



WELCOME TO HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WE WOULD TELL YOU WHERE, BUT WE DON'T WANT A PAPER TRAIL

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
2nd Sunday of Easter / Holy Humor Sunday
51st Day in the Chinese Year of the Dog

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Concerns of the Church ... *and we have more concerns than last year!*

Call to Worship from Phillippippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord, always. Again I say, rejoice!

What if we don't feel like it?

Rejoice in the Lord, always. Again I say, rejoice!

What if somebody among us is sad or troubled?

Rejoice in the Lord, always. Again I say, rejoice!

OK, we will give it a try.

* Hymn 804 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

***Lord of life, as we rejoice in the gift of laughter,
we confess the ways we have abused the gift.***

We fall short of your glory

when we use laughter as a weapon,

when we laugh at the expense of another,

when we use humor to tear others down,

or to excuse hateful beliefs and harmful stereotypes.

Lord, forgive us and grant us wisdom.

Teach us to take ourselves lightly,

to giggle, guffaw, and howl when the moment is right,

to diffuse tension with an injection of grace,

to distinguish between that which builds up or tears down.

* Silent Confession *Make it snappy. We want to get to brunch.*

- * Assurance of Pardon
- * Passing God's Peas
- * Response 591

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!"

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson: Johannes XX: XIX-XXXI (N.T. p. CXV)

Psalter: Psalm 150 *with modest accompaniment*

A Time with Little Buckaroos

Anthem

Epistle Missile: 1 John 1:1-2:2

Sermon: "I Must Be Kidding Myself"

The Pasteurizer

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

- * Hymn "We Lack the Gift of Laughter" (see insert)

- * Affirmation of Faith

***We believe God takes delight in his creation,
that God enjoys people,
that God laughs at the self-important.***

***We believe Jesus told jokes that many did not understand,
that he took joy in his saving work,
that people are still astonished to discover he is alive.***

***We believe that joy is evidence of the Holy Spirit,
that love is stronger than the grave,
that all things will work out well for those who love God.***

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Fleecing the Flock Without Flinching
Soundtrack for a Clink-Free Offering

* Doloxoloxology 607

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise Christ, all people here below! Praise Holy Spirit evermore!

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* Thanking the Shepherd on Our Feet

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn (or Her) "Joy to the World" - revised (see insert)

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Amen 601

* Postlude

Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we're free at last!

* All who are able shall stand on their heads.

Today we continue to celebrate Easter through a gentle observance of Holy Humor Sunday. This is an ancient Easter custom begun in the early centuries of Christian faith, as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection with joy and laughter. We beg all visitors to return, since every Sunday is not like this.

The flowers this morning have been given to the glory of God by generous people who love flowers. Those people would include Heather Lyons, Candy Ferrese, and Shelley Lang, in memory of their beloved mother, grandmother, and sister, Candace Yankow.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pasteurizer	Ben Here
Guy Who Waves Arms	Francois Scrantonopolis
Lady Who Wiggles Fingers	Kay Ell Emm Enn
Liturgizer	Stormy Griffiths
Director of Kids and Yutes	Яна Шиллингер
Ushers	Four Anonymous Souls, Recruited Late
Greeters	Assorted Friendly People

John 20:19-31

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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."

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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Psalms 150

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; Praise God in his mighty firmament! Praise God for his mighty deeds; praise God according to his surpassing greatness! Praise God with trumpet sound; Praise God with lute and harp! Praise God with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise God with clanging cymbals; praise God with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.