



# Service for the Lord's Day

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Holy Humor Sunday

April 28, 2019

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.** We invite you to sign the pew pads, which will be passed from the back of the sanctuary to the front. Please fill out the information, share with the others in your row, and then pass it to the row in front of you. Thank you. 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

### **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] ..... Margaret Hawkins

*Leader:* The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*Leader:* In the face of a culture of death, a world of killing fields, a world of the walking dead

***People:* Christ is at the head of the resurrection parade**

\* Please stand as you are able.

*Leader:* transforming our tears of betrayal into tears of joy,

**People:** giving us dancing shoes for the resurrection party

*Leader:* And this glittering joker, who has danced in the dragon's jaws of death

**People:** now dances with a dance that is full of nothing less than the fullness of God

*Leader:* this is the dance of the new creation

**People:** this is the dance of life out of death

*Leader:* and in this dance all that was broken, all that was estranged, all that was alienated, all that was dislocated and disconnected

**People:** is reconciled, comes home, is healed, and is made whole.

*Leader:* Let all of creation be filled with laughter, shouts of joy, as we join in the resurrection dance of new life!

**\*Closing Hymn** *PH* # 302..... "I Danced in the Morning"

**\*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. Blessed are you, for you have rooted within us the gifts of humor, lightheartedness, and mirth, with jokes and comedy,

**People:** 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,

**People:** daily invites us to be fools for your sake, to embrace the madness of your prophets, holy people, and saints.

*Leader:* 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

**People:** into joy, adventure, and, most of all, into the resurrected life.

*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

**People:** to value only love, the communion with other persons and with you, and to balance honor with humor.

*Leader:* With circus bands and organ grinders,

**People:** with fools, clowns, court-jesters, and comics,

*Leader:* with high-spirited angels and saints,

**People:** 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,

**People:** who invites us to be holy fools in your name! 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.

\* Please stand as you are able.

**Prayer for Illumination** [Responsive]..... Margaret Hawkins

*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 through the Gospel of Matthew**

### **The Scripture**

Matthew 28:16-20

Readers Theatre (*see insert*)

### **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.**

\* Please stand as you are able.

**The Lord’s Prayer** (for Holy Humor Sunday)

Our Laughing One 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 the hatred and evil in our midst and own hearts. For we want Your Love alone to rule in our hearts. You have power to transform even deaths darkness into light and new life! And in the light of Your smile is Your glory, now and 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**

**\*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] ..... Margaret Hawkins

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**

**\*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.

\* Please stand as you are able.

**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 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 - excerpted from targum 2: subversive poetry in a postmodern world col 1:15-20, published in Colossians Remixed: Subverting The Empire by Sylvia C. Keesmaat and Brian J. Walsh. Posted on Jonny Baker’s Worship Tricks website; 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 Lord’s Prayer ~ adapted from re-Worship and Oakton United Methodist Church; 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.**

\* Please stand as you are able.

- Our liturgist today is Margaret Hawkins.
- Our musician today is Emily Rausch.
- 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](http://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.
- Copies of *These Days*, a daily devotional magazine, are available at the rear entrance. Donations are voluntary.

#### EVENTS —

- Next Sunday, May 5 – 10:00 a.m. Worship and Communion

#### VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY —

- Communion Servers - OPEN
- Liturgist – Jenine Spack
- Ushers/Greeters – Kris & Virgil Runge
- Fellowship – Jenine & Jack Spack
- Nursery – Deacons

### **Bel Canto Women’s Chorus presents... Tea & Tunes Dessert Show**

Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church,  
501 Skogen Road Cambridge

Instead of charging for tickets, your donation supports our community chorus and theater productions

**AUTHENTIC INDIAN FOOD...** Join Willerup Church at 414 W. Water St., Cambridge on **Sunday, May 5, 2019**. From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. they will be serving a menu to include a variety of Indian dishes (meat and vegetarian) served family-style. Adults: \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door; Children 10 and younger: \$5; Take-outs available; Call 423-3777 for tickets. This is a fundraiser for Willerup Missions.

## **CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY & RESOURCE CENTER – APRIL 2019 Update**

The Cambridge Food Pantry & Resource Center, 211 South Street is open for shopping every Monday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Guests are invited to shop every other Monday. Donation hours/office hours are Monday 9 am to 1 pm, Wednesday 9 am – 12 pm and Thursday 8:30 am to 3 pm. Donations may also be dropped off at Nikolay Middle School Office, during school hours 7:45 am to 3:45 pm, Monday thru Friday.

### **CAMBRIDGE POSTAL CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE**

Help The Cambridge Food Pantry on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> by filling a bag with food and putting it out by your mail boxes for the mail carriers/volunteers to collect. The food will be brought to the Food Pantry to be sorted and put on shelves. Have bags of food out by mail box by 8:00 a.m. Food Pantry can always use Paper Towel, Toilet Tissue, Shampoo and Conditioner along with Food Items Soups, Crackers, Tuna, Ravioli, Ramen Noodles, Cereal, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Ketchup and Mustard, Jams and Jelly

### **ITEMS NEEDED AT FOOD PANTRY**

The Cambridge Food Pantry can use the following items Ramen Noodles, Canned Ravioli, Ketchup, Mayo, Sugar, Crackers, Tuna, Hearty Soups, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Jams and Jelly, Women's large bladder control briefs

**Community Café – May 2<sup>nd</sup>** is the next Cambridge Community Café! Join the Cambridge CAP Board of Directors and Employees who will be serving Breakfast for Dinner, Egg Bakes, Sausage, Canadian Bacon, Fruit, and Desserts. The meal will be served at the Cambridge High School, 403 Blue Jay Way. Meal is served from 5:30 till 6:30 p.m. Everyone in Community is invited to come.



## **PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —**

Judy Brandt  
Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strohubusch)  
Don Hawkins (husband of Margaret Hawkins)  
Linda Johnson (mother of Randy Johnson)  
Jayne Kilian (daughter of Judy & Monty Pearson)  
Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)  
Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)  
John “Jack” Swank and his family (birth father of Renee Roland Johnson)

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.

The families of Linda Bagley Korth; Hugh & Doreen Drennan on the death of his brother, Bill, and other 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Office@OCPChurch.com) or [Pastor@OCPChurch.com](mailto:Pastor@OCPChurch.com)

**Web:** [www.OCPChurch.com](http://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 2019: Mare Stewart, Mike Stitz

Class of 2020: Ann Febock, Renée Roland Johnson,

Class of 2021: Melanie Rumpf

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

Class of 2019: Joe Leto

Class of 2020: Randy Johnson, Judy Pearson

Class of 2021: Judy Schroeder, Cheryl Stitz

### **CHURCH STAFF**

#### **Music—**

**Accompanists:** Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Emily Rausch,  
Angie Williams

**Business Manager:** Ruth Poole

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

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