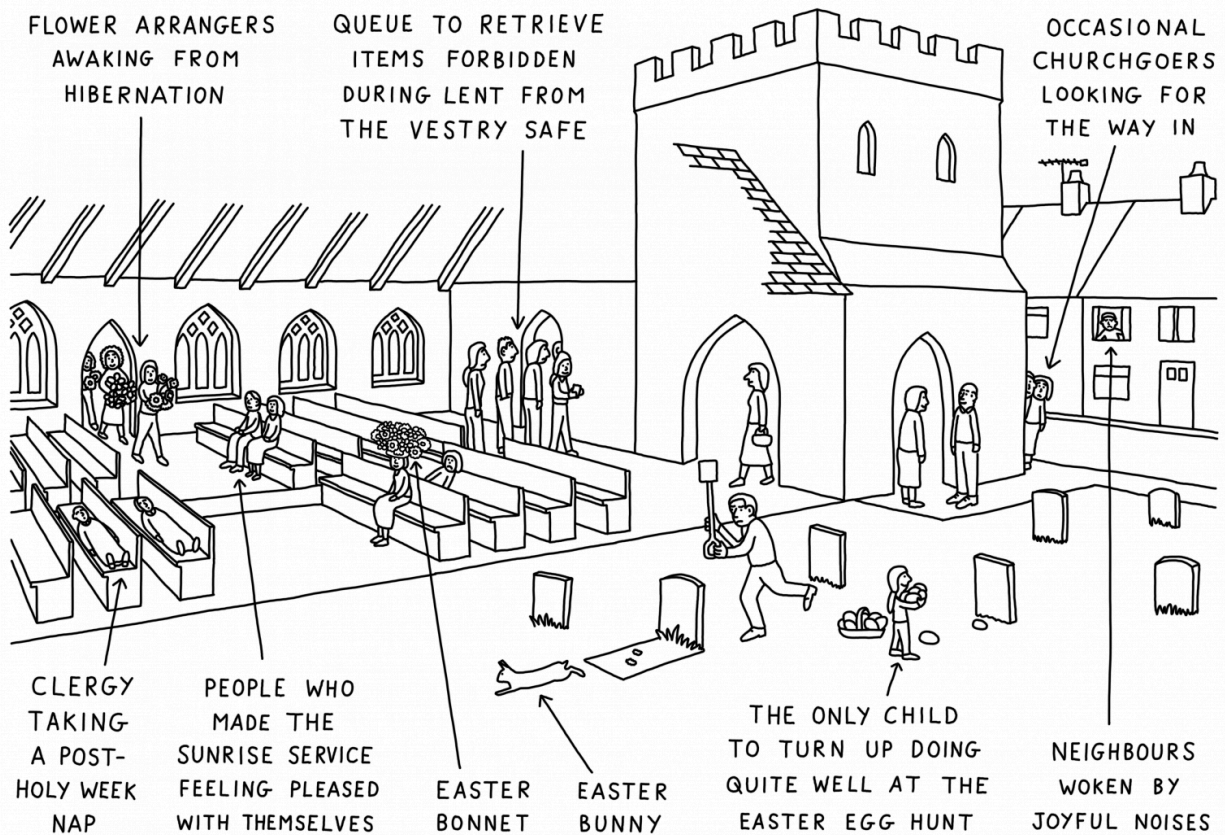


“Inspired by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, the Barre Congregational Church seeks to be a welcoming and caring congregation that supports each other and serves the wider world.”

The Barre Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

THE EASTER SERVICE



CartoonChurch.com

The Easter Service by Dave Walker, United Kingdom

Sunday, April 12th, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

Holy Humor Sunday

Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell

Pastor

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

Pastor: We believe in God, who made us in their image.

People: We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like God.

Pastor: We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

People: He had the last laugh when He rose from the dead.

Pastor: We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Creator and the Son.

People: Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – the Spirit is our joy!

Pastor: 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.

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

* Opening Hymn

“He Lives!”

#226

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

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. Amen.

Assurances of Grace

Reading from the Old Testament

Genesis 18:12a

Jackie Johnson

Philippians 4: 4 - 7

Gospel Reading

John 20: 19 - 31

Rev. James

Responding to the Word (*Responsive*)

One: The word of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Two Ministers Walked Into a Bar, The Third One Ducked”

Anthem

Expressions of Gratitude, Joys, and Concerns

After each prayer shared, we respond, “O Lord, hear our prayer.”

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

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 for 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn

“That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright”

#229

Affirmation of Faith (Responsive)

One: We believe with the Bible that

All: “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 a foundation for reconciliation.”

We believe with Kierkegaard that

“Humor is intrinsic to Christianity.”

We believe with Chesterton that

“A good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation.”

We believe with Charles Schulz that

“Humor is proof that everything is going to be alright with God nevertheless.”

Call to the Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him for winter ice and snow
Which is precipitation as you know
And which will make our gardens grow
Praise God for sustenance and love
Bestowed on us from heaven above
And for the human love we share
With struggling people everywhere
Praise God for pancakes and for jam
For English muffins, cheese and spam,
For beans and rice and guacamole
And all things beautiful and holy
Praise God for light which is essential
Praise for Christmas lights and tinsel
For candles burning in the forest
For Handel's Hallelujah chorus
And grant us all a good night's rest
From Honolulu to Key West
And grant relief from grief and pain
From LA to Bar Harbor Maine
Tomorrow bring us grace and truth
From San Antonio to Duluth
And show us what contentment means
From Anchorage to New Orleans.**

Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn
Benediction

“In the Garden”

#227

**Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

**Please sit quietly for the postlude.



If you'd like to donate to the work of the BCC, please scan the QR Code with the camera application on your cell phone. A link will pop up. Please click it and fill out the donation form.

Announcement:

Volunteers Needed on Sunday Mornings!

We need your help to make Sunday morning worship an inspiring and welcoming experience for members and friends alike. Please consider signing up as a lector (reading Scripture during the service), usher, or greeter. The blue sign up book is available at the table in the back of the sanctuary. You can also sign up by reaching out to deacons Cathy James (lectors), Bev Thomas (greeters), or Rev. James at revjames.bccucc@gmail.com.

Welcome Guests!

We are so glad that you are worshipping with us today! The Barre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation where no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here! We are blessed by your presence with us. Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right of the sanctuary and downstairs. We heartily invite you to join us for conversation and refreshments in our Fellowship Hall following the service.

We welcome the seekers.

We welcome those who question.

We welcome those who believe without question.

It is not for us to turn anyone away.

Arms wide open.

Welcome home.

Upcoming events and meetings:

Sunday, April 12: Handbell Practice 8 am

Sunday, April 12: Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am

Tuesday, April 14: Property Meeting

Sunday, April 19: Handbell Practice

Sunday, April 19: Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am with Carol Ann Barker

Sunday, April 19: Administration Ministry Meeting 7 pm (*Via Zoom*)

Tuesday, April 21: Council Meeting

Please inform the church office of all upcoming events

Serving this Sunday

Jackie Johnson, Lector

, Greeter

, Ushers

Finance, Coffee Hour

Cary Friberg, Welcome

Thank you to our volunteers for their service to the Church.