

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406

Telephone: 717-755-6117

E-mail: office@mtzionucc.org

Website: www.mtzionucc.org

Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor

Rev. Amy Northridge, Transitional Minister

Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director

Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

Third Sunday of Easter

8:00 & 10:30 AM

***Rejoice in Your Doubts
Holy Humor Sunday***

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING¹

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

P: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Let us rejoice! Let us celebrate with holy humor.

P: Let us laugh, let us dance, let us sing praises of joy!

L: And let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

PRELUDE

Hosanna

Traditional

CALL TO WORSHIP²

L: Joy is loose,

P: In the wiggles of the children,

L: The whispers of the youth,

P: The smiles of the adults.

L: We praise God for this glorious day,

P: Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.

L: Joy and praise fills our hearts and in our songs

P: Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people.

INVITATION FOR JOKES

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY³

L: Together let us pray,

P: O Great Laughing God, we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised. We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and delight. These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us and for all the earth. May we find that in giving up to laughter there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing. Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit to renew our worship and our living. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 84** (BH, see p. 5)

This is the Day

*TIME OF CONFESSION²

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: We believe in God, who made us in His image.

P: We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him.

L: We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

P: He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.

L: We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.

P: Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!

L: Forgive us, Lord,

P: when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world. Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Part of the great news of resurrection joy is that we are forgiven fully by a God who can do the unimaginable. Be freed by this news to laugh and rejoice that there are no powers that come close to matching the forgiving, grace-filled, loving power of our God. Amen.

P: Christ has come to us. Amen.

ACT OF PRAISE (see p. 6)

Halle, Halle, Halle

ALL SING: I am the resurrection, live in me. I am the way, the truth, follow me. I am the resurrection, live in me. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

INVITATION FOR JOKES

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

(10:30 AM) **HOLY DINGALINGS**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today Medley

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

John 20: 19-31

MESSAGE

HYMN (see p. 7)

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Together let us proclaim our faith, in the words of this Holy Humor Creed,

P: We believe in God, who made us in His image. We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son. Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!

INVITATION FOR JOKES

PRAYERS OF JOY

L: O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us these gifts.

(Time of silence)

L: For the moments of laughter and unbridled joy you give to us: for opportunities to laugh at ourselves, for the belly laughs of children, for friends and family who love us because of our quirks, and not just in spite of them, Lord of Laughter,

P: We give you thanks.

L: For artists who give us the opportunity to see the world through the surreal... Lord of Laughter,

P: We give you thanks.

L: For the words of Jesus that defy our logical minds... Lord of Laughter,

P: We give you thanks.

L: For the absurdity of a camel trying to fit through the eye of a needle... Lord of Laughter,

P: We give you thanks.

L: For the great reversal of the Gospel... Lord of Laughter,

P: We give you thanks.

L: O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us these gifts. Thank you for the gift you give us that allows us to enjoy these things to the full. We can laugh because of the most amazing thing of all – that you conquered death, that the tomb is empty, that light shone so bright that it overcame the darkness.

P: Thank you, thank you, thank you! Amen!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. 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. 524** (BH, see p. 8)

This Little Light of Mine

INVITATION FOR JOKES

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

by Founds

Thank you to John Kollasch, Jack Herlocker, Jim Firestone, & Elaine Bevivino for serving on the tech teams. Thank you to Dave Strine, Deb & Terry Barnes, Jim & Sue Shiffer, Robin Schriver, & Tori Everhart for serving on the welcome teams. Thank you to Braden Bicher, Tom Bair, Brenda Beyer, & Denny Daugherty for serving on the praise team.

¹ The Greeting was shared and posted on the website of St. Andrew's United Church in Chatham. <http://standrewschatham.org/> and accessed on 4/23/2022 via Re:Worship Blogspot.

² The Call to Worship, the Confession and Forgiveness, and Affirmation of Faith was posted and shared on Trinity United Parish. <http://www.trinityunitedparish.org/lukewordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/April-10.pdf> and accessed on 4/23/2022 via Re:Worship Blogspot.

³ The Prayer of the Day was posted and shared by the United Church of Canada's **Bay of Quinte Conference** website. <http://www.bayofquinteconference.ca/> on April 23, 2022 via Re:Worship Blog.

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*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

This is the Day

Les Garrett

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Piano ♩ = 80

1. This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
2. This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
3. This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

4
God has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be
rose a - gain; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be
Spir - it came; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be

8
glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joice and be
glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joice and be
glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joice and be

12
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

Halle Halle Halle

Arr. by John L. Bell

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Piano

$\text{♩} = 80$

1. I am the res - ur-rec - tion live in me,
2. Hal - le, hal - le hal - le - lu - jah!

5

I am the way, the truth, fol - low me!
Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

9

I am the res - ur-rec - tion live in me, Hal-le -
Hal - le - hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le -

13

- lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!
- lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

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Piano 

1. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart,
2. I've got the peace that pass - eth un - der - stand - ing down in my heart,
3. I've got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus, down in my heart,

4 

down in my heart, down in my heart; I've got the
down in my heart, down in my heart; I've got the
down in my heart, down in my heart; I've got the

6 

joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart to
peace that pass - eth un - der - stand - ing down in my heart,
love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus down in my heart, down in my heart to

9 

stay.
stay.
stay.

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

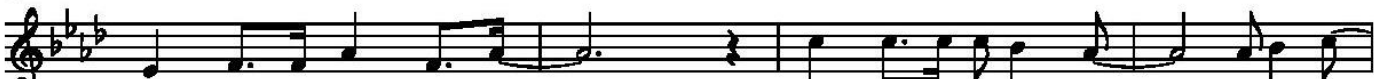
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Piano 

1. This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine. _____
2. Ev - ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine. _____
3. All through the night, I'm gon - na let it shine. _____

5 

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine.
Ev - ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine.
All through the night, I'm gon - na let it shine.

9 

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine, let it shine,
Ev - ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine, let it shine,
All through the night, I'm gon - na let it shine, let it shine,

13 

let it shine, let it shine! _____
let it shine, let it shine! _____
let it shine, let it shine. _____