



Oakland-Cambridge
Presbyterian
Church

Service for the Lord's Day

2nd Sunday of Easter – Holy Humor Sunday

April 8, 2018

10:00 a.m.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh! Luke 6:21

Please SILENCE ALL Personal Electronic Devices Before Worship.

We Gather as God's People

Welcome to our worship service. Take a moment to quiet yourself as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Welcome to Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church! In this space, we invite you to bring all of who you are - your identity, your beliefs, your doubts, your story. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence. Please take a moment to sign the black fellowship pads (in the pews), with your name and information about yourself that you want to share with us. After worship, please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Prelude

Announcements of Our Church Life and Ministry

Bulletin – noun

- 1. Something to read during the sermon**
- 2. A fan used in churches without air conditioning**
- 3. Your receipt for attending church**

* Please stand as you are able.

The Centering Song (Tune – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”)“When We Are Tempted”

When we are tempted in our pride to dizzy heights of sin,
beneath our feet, O Lord, provide a ripe banana skin,
and when we yearn at someone’s head to let a brickbat fly,
give us the grace to use instead a well-aimed custard pie...

When cherished institutions stand before your throne of grace,
with good intentions in each hand and egg on every face,
teach us to query grand designs with laughter born of tears,
for deep in earth’s jam-buttu mines your rainbow still appears...

Call to Worship [Responsive]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Joy is loose,

People: In the wiggles of the children,

Leader: The whispers of the youth,

People: The smiles of the adults.

Leader: We praise God for this glorious day,

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

Leader: Joy and praise fills our hearts and in our songs

People: Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people. Amen!

***Opening Hymn** (Tune – “Take Time to Be Holy”) “Take Time to Be Silly”

Take time to be funny, rejoice in the Lord
Let laughter explode and have fun with God’s Word
For laughter is healing, gives strength to the weak
God loves to see smiles, for they lift up the meek.

Take time to be silly, it’s good for the soul
Too many are somber, grabbing control.
Let go and let God’s love wash over your soul
Heavenly transcendence can be your life’s goal.

Old Sarah and Abram – a child they lacked
But God’s angels promised and she birthed Isaac
In Hebrew that’s “laughter”, go check if you want
Genesis Seven-teen is where it is found.

For humor is holy, it sanctifies life,
Replenishes hope and oft softens advice
It undercuts sorrow, deflates haughty pride
So smile and hang on, and rejoice in life’s ride.

***The Prayer of the Day** [Responsive]

Leader: Let us pray... God of Fools, Lord of Clowns and Smiling Saints, we rejoice in this playful prayer that you are a God of laughter and of tears.

People: Blessed are you, for you have rooted within us the gifts of humor, lightheartedness, and mirth, with jokes and comedy, you cause our hearts to

sing as laughter is made to flow out of us.

Leader: We are grateful that your Son, Jesus, who was this world's master of wit, daily invites us to be fools for your sake, to embrace the madness of your prophets, holy people, and saints.

People: **We delight in holy madness which becomes the very medicine to heal the chaos of the cosmos since it calls each of us out of the hum-drumness of daily life into joy, adventure, and, most of all, into freedom.**

Leader: We, who are so easily tempted to barter our freedom for tiny speckles of honor and power, are filled with gratitude that your Son's very life has reminded us to value only love, the communion with other persons and with you, and to balance honor with humor.

People: **With circus bands and organ grinders, with fools, clowns, court-jesters, and comics, with high-spirited angels and saints, we too join the fun and foolishness of life, so that your holy laughter may ring out to the edges of the universe.**

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord our God, who invites us to be holy fools.

People: **Amen.**

***Two+** *(A new way to share the peace of Christ and greet one another.)*

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

Question: **What is your favorite joke? Could you share it?**

We Listen for God's Word

The Children's Message Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Blessing: **You are God's beloved child. With you God is well pleased.**

Prayer for Illumination [Responsive].....

Leader: God, teach our hearts to laugh, as we listen to your joyful word, that still confounds us with such absurdities as - the camel attempting to squeeze through the eye of a needle, the person with a plank in their eye who tries to pluck a speck from a neighbor's eye, the woman who on finding one lost coin, throws a party!

People: **In our listening to your Word, may we discover that what seems ridiculous to some, are truly the ways of your Kingdom within and around us! Amen!**

Building the Bridge Between Resurrection and Thomas

The Scripture

John 20:19-31

Readers Theatre *(see insert)*

Pastor: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

People: **We give thanks to God.**

Sermon Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

... musical interlude for quiet personal reflection...

We Respond to God's Love

***Affirmation of Faith** [Responsive] *We Believe in Laughter*

Leader: We believe with the Bible that

People: “there is a time to weep and a time to laugh.”

Leader: We believe with Chrysostom that

People: “laughter has been implanted in our souls.”

Leader: We believe with Aquinas that there is a time for

People: “playful deeds and jokes.”

Leader: We believe with Luther that

People: “You have as much laughter as you have faith.”

Leader: We believe with Calvin that

People: “we are nowhere forbidden to laugh.”

Leader: We believe with Francis De Sales that

People: “humor is a foundation for reconciliation.”

Leader: We believe with Kierkegaard that

People: “Humor is intrinsic to Christianity.”

Leader: We believe with Chesterton that

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

Leader: We believe with Bonhoeffer that

People: “Ultimate seriousness is not without a dose of humor.”

Leader: We believe with Charles Schultz that

People: “Humor is proof that everything is going to be all right with God nevertheless.”

Leader: We believe with Krister Stendhal that

People: “humor, along with irony, forms a safeguard against idolatry.”

Leader: We believe with the Bible that

People: “there is a time to weep and a time to laugh.”

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People [Responsive] Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Leader: We pray to the Lord... **People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer (*using 'debts' and 'debtors'...*)

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.

Prayer Response *PH* # 322 “Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Offering of Our Tithes and Our Gifts to God

Offertory Music

* Please stand as you are able.

***Offertory Response** *Sing the Faith* # 2036 “Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”; let the poor say,
“I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”
And now let the weak say, “I am strong”; let the poor say,
“I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.” Give thanks!

***Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving** [In Unison]

O Holy Source of laughter, thank you for giving us the gift of humor, and for the faith that allows us to employ in ways that bring healing and hope to hurting world. We laugh because in your rising to new life, you had the final laugh not death. With joy in our hearts, a smile on our faces, and laughter in our souls, we share these gifts freely and out of love, and that is no joke! Thank you, God! Amen.

We Depart to Do God’s Will

***Closing Hymn** *PH* # 302..... “I Danced in the Morning”

***The Sending** [Responsive]..... Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Leader: The Laughing One called us together

People: so we could share in the laughter of life.

Leader: The Laughing One sends us out,

People: to carry the joy of life and love to the world.

Leader: Go out to laugh, to live to love. And when you hear a good joke...

People: remember that sharing is a great thing!

Leader: May the God of Isaac, that is “laughter,” the Christ, who for the joy set before him endured the cross and the Spirit of Joy be with you both now and forever.

People: Amen.

***Song of Dismissal** *PH* # 432 “Canto de Esperanza”

May the God of hope go with us every day, Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way, Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that’s new, Faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

Postlude



Our liturgy this morning is from: The Call to Worship - re:Worship blog; The Opening Prayer was written by Edward Hays in *Pray All Ways: A Book for Daily Worship Using All Your Senses*; The Affirmation of Faith was compiled by Rev. Chris Anderson; The Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving was adapted from a prayer written by Bruce Prewer; The Sending - posted on God is Still Laughing website.

Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church is committed to using language in such a way that all members of the community of faith may recognize themselves to be included, addressed, and equally cherished before God. Seeking to bear witness to the whole world, the church struggles to use language which is faithful to the biblical truth and which neither purposefully nor inadvertently excludes people because of gender, color, or other circumstance in life. (Book of Order, W-1.2006)

Everyone is invited to stay for fellowship and refreshment following worship today.

- Our liturgist today is ...
- Our musician today is Angie Williams.
- Our ushers/greeters today are Stan & Kay Lund.
- **Nursery care is provided today by the Deacons.**
- Printed copies of sermons are available in the box on the wall outside of the church office and on our website www.OCPChurch.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS —

- **First quarter giving statements are now available in Fellowship Hall. Please pick up your copy and take it with you. Thank you!**
- If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter, *The Good News*, please send either your email (preferred) or snail mail address to the church office. (Our addresses are listed on the last page of the bulletin.)
- **The Mission Committee reminds all folks to share their loose change in the Least Coin Crock, as a reminder of the prayers they say. Think of all the coins we would have if every time you prayed, you set aside a coin. These funds are to be used for local mission work. This is a year-long mission collection.**

- Help us save “pig points.” Please turn in your receipts from Piggly Wiggly in the brown bag in the narthex, so that we can receive a rebate. All funds received are used for mission projects. **The next deadline for receipts is Sunday, June 10.**
- Copies of *These Days*, a daily devotional magazine, are available at the rear entrance. Donations are voluntary.

EVENTS —

- Today after worship – Children’s Library open. Last day of Children’s Reading Program. Returns only. No check-outs.
- Next Sunday, April 15 – 9:00 a.m. Children’s Library open.
- 10:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Children’s Library open. Last day for check-out.
- 11:00 a.m. Deacons
- Noon—Book Study of “A Prayer for Owen Meany”
- **VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY —**
- Liturgist – Jenine Spack
- Ushers/Greeters – Larry & Sylvia Jensen
- Fellowship – Mare Stewart
- Nursery – Deacons



MARCH 2018 Update

Thank you to all who continue to support the Cambridge Food Pantry through donations and volunteer time. Your time and dedication to the Pantry is appreciated! Interested in volunteering? Register online at the CAP website – www.cambridgecap.net and click on volunteerism tab then go to volunteerism Cambridge Food Pantry volunteer opportunities and then hit volunteer sign up. Anyone without internet access can also sign up by calling the Pantry at 423-8142.

The Cambridge Food Pantry & Resource Center is open for shopping every Monday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Guests are invited to shop every other Monday. The Cambridge Food Pantry is located under the blue canopy at the Nikolay Middle School, 211 South Street.

FOOD AND OTHER ITEMS NEEDED AT CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY

The Cambridge Food Pantry could use the following items---Toilet Paper, Ketchup, Mustard, Jellies or Jam, Snack Chips, Cereal, Hearty Soups, Canned Ravioli, Pancake Syrup

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Sandy Berge (sister of Charleen Janus)
Ken Bilstad
Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strobusch)
David Gunnulson
Don Hawkins (husband of Margaret)
Jayne Kilian (daughter of Judy & Monty Pearson)
Scott Kramer family (friends of Charlie Porter)
Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)
Richard Nye (son-in-law of Ann & Dale Febock, Tara's husband, deploying to Iraq)
Andy Schieffer (Rose Ann West's nephew-in-law)
Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)
Joan Spaulding (former member Ralph Spaulding's wife)
Mary Trailer
Betty Willmore
Jim Willmore

Our children and unchurched children and families, our military around the world, our enemies, our church leaders, families and individuals experiencing financial, job-hunting, health, or relationship problems.

Families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

Church Schedule

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday

Communion: First Sunday of each month

Church School: Children through grade 7 meet at 10:00 a.m. Sunday
(Labor Day to Memorial Day)

Video of Worship Service: Cable 98 or 987 Sun. 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Tues. 8 a.m. & Noon
(Link to video also available on our website or Facebook page)

Fellowship & Refreshment: Following worship service each week

Pastoral Office Hours: Generally 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Tuesday or by appointment

Business Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday

(Church hours are approved by Session and posted on church entry doors.)

Telephone/Fax: 608-423-3001

Email: Office@OCPChurch.com or Pastor@OCPChurch.com

Web: www.OCPChurch.com

Mailing Address: 313 E. Main St., Cambridge, WI 53523-9629



Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

SESSION (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2018: Mark Touhey

Class of 2019: Mare Stewart, Mike Stitz

Class of 2020: Ann Febock, Renée Roland Johnson,

BOARD OF DEACONS (Meets the third Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2018: Julie Anderson, Judy Schroeder

Class of 2019: Joe Leto

Class of 2020: Randy Johnson, Judy Pearson

CHURCH STAFF

Music—

Accompanists: Marian Korth, Angie Williams

Business Manager: Ruth Poole

Pastor: Pastor Scott Marrese-Wheeler: (608) 417-0231 cell;

Pastor@OCPChurch.com Facebook: Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Follow Rev. Scott on Twitter: @2revsScott



John 20:19-31

- Narrator
- Jesus
- Thomas
- Disciples

Narrator: When 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 Jewish Leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said,

Jesus: 'Peace be with you.'

Narrator: After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again,

Jesus: 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

Narrator: When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

Jesus: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Narrator: But Thomas (who was called the Twin*), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him,

Disciples: 'We have seen the Lord.'

Narrator: But he said to them,

Thomas: '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.'

Narrator: A 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,

Jesus: 'Peace be with you.'

Narrator: Then he said to Thomas,

Jesus: 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'

Narrator: Thomas answered him,

Thomas: 'My Lord and my God!'

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

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

Narrator: For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us,

People: We give thanks to God!

How many evangelists does it take to change a light bulb?

Only one, but the bulb must repent of its darkness and be willing to be changed.

How many liberals does it take to change a light bulb?

Ten, but they will need to debate whether or not the bulb actually exists. Even then they still may not change it, for fear of alienating those who use florescent bulbs.

How many Presbyterians does it take to change a light bulb?

None. God has predestined when the lights will be on and off.

How many Mennonites does it take to change a light bulb?

One hundred and sixty: 40 people in the light bulb selection committee; 40 people in the light bulb purchasing committee; 40 people in the light socket location committee, and 40 people in the electricity modulator committee.

How many Roman Catholics does it take to change a light bulb?

None. They use candles.

How many Pentecostals does it take to change a light bulb?

Ten: one to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the darkness.

How many Charismatics does it take to change a light bulb?

Three: one to cast it out, and two more to catch it as it falls.

Alternate answer: Only one: hands were already in the air.

How many Baptists does it take to change a light bulb?

At least 15. One to change the light bulb, and two or three committees to approve the change. Oh, and also one to provide a casserole.

How many Independent Baptists does it take to change a light bulb?

Only one, because any more than that would be Ecumenicalism.

How many Nazarenes does it take to change a light bulb?

Six: One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy.

How many Anglicans/Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb?

Three. One to call the electrician, one to mix the drinks and one to talk about how much better the old one was.

How many Methodists does it take to change a light bulb?

Undetermined. Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved. You can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Bring a bulb of your choices to the Sunday lighting service and a covered dish to pass.

How many Mormons does it take to change a light bulb?

Five. One man to change the bulb, and four wives to tell him how to do it.

How many TV evangelists does it take to change a light bulb?

One. But for the message of light to continue, send in your donation today.

How many Amish does it take to change a light bulb?

What's a light bulb??

How many guitar-playing worship leaders does it take to change a light bulb?

One. But soon all those around can warm up to its glowing.

How many Unitarians does it take to change a light bulb?

We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship with your light bulb, and present it next month at our annual Light Bulb Sunday Service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

— from various online sources.

