

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY!



ANAHEIM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 11, 2021

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

You are encouraged to join us in lighting a candle in your home as the service begins.

CHORAL INTROIT

Et Resurrexit (from Credo, Mass in G)

Franz Schubert

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joy is loose,

In the wiggles of the children,

The whispers of the youth,

The smiles of the adults.

We praise God for this glorious day,

Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.

Joy and praise fills our hearts and our songs

Let the laughter be deep, for we are Easter People and "Alleluia" is our song.

HYMN NO.118 (vs. 1 & 3)

The Day of Resurrection!

The day of resurrection, earth, tell it out abroad;

the passover of gladness, the passover of God.

From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,

our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.

Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth the song begin!

Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein!

Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,

for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are.

Believing we must 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.

ANTHEM *I Sing Because I'm Happy* spiritual, arr. R. Dillworth

SCRIPTURE John 20:19-31

SERMON "Again & Again, We Are Surprised by God"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe with the Bible 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 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 Schultz that

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

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 our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN *Give to Us Laughter* tune, *Be Thou My Vision*

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 praising and sharing delights.

Even in sorrow and hours of grief, Laughter with tears brings us healing relief!

God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace, Joy of your promise among us increase.

(hymn text copyright © 1974 Walter Farquharson)

BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE *The Archbishop's Fanfare* Francis Jackson

Today's Worship Leaders

Kim Skilling, Pastor David Hughes, Director of Music Carol Hughes, Accompanist
AFPC Intern Choir Abbott Hatch & Rick Connor, Video and Sound