

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

April 30, 2023

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Holy Humor Sunday

If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping with us today. We invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We also have nursery care downstairs during our 10:30 AM worship service. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

(10:30 AM) **PRAISE TEAM OPENER**
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING:

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

These Are the Days of Elijah

by Paris

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

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** (see p. 5)

Sing a Happy Alleluia

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

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)

Hark the Herald Angel Said

ALL SING: Hark the herald angel said, “Why seek Jesus with the dead? He's not here, as you can see, gravecloths lie where he would be. On your way now, tell the others, Jesus will be with his brothers. Sisters, too, he wants to see on the hills of Galilee.” Hark the herald angel said, “He is risen from the dead!”

INVITATION FOR JOKES

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

**SCRIPTURE
MESSAGE⁴**

*Proverbs 12:13-25 (The Message)
Fish Tales*

HYMN (see p. 7)

Laughter Lends Itself to Praise

INVITATION FOR JOKES

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE⁵ & 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.

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

Hosanna

Traditional

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

You Give Us Hope This Easter Day

ALL SING: You give us hope this Easter Day: O God, in Christ, you make us new! As we've been blessed, O Lord, we pray, May these our gifts bless others, too.

O gracious God, you give us life! This gift is one we're called to share. May we now serve the risen Christ Through these our gifts of love and care.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

INVITATION FOR JOKES

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Majesty

by Hayward

References

¹The 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.

²The 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.

³The 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

⁴Adapted from "Tall Tales" written by Cora Alley, purchased from <https://christianskitsource.com>, and used by permission.

⁵The prayers are adapted and used with permission as written by Sue on the RevGalBlogPals blog and accessed 4/24/23.

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Thank you to John Schriver, Jen Miller, & Ron Miles for serving on the tech team. Thank you to Deb & Terry Barnes, Melissa Shindler, Norma & Charlie Hull, & Carol Bair for serving on the welcome team. Thank you to the praise team for providing an opener and leading the hymns this morning!

Sing a Happy Alleluia

Shirley Erena Murray

Marty Haugen, 1986

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Sing a hap - py al - le - lu - ia,
2. We're the proof of God's good hu - mor,
3. Sar - ah laughed at God's good tim - ing,
4. Ev - ery day sing al - le - lu - ia!

3

sing it out with heart - and style. We're the ech - o
we're the twin - kle in God's eye. Made to shine, re -
Mar - y sang and Da - vid danced, Je - sus smiled and
We are loved, though so ab - surd, hu - man, foo - lish

6

of God's laugh - ter, we're the im - age of God's smile.
- flect the glo - ry, gi - ven light and space to fly.
hugged the chil - dren, so is life for us en - hanced.
cho - sen peo - ple, God still takes us at our word.

9

Al - le - lu - ia, all cre - a - tion, al - le - lu - ia, ev - ery - one. Al - le - lu - ia,

14

all cre - a - tion, Al - le - lu - ia, ev - ery - one.

Hark the Herald Angel Said

Paul Lintern

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

Hark the her - ald an - gel said, "Why seek Je - sus with the dead?

5
He's not here as you can see, grave-cloths lie where he would be.

9
On your way now, tell the oth - ers, Je - sus will be with his broth - ers.

13
Sis - ters, too, he wants to see on the hills of Gal - li - lee."

17
Hark the her - ald an - gel said, "He is ris - en from the dead."

Laughter Lends Itself to Praise

Daniel Charles Damon

Medieval French Melody

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



1. Laugh - ter lends it - self to praise
2. Laugh - ter bends where laws may break;
3. Laugh - ter leaps in - to the void
4. Laugh - ter comes in spite of pain
5. Laugh - ter lends it - self to praise;

3



bring - ing heal - ing from with - in;	hope will sure - ly
rig - id fact can - not con - tain	half the wis - dom
find - ing on - ly Spir - it there;	shame and fear would
dan - cing ev - en as we mourn;	some - thing dies but
all the love and all the fear,	all the signs that

6



rise a - gain	as laugh - ter lends it - self to praise.
of God's reign,	so laugh - ter bends where laws may break.
nev - er dare	so laugh - ter leaps in - to the void.
some thing's born	for laugh - ter comes in spite of pain.
God is near	say laugh - ter lends it - self to praise.

Go Tell It on the Mountain (Easter)

Paul Lintern

African American Spiritual

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♩ = 80

Piano




Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery -where.

5



Go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je-sus is a - live. 1. While
2. The
3.

9



sol - diers watched the grave-site, that qui - et Sun - day dawn there
wom - en found no bo - dy their spic - es to a - noint; in -
Go from where He is - n't to where He said he'd be. An

13



came a big com - mo - tion and then the storm was gone.
-stead they found an an - gel, God's mes - sage to a - point.
Eas - ter - time re - un - ion: the hills of Gal - i - lee.