



Oakland-Cambridge
OC Presbyterian
Church

Service for the Lord's Day

2nd Sunday of Easter – Holy Humor Sunday

April 24, 2022

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 questions, and your story wherever you are on your journey in life. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence.

The Gathering Music ...“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” & “I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

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 Prelude

“Bring Back the Springtime”
by Kurt Kaiser

Flute: Mare Stewart
Piano: Barb Brown

The Call to Worship [Responsive]

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Joy is loose,

Many: In the wiggles of the children,

One: The whispers of the youth,

Many: The smiles of the adults.

One: We praise God for this glorious day,

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

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

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

The Lighting of the Peace Candle

A Moment of Silence for Prayer

The Opening Hymn *PH* # 123“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!

Now above the sky He's King, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!

Praise our God ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

The Prayer of the Day [Responsive]

One: 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.

Many: 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.

One: 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.

Many: 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.

One: 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.

Many: 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.

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

Many: 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 comedy on TV or movie?

We Listen for God’s Word

The Prayer for Illumination [Responsive]

One: 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!

Many: **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!**

The Scripture

John 20:19-30

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 Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 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, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “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.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So 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.”

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, “Peace be with you.” Then 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.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” 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.

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

Many: We give thanks to God!

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

We Respond to God’s Love

The Affirmation of Faith [Responsive] We Believe in Laughter

One: We believe with the Bible that

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

One: We believe with Chrysostom that

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

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

Many: “playful deeds and jokes.”

One: We believe with Luther that

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

One: We believe with Calvin that

Many: “we are nowhere forbidden to laugh.”

One: We believe with Francis De Sales that

Many: “humor is a foundation for reconciliation.”

One: We believe with Kierkegaard that

Many: “Humor is intrinsic to Christianity.”

One: We believe with Chesterton that

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

One: We believe with Bonhoeffer that

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

One: We believe with Charles Schultz that

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

One: We believe with Krister Stendhal that

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

One: We believe with the Bible that

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

The Special Music

“Spring Song”

Flute: Mare Stewart

by Felix Mendelssohn

Piano: Barb Brown

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

One: Holy God, Lover of your children: the tomb has been opened,

Many: and we dance into your future.

One: Your life has dawned on us,

Many: and we surround you with our praise.

One: You reach out your hand,

Many: and lead us into joy.

One: Jesus Christ, Faithful Witness: you pick open the locked doors of our hearts

Many: and come in to be with us forever.

One: You breathe peace into our souls,

Many: so we may bring healing to a troubled, war-torn, violent and broken world.

One: Holy Spirit, Breath of Peace: you show us our hearts,

***Many:* so we may give love to others.**

One: You show us our hands,

***Many:* sending us to serve the needy.**

One: You show us your hope,

***Many:* so we may live together in your joy, your grace and your peace.**

One: God in Community, Holy in One, who is, who was, and who is to come, hear us as we pray as you have taught us,

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

In response to God's generosity, and in support of the ongoing ministry and mission at Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church, we invite you to share your financial support in several ways.

1. For those worshipping in-person, a basket is placed at the entrance to the sanctuary for you to leave your offering.
2. You may also mail in or drop-off your offering at Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church, 313 E. Main Street, Cambridge, WI 53523.
3. You may also donate online, using these directions: Use the app, **Vanco Mobile**. Search for "Vanco Mobile" in your app store (Vanco Payment Solutions). Once it's installed, find us (Presbyterian Church of Oakland-Cambridge) using our zip code (53523), and set up one-time or recurring payments, OR use the QR Code below to access our donor page. A link to our donor page is also on our website www.ocpchurch.com. (Click on the button with the green heart.) Thank you!



We Depart to Do God's Will

Closing Music *PH* # 302 "I Danced in the Morning"

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth; At Bethlehem I had My birth.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said He,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, But they would not dance
and they would not follow Me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John:
They came with Me and the dance went on.

Refrain.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame; The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung Me high,
And left Me there on a cross to die.

Refrain.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried My body and they thought I'd be gone: But I am the dance and I still go on.

Refrain.

They cut Me down and I leap up high; I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me: I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.

Refrain.

The Sending [Responsive] Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

One: The Laughing One called us together

***Many:* so we could share in the laughter of life.**

One: The Laughing One sends us out,

***Many:* to carry the joy of life and love to the world.**

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

***Many:* remember that sharing is a great thing!**

One: 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.

***Many:* Amen.**

We Carry the Light of Christ Out into the World

Postlude "See What a Morning" (Resurrection Hymn) by Townend arr. Koerts



Our liturgy this morning is from: The Call to Worship ~ re:Worship blog; The
Opening Prayer ~ written by Edward Hays in *Pray All Ways: A Book for Daily*

Worship Using All Your Senses; The Affirmation of Faith ~ compiled by Rev. Chris Anderson; The Prayers of the People ~ Lectionary Liturgies, Rev. Thom Shuman; 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)

- Our musician today is Karen Brunk.
- Thank you to Barb Brown, piano and Mare Stewart, flute, for our special music today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS —

- 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.)
- Help us save “pig points.” For us to receive a rebate, please turn in your receipts from the Cambridge Piggly Wiggly in one of three ways: **1.** Place them in the brown bag in the narthex. **2.** Cheryl Stitz will do a porch pickup of any receipts that you may have. Call her at 608-695-1838 to make arrangements. **3.** Receipts can also be mailed to the church office. All funds received are used for mission projects.

WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE:

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 1 WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION AT

10 AM – In-person worship continues this Sunday in the sanctuary with Fellowship following worship. We still recommend using masks but it will be optional for those vaccinated and boosted, If someone is not vaccinated, we request that you still wear a mask. Everyone must still be mindful of their own health and the health of others.

CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

The food pantry is currently seeking donations of: Cereal, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Granola Bars, Crackers/Saltines, Cookies, Body Wash, Laundry Soap.

Monetary donations are always greatly appreciated!

For more information on how you can make a difference this holiday season, or to volunteer at the food pantry, please email: foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us or call Kerry at (608)423-8142.

The Cambridge Food Pantry website can be found at <https://cambridgecap.net/programs/nutrition/food-pantry/>

Thank you for your continued support of your Cambridge neighbors!

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Jack Dingeldiene and family (relative of Judy Pearson)
Lorin Fulton
Don Hawkins is in the Edgerton Care Center
Jan & Nancy Kristiansen
Jenine Spack

The families of Jack Spack, Ken Bilstad, Doreen Drennan, 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

Pastoral Office Hours: Generally 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Wednesday 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

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Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

SESSION (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2022: Joe Leto, Mike Stitz. Clerk of Session: Judy Pearson

Class of 2023: Randy Johnson

Class of 2024: Mare Stewart, Mark Touhey

CHURCH STAFF

Music—

Accompanists: Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Karen Tordera,
Angie Williams

Business Manager: Ruth Poole

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

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