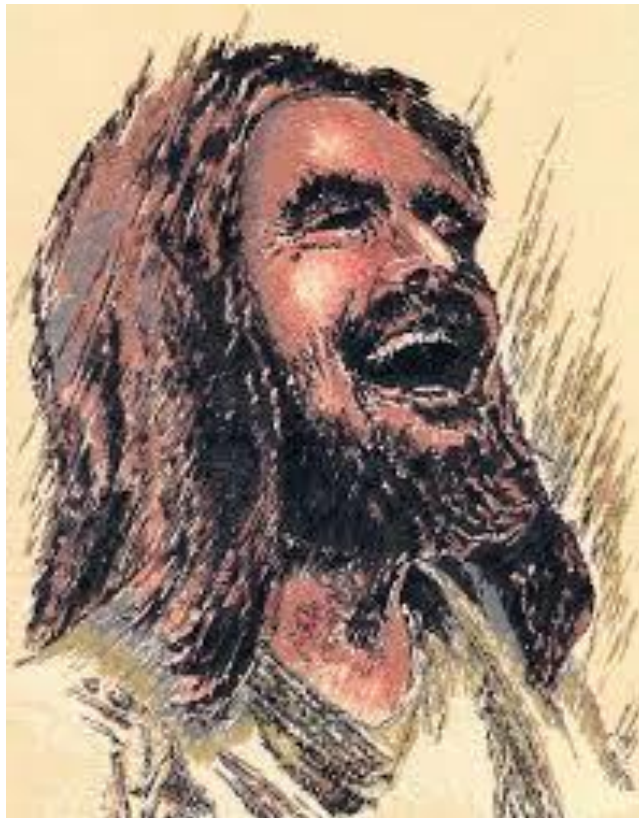


ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



April 11, 2021

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Minister: The People of St.Andrew's

Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan

“Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly. - G.K. Chesterton

No your bulletin is not printed backwards, today we celebrate Holy Humour Sunday! Laugh and sing with joy as we celebrate our Risen Saviour! Surprise!

Commissioning and Benediction

The Laughing One called us together so we could share in the laughter of life. The Laughing One sends us out, to carry the joy of life and love to the world. Go out to laugh, to live to love. And when you hear a good joke... remember that sharing is a great thing! **M** 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, our Risen Saviour. Amen.

Hymn - Sing a Happy Hallelujah - 224 VU

Humour Break!

A woman invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the little girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the mother said.

The little girl bowed her head and said: "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Meditation - The History of Holy Humour Sunday

Holy Humour Sunday, (also known as Laughter Sunday, Hilarity Sunday, God's Laughter Sunday, Bright Sunday or Holy Fools Sunday) has its roots in a number of different Christian traditions.

Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as *Risus Paschalis* ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh'). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.

The observance of *Risus Paschalis* was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. Perhaps people were having too much fun.

In the Orthodox tradition, people would gather on Easter Monday to tell jokes and funny stories, and to dance and eat together.

In 1988, the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches to resurrect some of these Christian traditions—to celebrate the grace and mercy of God through the gift of laughter and joy. It has been a tradition I have embraced whole-heartedly and given the disheartening year we have had, I figured we could all use a reason to smile.

Scripture Reading - Romans 15: 10-13

Words of Assurance

Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy. We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious all the time, we miss out on the joy of your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair which is our best friend, we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart.

Forgive us, Heart of Joy,
and make us open to the startling, and upside-down, ways in which you work.
Fill us with Easter's laughter; fill us with your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Gathering Hymn - Rejoice in the Lord Always - 249 VU



Humour Break! A Minister was doing children's time on Vestments and asked the children "Why do you think I wear this collar". A little boy piped up, "Because it kills fleas and ticks for up to 3 months?"

Call to Worship

Holy God,

as you have taken what we call an
absurdity and turned it into
possibility.....

as you have coaxed us to sing springtime
alleluias where once there was a gray
dawn,

as you have called us out of the tombs
we inhabit into an undreamed of
tomorrow, we praise you for this day!
Come, Risen Christ, in newness and
hope on this Eastertide day. **Amen.**

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome! Come, Sing a new song!

A joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth

Sing praise to our Still-Laughing Easter God

Who has rolled away the bindings of yesterday.

Immerse your anxiety and despair in the fountain of new birth.

We place our visions and hopes on the table of wine and wheat.

For God has taken ordinary things.

And made them extraordinary.

Come, Sing a new song!

Holy Humour Sunday

April 11, 2021

Announcements



Mailbox Ministry will be delivered by mail for the next month due to the latest lockdown. We apologise if you receive it after the date intended, the Canadian Postal system is often very slow. Mailbox ministry delivery by volunteers will resume after the lockdown.