



# Holy Humour Service

Wed. April 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm



**Instrumental Prelude:** Hannah Autumn Flake, Violin  
Higher Ground  
I Know Whom I Have Believed  
We're Marching to Zion

**Welcome and Intro.....** Dianne Yungblut

## Hallelujah! Praise Ye the Lord!



Text: traditional  
Music: HALLELU, HALLELUJAH, traditional

(Bette Rempel & Barclay Holbrook)

*Drum roll ( Suzanne McClennan ) & joke*

**Opening Hymn: “Give to us Laughter” Music from Hymn 793,  
Be Thou My Vision) Lily Jasinskas & Sylvia Tollar**

Give to us laughter, O source of our life.  
Laughter can banish so much of our strife.  
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.  
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.

Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;  
Let us in laughing find Christian employ,  
Joining with stars and with bright northern lights,  
Laughing and preaching and sharing delights.

Even in sorrow and hours of grief,  
Laughter and tears bring us healing relief!  
God, give us laughter, and God give us peace,  
Joy of your promise among us increase.

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**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (Pastor Julio)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose gifts of joy and happiness are poured out upon all people,  
and whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**You search us and know us.**

**You are acquainted with all our ways.**

**Throughout your work of creation you saw that everything your hands created were good, you took great delight in the harmonious, joyful dance of all the living creatures you formed.**

**Since the beginning you have given us the gifts of laughter and music which heals our souls, cool down tensions and bring down barriers among people. These are gifts that we often fail to recognize and use for our own healing. We tend to think that our existence should always be a serious matter, forgetting that You created us in your own image, a musical, humorous and joyful God.**

**Forgive us Gracious God, for not laughing enough, singing enough and for not seeing your Good Sense of Humour in all your creation. Amen.**

How vast is God's grace and joy!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,  
our failures and sins are washed away,  
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,  
we are called to be the beloved, joyful, and happy Community of Christ that  
gathers to celebrate the word of his Gospel. Pour out the Spirit of Joy, Hope and  
Happiness upon us. Amen.

**GREETING (ELW p. 147)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# HYMN: "MY SOUL CRIES OUT WITH A JOYFUL SHOUT" (#723) (Bette & Barclay)

## Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*  
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

*Drum roll. Knock knock joke (Dianne & Claudia Brema)*

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat  
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional  
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## **EVENING PRAYER (Pastor Julio)**

**Loving Father,  
You created us in your own image,  
and you are a God of infinite laughter and joy.  
It is with laughter and joy  
that we come together to worship you.  
Help us to recognize these gifts  
and share them with the world. Amen**

**First Reading: Jonah Story** (Narrated by Marilyn Schultz)  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Drum roll. Knock knock Joke*

### **Psalm 126** (Elwood Schmidt)

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
2 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.’  
3 The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.  
4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.  
5 May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.  
6 Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.

**Hymn “Shine Jesus Shine” (#671) (Barclay & Bette)**  
**Shine, Jesus, Shine / Brilla, Jesús**

Refrain / Estribillo



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa-ther's glo - ry.



Blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, riv - er, flow,



flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy. Send forth your Word,



Lord, and let there be light!

Verses / Estrofas



1. Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, In the  
2. Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, From the  
3. As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, So our



midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing. Je - sus, Light of the  
shad - ows in - to your ra - diancy; By the blood I may  
fac - es dis - play your like - ness, Ev - er chang - ing from



world, shine up - on us; Set us free by the truth you now  
en - ter your bright-ness; Search me, try me, con - sume all my  
glo - ry to glo - ry, Mir - rored here, may our lives tell your



bring us: Shine on me; Shine on me.  
dark - ness: Shine on me; Shine on me.  
sto - ry: Shine on me; Shine on me.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b.1950; tr. by Luis Alfredo Díaz and Lori Black Mathis  
Tune: SHINE, 9 9 10 10 33 with refrain; Graham Kendrick, b.1950, arr. by Tom Fenske  
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*Drum roll, joke*

**Second Reading: Philippians 4: 4-7** Brooks McClennan

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Word of God, Word of life.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Hymn: Haugen's Magnificat (First Verse) (Lily & Sylvia)**

**The Magnificat**  
**Luke 1:46-55**

*All*

1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my  
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -  
spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your  
lift - ed the hum-ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with  
ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

## **The Holy Gospel according to John 15: 9-12 (Pastor Julio)**

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon:**

a. Pastor Julio is walking down the street one day when he notices a very small boy ... trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street.

b. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach.

c. After watching the boy's efforts for some time, the pastor moves closer to the boy's position.

d. He steps smartly across the street, walks up behind the little fellow and, placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder leans over ... and gives the doorbell a solid ring.

e. Crouching down to the child's level, the pastor kindly smiles and asks, "And now what, my little man?"

f. To which the boy replies, "Now we run!"

This evening for the very first time as Ministry Area we celebrate Humour but not just ordinary humour, this is "Holy Humour" the word "Holy" is what separates ordinary things from divine things.

But before we get into the "Holy" part of humour, I first want to tell you what is said about humor:

"Humour is the salt of personality. Its presence is an evidence of good nature, of an appreciation of the real values of life, and of the lack of tenseness that characterizes some people. It is the most effective means of easing a difficult situation.

All this reminds us of the benefits of Humour, our Lord Jesus said that his followers should be the salt of the earth, to give a good flavour to people's lives and your own, you have to enjoy and be able to share the gift of laughter but most importantly you need to rejoice and rejoice always. Ah! But there is something to clarify here, not to rejoice just for the sake of rejoicing but to rejoice in the Lord Jesus.

This is what the apostle Paul said “<sup>4</sup> Keep on rejoicing in the Lord at all times. He also said: Keep on rejoicing!<sup>5</sup> Let your gracious attitude<sup>[c]</sup> be known to all people. The Lord is near: <sup>6</sup> Never worry about anything. Instead, in every situation let your petitions be made known to God through prayers and requests, with thanksgiving.”

These words were written by the Apostle Paul when he was in prison with the threat of execution over his head. He knew that his life was about to come to an end soon and still his heart was full of joy and thanksgiving. We wonder why he felt that way in such difficult circumstances. Well, the answer is very simple, he knew that the resurrected Lord Jesus was with him and that is all he needed to rejoice.

Every year on February 14<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate Valentine's day, a special day when couples rejoice for being together, for being with one another, but when couples for whatever reason get separated that joy ends. Christians can never lose our joy because we never lose our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul while being in prison, in a dark and cold cell, isolated from friends, his church, his fellow evangelists, perhaps his job as a tent maker, didn't lose the spirit of thankfulness, the spirit of joy, the smile on his face or maybe the gift of laughter because the Spirit of the Resurrected Jesus was with him. This is what separates the regular joy, the regular laughter, the regular humour from the “Holy Humour.”

There was a king who had all his world could afford. The thing he loved most, however, was to laugh. Once while being entertained a jester came along wishing to join in the festival of activities and also wishing to perform for him. His opportunity came and he put the best comical show together he had ever done, and the king never laughed so hard.

Once the activity was all over the king wanted to hire this jester to be his personal jester. Once hired the king in humour handed him a small stick and said, "You are the most foolish man alive. When you find someone more foolish than you, then you give them this stick," and the king laughed heartily.

After many years had passed by, the king laid sick on his death bed ready to go at any moment. He called for his jester, for he wanted to laugh one more time before he died. When the jester was through, he asked to speak to the king personally.

Once alone with the king the jester asked, "King, where are you going?" The king responded, "on a far journey." The jester asked again, "and how do you plan to get there?" Again, the king responded, "I don't know." Then the jester pulled the stick from his back pocket and handed it to the king.

The king was stunned and asked why he had given him the stick. The jester replied, "King, today I have found a more foolish man than I. For you see, I only trifled with the things of life, but you have trifled with things of eternity."

Going through life laughing and rejoicing just for the sake of it, will certainly brighten our days but at the end, it will not lead us anywhere, but going through life laughing and rejoicing in the Lord Jesus will take us to eternal life.

Let's rejoice in the Lord and rejoice always, after all, we are an apostolic church, we are a continuation of the early church that when they got together, they did it with a glad and thankful heart.

This is what the Book of Acts has to say about those early believers: Acts 2: <sup>46</sup>United in purpose, they went to the Temple every day, ate at each other's homes, and shared their food with glad and humble hearts. <sup>47</sup>They were praising God and enjoying the good will of all the people. Every day the Lord was adding to their number those who were being saved.

It sounds like a happy, joyful, united community, that's the way it was, and that's the way it should be now even though we are in the middle of a pandemic and a stay at home order, regardless of all this, we still are a community united in Christ's love. So, I want to finish this message with another humorous story :

"What time does the library open?" the man on the phone asked. "Nine A.M." came the reply. "And what's the idea of calling me at home in the middle of the night to ask a question like that?"

"Not until nine A.M.?" the man asked in a disappointed voice. "No, not till nine A.M.!" the librarian said. "Why do you want to get in before nine A.M.?" "Who said I wanted to get in?" the man sighed sadly. "I want to get out."

**PLEASE JOIN THE HYMN OF THE DAY: “Lord of the Dance”**

Bette & Barclay

I danced in the morning when the world was begun  
I danced in the moon, and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Ref: Dance then wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high  
And they left me there on a cross to die.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

*Drum roll. joke*

**CREED (Maasai Creed) Bette Rempel**

Let us confess our faith according to the Maasai Creed:

We believe in the one High God of love who created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created man and wanted man to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe in the world. We have known this God in darkness, and we now know God in the light. God promised in his book the Bible that he would save the world and all the nations and tribes.

We believe that God made good on his promise by sending his son, Jesus Christ, a man by the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari, doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing that the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day he rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is lord.

We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him. All who have faith in him must be sorry about their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live by the rules of love and share the bread together, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession** Maria Featherston

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

Loving Father, your joy is our strength. We gather to share our love, laughter, and sense of humour. Be with those who are troubled or ill. Give them your encouragement, healing, and peace.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Creator of the swan and the platypus, we admire your sense of beauty and humour. Help us to appreciate all that you have made. Teach us to protect endangered habitats and their inhabitants and to become better stewards of your world.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Lord of unity, strengthen the relationship of our churches in Niagara, provide us with a sense of joy and playfulness as we work together for your glory.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Lord of wisdom, guide our leaders to serve with love and justice. May they provide for those in need: the poor, the outcasts, the isolated, and the forgotten.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Lord of love and hope, teach us to share your message of joy in the resurrection. Help us to be joyful in serving others, trusting in your grace.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We lift these and all our prayers to you, gracious Father. **Amen**

**PEACE (ELW p. 152)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Hymn # 763 “How Can I Keep From Singing” (Lily & Sylvia)**

## My Life Flows On in Endless Song



1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,  
2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.  
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.  
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.  
It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

## LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 trespasses,**

**as we forgive those  
who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING (Isaiah 55:12)**

**For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Amen**

**PLEASE JOIN OUR SENDING HYMN**

**(ELW HYMN #866) “We are Marching In the Light of God”  
(Lily and Company)**

We are marching in the light of God (4x)  
We are marching, marching  
We are marching, marching  
We are marching in the light of God. (Repeat 1st 3 lines)

2. We are dancing in the light of God.....
3. We are praying in the light of God.....
4. We are singing in the light of God.....

*Drum roll. Joke*

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 155)**

**Go in peace. Share God’s joy, hope and happiness with others.  
Thanks be to God!**

*Drum Roll.*

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### **Higher Ground**

Music: Charles Gabriel ©1983 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The  
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### **I Know whom I have believed**

Music: James McGranahan (1840-1907) Public Domain

### **We're Marching to Zion**

Music: Robert Lowry, 1826-99. Public Domain

### **Be Thou my Vision**

Music: Irish traditional. Public Domain

### **The Magnificat**

Music: Marty Haugen

Tune and Text: © 1990, 2016 GIA Publications, Inc.

### **Lord of the Dance**

Music: Shaker Song Harmony by Sydney Carter

Text: Sydney Carter © 1963 Stainer & Bell Admin Hope Publishing Company

### **We are Marching in the Light of God**

Text: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984. Public Domain

Music: South African traditional; arr. *Freedom Is Coming*

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