



Sunday, April 11, 2021

2nd Sunday of Easter

also known as **Holy Humor Sunday**

9:30 am Worship Service

Mission Statement: Compelled by God's love and our faith in Jesus Christ, Unity Church, a diverse people of faith, seeks to realize God's dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.

Core Values: We: love children, serve Christ with courage, embrace diversity, nurture community, and advocate for justice and peace.

Vision Statement: We are called to Reach Up, Reach In and Reach Out

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We invite you to contact Unity's staff members:

The Rev. Clarence Pettit, Senior Pastor
302-293-5415; pastorpettit@hotmail.com
Office hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9:00 to 1:00

The Rev. Dr. Melissa P. Lemons, Pastor for Community Ministry
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Norwood Coleman, Jr., PhD, Music Director
Mrs. Sharlene Drummond, Choir Director

YOU CAN ACCESS US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30AM ON YOUTUBE, UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WILMINGTON, DE WITH THE CURRENT SUNDAY DATE. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, USE LINK BELOW.

“Enter to Worship”

*Those who are able are invited to stand ** **Please, no walking or standing during this time. BOLD PRINT:** Congregation responds, P: Presider, A: Assisting Minister/Worship Leader

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

> PRAISE & WORSHIP – “There is None Like You”

**There is none like you,
no one else can touch my heart like you do
I can search for all eternity long
and find there is none like you**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Introduction

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ’s presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

And, the Sunday after Easter is known as **Holy Humor Sunday**. We rejoice that Christ is Risen. We show our joy through hospitality, care for vulnerable people, and by spreading good jokes.

Today we invite you to share funny stories, jokes, or one-liners that will help us to share our joy and to embrace the life that the good Lord has gifted to us now and forever.

OPENING – “Jesus Paid It All”

**Jesus paid it all - all to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed me white as snow**

**He washed me, Jesus washed
He washed me, I'm so glad He washed me
Sin had left a crimson stain
he washed me white as snow**

CONFESSION & FOREGIVENESS

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, **with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and laughs with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, rejoicing now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Joy to the World

- 1 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.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Second Reading: 1 John 1:1--2:2

¹We 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—²this 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—³we 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. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This 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. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but 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. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}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; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

AL-LE-LU-IA, LORD TO WHOM SHALL WE GO. YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF E-TER-NAL LIFE. AL-LE-LU-IA.

***GOSPEL (please stand)**

P: The Holy Gospel according to: JOHN 20:19-31

C: Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me?"

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

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

SERMON

Pastor Melissa Lemons

Notes...

HYMN OF THE DAY - "God Provides"

**God provides - so why do I worry about my life
When you come to my rescue a thousand times
Every other voice it is a lie, God Provides
God provides -in ways I can't explain and can't deny
The little that I have He multiplies
Just when I feel He won't show up on time - God Provides
He'll come through when the clouds of doubt rain down on you
And test everything you thought you knew
Now you finally see what God can do for you**

**So tonight close your eyes there's no more need to fight
Watch God Provide**

**God provides - It's hard to say when there's no food to eat
or what you see feels all that life will be
and will this be another year of misery for me
but my faith can't survive on just things i see
and my feelings can't control my destiny
See God I only want what you believe for me**

**So tonight close your eyes there's no more need to fight
Watch God Provide**

CREED—Communion of Saints Affirmation of Faith

(Compiled by Chris Anderson with help from the Joyful Noiseletter)

We believe with the Bible that “that there is a time to weep and a time to laugh.”

We believe with Chrysostom that “laughter has been implanted in our souls.”

We believe with Aquinas that there is a time for “playful deeds and jokes.”

We believe with Luther that “You have as much laughter as you have faith.”

We believe with Calvin that “we are nowhere forbidden to laugh.”

We believe with Francis De Sales that “humor is the foundation for reconciliation.”

We believe with Wesley that “A sour religion is the devil’s religion.”

We believe with Kierkegaard that “Humor is intrinsic to Christianity.”

We believe with Dostoevski that “If a person laughs well they are a good person.”

We believe with Chesterton that “A good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation.”

We believe with Bonhoeffer that “Ultimate seriousness is not without a dose of humor.”

We believe with Krister Stendhal that “humor, along with irony, forms a safeguard against idolatry.”

We believe with Eric Gritsch that “Humor is thus anchored in a self-knowledge that indicates one’s limitations.”

We believe with Charles Schultz that “Humor is proof that everything is going to be alright with God nevertheless.”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others (*specific needs may be named*). Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community (*name*). Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy (*especially*). Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING (God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7, 8)

We ask that you place your offering in the plate as you exit the church. God bless you.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.

Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**If you have not, please pick up a prepared communion kit near the entrance to the sanctuary.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *All are welcome to communion*

P: The Lord be with you **C: And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. We remember and proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection. We look with hope for the Lord's coming and ask...**Come, Lord Jesus. Come Holy Spirit. Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Holy Humor Version

P: Rote memory can be anything but fun and joyful. Please raise your voices to a version of the prayer that may touch your heart and your funny bone as it reaches our Father's ears.

**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 in our hearts.
You have power to transform,
and in the light of Your smile is Your glory. Amen.**

— from an order of worship by the Oakton United Methodist Church.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
**Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Je-
sus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.

**HERE IS A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO DONATE TO UNITY VIA
TEXT AND CREDIT CARD. SET UP VANCO ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE
BY TEXTING TO (844)794-0738, AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS TO DO-
NATE BY CREDIT CARD.**

**United Voices collection bin for items is in the Narthex. Thank you
for your support.**

**Hospitality Baskets in Narthex – Tickets will be on sale following
morning worship to benefit our hospitality ministry. \$1. For 1 tick-
et; \$2. For 3 tickets & \$5. For arm length. Drawing will be May 9th.**

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us to minister to the world.

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a smiling face and a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “Thine is the Glory” ELW 376 (next page)

DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

“Let us exit to serve”

We are called to reach up, reach in, and reach out.....

IF YOU HAVE ANYONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE @ 302-658-5288.

THIS WEEK WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:

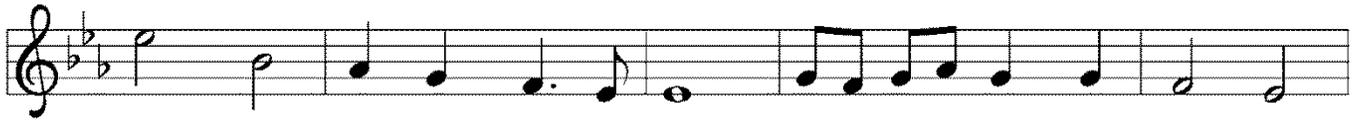
**BETTY BACHER
DICK ULLMAN
ERIKA ULLMAN
JIM PIETSCHMAN
DOTTIE DODDS
DELORES BOUZOUKIS
SHARON WRIGHT
MARY DOUGLAS
DELANEY ASHWORTH**

**PASTOR CLARENCE PETTIT
PASTOR MELISSA LEMONS
UNITY CHURCH
TRACY COOPER
THE MILLER FAMILY
MIKE (BRAD) BRADLEY
ALEXIS JOHNSON
ALLIE MAE BOUIE**

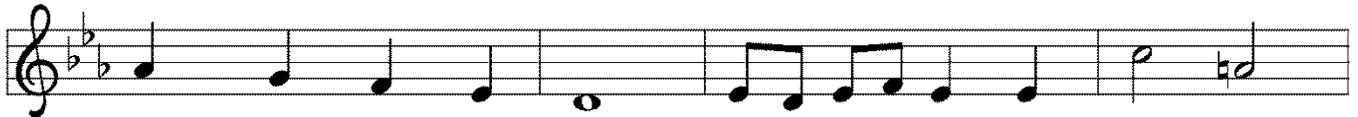
Thine Is the Glory



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain



where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759