



April 19, 2020
2nd Sunday of Easter
Holy Humour Sunday

*A family of faith ministering together
in the name of Jesus Christ*

Ministers: Each of us Assisted by Rev. Mark Perry

Organist: Kathy Limon

Lighting the Christ Candle

Jesus Christ, the light of the world!

Sung Response: VU 884 "You Shall Go Out with Joy"

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands
(clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.

Benediction

May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.

May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.

Go forth rejoicing, for the good work has just begun!

Amen.

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Video Dance Party

Prayers of The Peeps & The Lord's Prayer *(spoken)*

God of grace, God of love and laughter, we thank you that we are so wondrously created and that we are made for relationship with you and with one another. We thank you for laughter with friends and loved ones. We thank you for the laughter of children, and the song it creates in our hearts.

By your great unending love, you inspire in us a spirit of imagination and creativity. Help us to use that spirit to play more, to laugh more, and to create beauty in every way possible. Remind us to laugh out loud, for doing so will heal some of the wounds within us. Not all, but some.

God, we pray for those who cannot find their laughter today. For those who are grieving, or suffering illness of body, mind or spirit, especially for the many who grieve the loss of a loved one in the pandemic.....

for those who are lonely and in need of someone to share their time and friendship... for those who have not yet moved into the season and spirit of Easter and find themselves stuck in the gloom of Good Friday.

May these and the troubles of all your people be soothed, blessed, and comforted by your holy presence. May we each find the laughter within us that sets our spirits free, and in that freedom, may we take your love into every part of our lives. These and all the prayers of our hearts we offer now in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together saying,

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,
the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever.
Amen.

Hymn VU 253 "Sing Your Joy"

- 1 Sing your joy, proclaim God's glory!
Rise and sing, the morning has come!
Bless our God and praise all creation;
song of the earth, and light from heaven:
God is alive! *Hallelujah!
- 2 All the earth is filled with rejoicing,
light and life, the wonder of God!
Christ has triumphed! Risen for ever!
Joy of our hearts, and hope of our dreaming:
God is alive! Hallelujah!
- 3 May we learn to become your kingdom,
may we be your kindness and truth!
Love is our calling, gift of your presence;
children of God, and spirit of Jesus:
God is alive! Hallelujah!
- 4 Light our way, O God of the living,
may we learn to see with new eyes!
Jesus the Lord, our power and promise;
light for the blind, and food for the hungry:
God is alive! Hallelujah!

Psalm 16 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Song of Trust and Security in God

A Miktam of David.

¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² **I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."**

³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

⁴ **Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.**

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.**

⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ **I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

¹¹ **You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Chuckling, chortling God,
who lifts our hearts when we feel most down,
who strikes the light of joy in the midst of despair's gloom,
who surprises us with wonder and awe,
enter into our hearts this morning, we pray.
Open our minds to the endless possibilities
you create for growing closer to you with a giggle.
Open our eyes to your presence in all things,
allowing us to respond in joy. Amen.

Minute for Mission

Dalhousie University Chaplaincy

Dalhousie University Multifaith Chaplaincy in Halifax, Nova Scotia, offers students a safe place to get a meal on a Monday night. Your gifts to Mission & Service have created this “sanctuary on campus.”

The chaplaincy feeds between 40 and 60 students each week, many of them international and exchange students. “They enjoy the opportunity to share safe space and to meet other students,” United Church Chaplain the Rev. Robyn Brown-Hewitt shares. “Food insecurity is huge among students in Halifax.”

Robyn goes on to share, “The other predominant part of what I do here is private one-on-one counselling. Students suffer from a wide and intense variety of mental/spiritual health challenges.”

Robyn wants to make sure everyone knows that she and the Chaplaincy Committee can't do what they do without Mission & Service support. Thank you for creating through your gifts a place of welcome for Dalhousie students. University can be lonely, and your gifts make these students feel like they are not alone.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Our Offering in Support of God's Mission

So the phone rang the other day and I answered it. “Is this Rev. Perry,” the voice on the other end asked? “It is,” I said. “This is the Canada Revenue Agency. We wonder if you can help us.” “Ill try,” I said. “Do you know ...?” “I do,” I said. “Is he a member of your congregation?” “he is,” I said. “Did he really donate \$50,000 to the church?” “Oh, he will,” I said.

All that we offer to God's church we do graciously because we know that all we have first came from God. We make our financial offerings via PAR, cheque, or Canada Helps via the Donate Now button on our website.... unionunitedchurch.ca

Lord of mirth and merriment, we give you thanks for the gift of laughter which brings healing. Accept these gifts we bring and use them to deliver healing and wholeness to our companions on this earth. May it be so. Amen.

Hymn “Take Time To Be Funny” to VU 672 — authorship unknown.

Take time to be funny, rejoice in the Lord
Let laughter explode and have fun with God's Word
For laughter is healing, gives strength to the weak
God loves to see smiles, for they lift up the meek.

Take time to be silly, it's good for the soul
Too many are somber, grabbing control.
Let go and let God's love wash over your soul
Heavenly transcendence can be your life's goal.

Old Sarah and Abram – a child they lacked
But God's angels promised and she birthed Isaac
In Hebrew that's “laughter”, go check if you want
Genesis Seven-teen is where it is found.

For humor is holy, it sanctifies life,
Replenishes hope and oft softens advice
It undercuts sorrow, deflates haughty pride
So smile and hang on, and rejoice in life's ride.

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah,^[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Meditation: "Thomas the Astute"

Hymn: VU 43 "Go, Tell It On The Mountain" *with a twist*

Chorus:

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus is alive.*

While soldiers watched the gravesite
that quiet Sunday dawn
there came a big commotion
and then the storm was gone.

The women found no body
their spices to anoint;
instead they found an angel,
God's message to appoint.

Go from where He isn't
to where He said He'd be.
An Easter-time reunion:
the hills of Galilee.

Call to Worship

"Blow the trumpets;
play the lute and harp;
shake the tambourine;
hear the strings and pipe;
dance— praise God!

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

**Let the laughter be deep,
for we are God's people."**

Gathering In Song "Hark! The Herald Angel Said" to VU 48

Hark the herald angel said,
"Why seek Jesus with the dead?
He's not here, as you can see,
graveclothes 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!"

Announcements.....

Apr 22 Unified Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.— by zoom.

You should have received your invitation from Rev. Mark. If not, please request it.

Those wishing to send your offering to Berniece, here is her address

Union United Church
c/o Berniece Lidster
46810 Martyn Line
Sparta, ON N0L 2H0

If you prefer to donate your offering electronically, there is a "donate now" button on our website at:
www.unionunitedchurch.ca

Just complete the form and submit. You may choose "now" or "monthly".

Holy Humor Sunday Prayer

Thom M. Shuman

dour-faced
in the presence
of stunning sunsets;

stricken with chronic severity
while surrounded
by gurgling babies;

frozen-souled when touched
by the warmth of
grace;

if we are made in your image,
it's no wonder people think of you
as a grouchy old geezer,
God of Joy.

so, breathe on us . . .

fill our souls with:
laughter which chases away
the long faces;
chuckles which wipe frowns
off our brows;
great guffaws
which shatter hardened hearts;

fill us,
Breath of sidesplitting shrieks,

so we can celebrate
the last laugh on
death.