**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

**April 27, 2025**

**10:00 AM**

**PRELUDE: CARSON**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Joy To The World***

1. *Joy to the world, the Lord’s alive, Awake, rejoice and sing!*

*It’s just as He had said, He’s risen from the dead. Salvation now He brings, Salvation now He brings, Salvation, salvation now He brings.*

1. *Joy to the world, The empty tomb,*

*Proclaims a victory. Of light compelling, A great dispelling Of darkness in the world, Of darkness in the world, Of darkness, of darkness in the world.*

1. *Joy to the World, Our Savior reigns, Let Heaven and earth proclaim The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of his love.*

**WELCOME: Rev. Beverly Collinsworth**

Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**Everyone:** **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Priest: O praise to the God of laughter whose humor sends waves through even the river of death, who tuns a mustard seed into a tree, who conceals the meaning of life in a loaf of bread.

**Everyone:** **Like a jester, you turn our world upside-down. When we think we are lovely, you hold up a mirror that shows us we are as thin as a pencil or as stocky as a toad.**

Priest: Here in the crazy world the popular routes just lead us in circles but the dead-ends have doors.

**Everyone: O for a thousand tongues to sing the praise of One who is All, who is as invisible as the wind, yet as firm as a rock*.***

EVERYONE: ***Come let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.***

***Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.***

***For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.***

***In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.***

***The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.***

***Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.***

***For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!***

Priest: The Lord be with you.

Everyone: **And also, with you.**

Priest: Let us Pray:

O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us these gifts. For the moments of Laughter and unbridled joy you give to us: for opportunities to laugh at ourselves, for friends and family who love us because of our quirks, and not just in spite of them, for the courage to smile even when difficulties arise, for those who have hope even when others think there is no hope, for saints in the Lord who overflow with laughter and spread your joy to all of us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  ***Amen****.*

*Please be seated for the reading of the lesson.*

**THE LESSONS**

### 1st LESSON**: Genesis 18:1-15**

 The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it.  Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.”Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

Reader: Here ends a reading from the Book of Genesis.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 126:1-6**

*Let us read it responsively by full verse.*

Reader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
    we were like those who dream.

**Response: Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations,“The Lord has done great things for them.”**

Reader: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**Response: Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

Reader: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**Response: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

Reader: Here ends a reading from the Book of Psalms

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

### **EPISTLE:** Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

### Reader: Here ends the reading from the book of Luke.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL HYMN: *God Bless You Merry Sinner***

*1.God bless you merry sinner, you’re forgiven it is true;*

*Remember Christ your Savior has lived and died for you,*

*And lives again as King of Kings, of saint and sinner too.*

*Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, Peace and joy. Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.*

 *In Jerusalem at Calvary that dismal Friday morn, Amid the pain and suffering eternal life was born.*

*It came with arms outstretched to us, right through the curtain torn. Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.*

*Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.*

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel*.

Priest/Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

**Response: Glory to you Lord Christ**.

**The Gospel**: Luke 24:1-9

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The womenwere terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the mensaid to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again.”

Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

Priest: The Gospel of our Lord.

**Everyone: Praise to you Lord Christ**.

**MESSAGE: Rev. Beverly Collinsworth**

**MESSAGE RESPONSE: Carson Weingart**

**Affirmation Of Faith**

Pastor: Let us stand as we affirm our faith:

**Everyone: 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!**

PRAYERS OF Celebration:

Priest/Deacon: Holy One, we celebrate that where people are gathered together in love:

**Response:**  **You are present and good things happen and life if full.**
Reader: We celebrate that we are immersed in your mystery and our lives are more than they seem:
***Response: We belong to each other and to a universe of great creative energies, who source and destiny is you, our God.***

Reader: We celebrate that your spirit beat in the heart of Jesus of Nazareth:
***Response: The good news of your healing, embracing and liberating love was heard by the broken, the lonely and was bound by life’s sorrows and struggles.***

Reader: We celebrate that the spirit of peace and hope is present with us and through us:
***Response: In our struggle to love we incarnate your presence in our world.***

Reader: And so, aware of the hurts and longings all of us carry, that awe and wonder that is around us and the gifts of faith and this community of faith:
***Response: We pause and we become ever aware of the sacredness of our lives,***

Reader: In the awareness may we act and speak and live. May it be so.
Reader: Let us pray silently or aloud for those we hold special in our hearts.

SILENCE

**Response: Lord hear our prayer.**

Reader: In the communion of St. Thomas and all saints let us commend ourselves and one another, for all our life, to Christ our Lord.

**Response: To thee, O Lord our God.**

LEM/Deacon: Let us speak to God from our hearts:

**Everyone:** As we stumble through this life, help us to create more laughter than tears, dispense more cheer than gloom, spread more cheer than despair. Never let us become so indifferent, that we will fail to see the wonders in the eyes of a child, or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged.

Never let us forget that our total effort to cheer people, make them happy, and forget momentarily, all the unpleasantness in their lives. And in our final moments, may we hear you whisper: “When you made my people smile, you made me smile.”

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**Everyone:** **Amen.**

Priest: Let us all pray for peace in our world.

**EVERYONE: Lord, Healer of the Nations, from the noise of war and the drumbeat of vengeance, give us undiminished determination to wage peace.**

**Out of brokenness, violence, and destruction let us plant seeds of hope. Out of chaos, confusion, and hatred, let us build bridges of love.**

**Out of distrust, disunity, and distance, let us walk together in harmony. Heal our divisions, make us whole, and bring us peace. Amen:**

**MUSIC: CARSON:** *As the table is set*.

**COMMUNION:**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God.

You created all things,

from the cleverness of the fox to the swiftness of a river, from the strangeness of the clownfish to the playfulness of a puppy, from the puzzle-solving intelligence of the octopus to the noble height of the sequoias. No one could look at a platypus and not see your sense of humor, Creative God!

Priest: You created us too, each bearing your image but also unique in our own ways. You loved us with our very first breath of life, and even when we turned away, your love remains steadfast.

You have continued to prod, pushing us towards the path of justice and righteousness.  You worked through teachers and mentors, through prophets and priests, through comics and scholars, through fools and Pharaohs, all a part of this marvelous story of your devoted love for us, your Creation.

And so, with all your creatures—great and small—on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Everyone: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of joy and creativity,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Priest: Holy are you, and clever too!

For who would have guessed that the Creator of the universe would take on human flesh to come and live among us in Jesus the Christ. Jesus, master storyteller that he was, kept explaining again and again that the wisdom and justice of God are not what we humans keep imagining.  Jesus kept inviting us to stretch our imaginations.  He modeled how to color outside of the lines of human institutions with God’s love.  And he painted vivid imagery of God’s kingdom imagery that turns power upside down and inside out.  Jesus used playful dramatic stories, and even some comedic irony.

Experiencing the fullness of human life—Jesus played!  Jesus laughed!  Jesus rejoiced!  Jesus probably even heard and told jokes!

Priest: And Jesus kept on inviting adults who were determined to take things all-seriously all-the-time to be more like playful children.

And teaching the disciples, like children, Jesus loved a good object lesson.  So even on that last night of his human life, Jesus tried one last time to engage the disciples’ imaginations.

Priest: He took what he had at hand—a loaf of bread.  And he invited them to see not just a loaf of bread but to see, to imagine, to experience his body.  Jesus instructed them that when they ate this bread, they should re-member, re-tell, re-construct the meaning of his life and love and share that experience in community.

Priest: And then he took the cup, gave thanks to God, and invited the disciples to keep imagining, to keep leaning into the mystery of our faith—

that in this cup, we taste not only wine but we taste salvation.  We taste forgiveness.  We taste a joy that outlasts even death itself.

Priest: And so, we remember. We remember Jesus. We remember his last supper with the disciples.

We remember the mystery we encounter at this table—the mystery of God’s grace.  We remember that God flipped the script yet again declaring that it is precisely in the breaking of the bread, that we are made whole.  And so as we remember, we proclaim together the mystery of our faith:

**People: Christ has died.  Christ is risen.  Christ will come again.**

Priest: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and the fruit of the vine: Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ so that we, nourished by this meal, can go out and be the Body of Christ in this world boldly proclaiming God’s joy. Let all God’s people joyfully say, **Amen**.

***AMEN, AMEN, AMEN***

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father in heaven, let your holy name be known, let your kingdom come, and your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today the bread that we need, and forgive us our wrongs, and OK, we’ll forgive those who have done wrong to us, too. Do not lead us into trial, but save us from evil. For we want for you alone to rule our hearts. you have power to transform, and in the light of your smile is your glory. Amen.**

Priest: Alleluia, Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us.

**People:** **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover lamb is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the peace. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Priest: The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving**.**

Priest: Let us pray with those who are unable to receive the Eucharist with us this morning:

**EVERYONE: Dear Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, but since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, I ask that you come spiritually into my heart.**

**Unite me with you and never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

Priest: St. Thomas practices open communion which means that all baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord’s Table.

Priest: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

LEM/Deacon: The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

**MUSIC: CARSON:** *While the table is cleared.*

Priest: Let us Pray:

**Everyone: Grant us, God, the grace to see ourselves as others see us- creatures of your making: wholly loved.**

**In the busyness of this week, awaken us to your presence in the smiles and glances of those we meet. Shape our hearts to delight in the gifts of each and every day. Amen.**

Priest: Lord, grant me a joyful heart and a holy sense of humor. Please give me the gift of faith, to be renewed and shared with others each day. Teach me to live this moment only, looking neither to the past with regret, nor to the future with apprehension. Let love be my guide, and my life a prayer.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**: *Go Tell It On The Mountain*

*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 Eastertime reunion, The hills of Galilee.*

*Please be seated for the Postlude*

**POSTLUDE: CARSON**

LEM/Deacon: Go in laughter; go in grace. Keep the Lord in your heart and a smile on your face.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: CARSON**

THANKS: Rev. Beverly Collinsworth

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**