

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Acting Pastor
Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator
Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

April 7, 2024

10:30 AM

Holy Humor Sunday

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, 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 have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! Additionally, after the children's message during the 10:30AM service, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY HUMOR GREETING¹

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

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

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

PRELUDE

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. May our hearts be renewed in this time of worship.

INVITATION FOR JOKES

PRAYER OF THE DAY³

L: O Great Laughing God,

P: ...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 below)

Laughter Lends Itself to Praise

Laughter Lends Itself to Praise

Daniel Charles Damon

Medieval French Melody

♩ = 80



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.

***TIME OF CONFESSION³**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

C: 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.

C: 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.

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

L: Forgive us, Lord,

C: 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

ACT OF PRAISE

Ho-Ho-Ho-Hosanna

sung by Children's Choir

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

INVITATION FOR JOKES FROM THE KIDS

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31 (The Message)

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

HYMN UNITED METHODIST HYMNAL NO. 310 (see next page)

He Lives



He Lives

Alfred H. Ackley, 1933

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. I serve a ri - sen Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day; I
2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care, and
3. Re - joice, re-joyce, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing e -

6



know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er foes may say. I see his hand of
though my heart grows wear - y, I never will de - spair. I know that he is
- ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King! The hope of all who

11



mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer, and just the time I need him, he's al - ways
lead - ing through all the storm - y blast; the day of his ap - pear - ing will come at
seek him, the help of all who find; none oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and

17 *Refrain*



near. He lives, he lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day! He walks with me and
last.
kind.

23



talks with me a - long life's nar row way. He lives, he lives, sal - va - tion to im -

29



- part! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with - in my heart.

INVITATION FOR JOKES

HOLY HUMOR PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE⁴

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Laughing at the great mystery of the faith, together we pray,

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

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 236 NCH (black hymnal)

Halle, Halle, Halle

ALL SING: Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION FOR JOKES

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 471 NCH (black hymnal, see next page)

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

**LET'S MAKE
A DEAL**

What a Covenant

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887

Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



1. What a cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine,
2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way,
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,

3



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness,
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace

6



what a peace is mine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
grows from day to day, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

9



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms; lean - ing,

14



lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

***BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

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.

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

Volunteers

Thank you to all serving in worship this morning!

Welcome Team Members—Vanessa Bicher, Sarah Shaffer, Jeff & Nancy Sleeper

Tech Team—Elaine Bevivino, Jack Herlocker, John Kollasch, Jen Miller

Liturgist—Deb Herlocker

Praise Team— Tom Bair & Brenda Beyer

NOTES FOR JOKES