

New Hope Presbyterian Church  
Order of Worship  
April 8, 2021  
Bright Sunday  
(aka Holy Humor Sunday)

(remember the order of service is backwards)

Postlude

Blessing

Hymn: "God Bless You, Merry Sinner"  
(to the tune of God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen)

God bless you, merry sinner  
You're forgiven, it is true.  
Remember Christ our 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 on Calvary  
That dismal Friday morn,  
Amid the pain and suffering  
Eternal life was born.  
It came with outstretched arms to us  
Right through the curtain torn.  
Oh tidings of Easter peace and joy,  
Peace and joy,  
Oh tidings of Easter peace and joy.

So sing an Alleluia  
For our Savior's victory,

And shout to all, "Hosanna!"  
That we have been set free  
From sin and death and devil's grip  
For all eternity.  
We'll have tidings of  
Easter peace and joy, Peace and joy,  
Glad tidings of Easter peace and joy.

Prayers of the People w/Lord's Prayer

Time of Self-Offering

Reflection: Make 'Em Laugh

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

### **Jesus Appears to Thomas**

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

### **The Purpose of John's Gospel**

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe<sup>[b]</sup> that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 37:1-13

Do not fret because of those who are evil  
or be envious of those who do wrong;  
<sup>2</sup> for like the grass they will soon wither,  
like green plants they will soon die away.  
<sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
<sup>4</sup> Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him and he will do this:  
<sup>6</sup> He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,  
your vindication like the noonday sun.  
<sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD  
and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.

- <sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;  
do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- <sup>9</sup> For those who are evil will be destroyed,  
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.
- <sup>10</sup> A little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
though you look for them, they will not be found.
- <sup>11</sup> But the meek will inherit the land  
and enjoy peace and prosperity.
- <sup>12</sup> The wicked plot against the righteous  
and gnash their teeth at them;
- <sup>13</sup> but the Lord laughs at the wicked,  
for he knows their day is coming.

### Prayer for Illumination

“Hark! The Herald Angel Said”  
(to the tune of “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”)

Hark! The herald angel said,  
“Why seek Jesus with the dead?  
He’s not here, as you can see,  
Gravecloths 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!”

### Hymn: Christ Arose

Low in the grave He lay,  
Jesus my Savior!  
Waiting the coming day,  
Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o’er His foes;  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,

and He lives forever  
with His saints to reign,  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed,  
Jesus my Savior!  
Vainly they seal the dead,  
Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
and He lives forever  
with His saints to reign,  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Death cannot keep his prey,  
Jesus my Savior!  
He tore the bars away,  
Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
and He lives forever  
with His saints to reign,  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

### **Confession and Creed for Bright Sunday**

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, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son.

**Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!**

Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

**Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

One: Here is the Good News:

“Christ Jesus came down  
into this world to save sinners.”

ALL: To forgive us in our failure,  
to accept us as we are,  
to make us as we were meant to be. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

ALL: Merciful Savior, forgive us our sins. Sometimes we are sour and dour Christians, not expressing the joy of our faith. Sometimes, we are downright rude to people. Sometimes, we don't care what's going on in the world – as long as we are cared for. Forgive us for being too serious – without laughter and delight in our salvation. Lord, shower us with joy this day for your sake. Amen.

Hymn: Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;

Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart  
prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 2:

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3:

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make  
His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

Verse 4:

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of  
His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,

And wonders, and wonders of His love.

TEXT: Isaac Watts

MUSIC: George Frederick Handel, arranged by Lowell Mason;

Choral ending arranged by Tom Fettke (*Choral ending* © 1986 WORD MUSIC (a div. Of WORD, INC.).

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Call to worship:

One: Christ is arisen!

ALL: Christ is arisen indeed!

One: Christ goes ahead of us into the world.

ALL: We will follow the risen Christ!

Prelude