn 517

*We Come as Guests Invited*

\* Benediction and Congregational Response

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;**

**I can feel His mighty power and His grace.**

**He can hear the brush of angels' wings; I see glory in each face;**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

Postlude

*Allegro pomposo*

Nealson

**MUSIC:** HIGHLAND CHANCEL CHOIR, KEVIN L. ESTES, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST  
**A/V:** JONATHAN LEFEVER

PLEASE STAND IF ABLE

**A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal  
FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.**

**Cell phones** should be silenced during the worship service.

**Nursery** is available during all worship services.

*After the service, please recycle this page in the receptacles labeled "Paper Only" located in the Narthex.*

**MESSAGES:** Each week the sermons from the traditional & contemporary services  
can be found on the Highland website.

*If you missed a week but would still like to connect with Highland on the message  
Visit [highlandpc.org](http://highlandpc.org) under the "Welcome" tab and choose either traditional or contemporary service.*