



GOOD HEAVENS!

Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Holy Hilarity Sunday
April 24, 2022

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MUSIC STREAMED IN TODAY'S SERVICE

This is the Day - NCH 84

Thine is the Glory - PH 193

Give Us Laughter Unexpected - "*Copyright 2019 Stephen M. Fearing | www.stephenmfearing.com*"

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Today's service will be recorded.

**Welcome to Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation**

Mission Statement

*A welcoming home to all spiritual
seekers,
Making a difference in our world,
By fusing our Christian faith with
everyday life and
Serving God by serving others.*

Children at Pilgrim

Children are an important part of our worshipping community. We try to make them feel at home! All are welcome.

Professional childcare for infants and toddlers is available in Pilgrim Hall from 10:15 to the end of the service.

Welcome Statement

We honor the Biblical call to love one another as God first loved us. We welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people of any race, nationality, religious background, educational background, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, economic status, and physical, mental, and emotional abilities.

Visual and Hearing Aids

Hearing devices may be picked up from the table in the narthex.

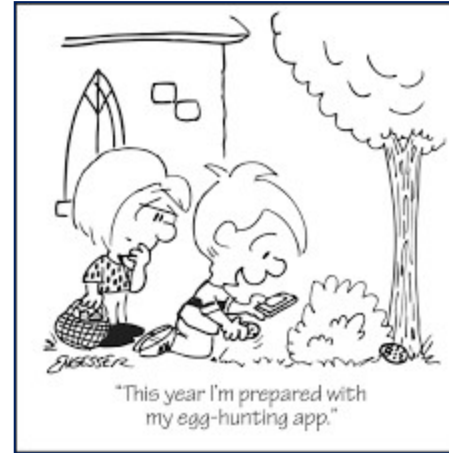
Large Print bulletins and **Sermon texts** are also available.

Service of Worship – April 24, 2022

PRELUDE

GREETING

Christ is Risen!
Christ is risen, indeed!
God is good!
All the time!
All the time!
God is good!



Sarah Jane Fuller
Julia Clark

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Knock, Knock!

All: Who's There?

One: God, Creator of all Joy!

All: Knock, Knock!

One: Who's There?

All: Jesus Christ, who overcame death!

One: Knock, Knock!

All: Who's There?

One: Joyful Easter People!

ALL: This is the day that the Lord has made!

We will rejoice - and laugh - in it!

*HYMN

This is the Day - NCH 84

1 This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day,
that our God has made.

2 This is the day, this is the day
Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day Jesus rose again,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day,
Jesus rose again.

3 This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day when the Spirit came,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came.

84

This Is the Day

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.
St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison Eb Bb7

1 This is the day; this is the day that our God has made, that our
2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

Eb

God has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be
rose a - gain; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be
Spir - it came; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be

Ab Eb Ab

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joice and be
glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joice and be
glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joice and be

Eb Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who was born in New Zealand and served as pastor of a church in western Australia. The other two stanzas are anonymous.

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Irr.
Les Garrett, 1967

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Julia Clark

ONE: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

OPENING PRAYER

God of Light, scripture tells us that a cheerful heart is good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones. We have received the good news of new life this Easter – this medicine is a balm for our spirits. You have laughed at the grave, and with resurrection spirits, laugh with you. We pray with the one who lived and died and rose that we might rise with him. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 19:1-4a, The Inclusive Bible

1 The heavens herald your glory, O God, and the skies display your handiwork.

2 Day after day they tell their story, and night after night they reveal the depth of their understanding.

3 Without speech, without words, without even an audible voice,

4 their cry echoes through all the world, and their message reaches the ends of the earth.



THE LONE RANGER FINDS
NO PROBLEM WITH THE
MASK MANDATE - TRIGGER,
ON THE OTHER HAND ...

Illustration by Chris R. Reaske

Luke 24: 13-35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[f] from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them,

“What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.[g] ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth,[h] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.[i] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah[j] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.²⁸ As they came near the village to which they

were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us[k] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

One: Here ends the reading.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Sarah Jane Fuller

ANTHEM

HOLY HUMOR

Give Us Laughter Unexpected

A Hymn of Thanks for Laughter

Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2019

Tune: HYMN TO JOY

Meter: 8.7.8.7. D

Music: Ludwig Van Beethoven, 1824

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Give us laugh-ter un-ex-pect-ed, mirth that mo-thers us to health;
2. Though our grief can be so heav-y, bur-dens break our brit-tle bones,
3. When we think cre-a-tion's o-ver, when we think there is no more,
4. Blessed are you who weep with sor-row; soon the laugh-ter comes to save.

5
bubb-ling up from deep with-in us, end-less source of wond-rous wealth.
there ex-ists a salve that soft-ens hurt a-mid the mourn-ful moans.
lead us to re- think our lo-gic, help our joy-ous song re-store.
God, our joy-ful source of mer-cy, rais-es you up from the grave.

9
May our tears flow o'er our cheek-bones, not of sor-row but of mirth;
Laugh-ter char-ges not a co-pay, needs no cre-dit to ob-tain.
There's a cheer-ful balm that saves us from the sor-row and the sting.
Nev-er cease to loose your chuck-les, laugh out loud and let it fly!

13
free-ly flow-ing sill-y gig-gles, ones that mend this bro-ken earth.
All may ga-ther at the fount-ain, for a mo-ment, heal the pain.
Laugh-ter is the gift with-in us, sprout-ing up from joy-ous spring!
Hold your-self in ho-ly hu-mor, share God's joy in strong sup-ply!

Give us laughter unexpected, mirth that mothers us to health,
Bubbling up from deep within us, endless source of wondrous wealth.
May our tears flow o'er our cheekbones, not of sorrow but of mirth,
Freely flowing silly giggles, ones that mend this broken earth.

Though our grief can be so heavy - burdens break our brittle bones -
There exists a salve that softens hurt amid the mournful moans.
Laughter charges not a copay, needs no credit to obtain.
All may gather at the fountain, for a moment, heal the pain.

When we think creation's over, when we think there is no more,
Lead us to rethink our logic, help our joyous song restore.
There's a cheerful balm that saves us from the sorrow and the sting.
Laughter is the gift within us, sprouting up from joyous spring!

Blessed are you who weep with sorrow; soon the laughter comes to save.
God, our joyful source of mercy, raises you up from the grave.
Never cease to loose your chuckles, laugh out loud and let it fly.
Hold yourself in holy humor, share God's joy in strong supply.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father (Creator), 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.

MISSION MOMENT

Doug Johnston

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash

OFFERTORY



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Reebee Girash

Lord, We know you "love a cheerful giver," or a better translation might be, "The Lord loves a hilarious giver!" So we give freely and gladly, out of a heart of joy and laughter. Use our gifts, and our Easter Spirit, to spread your joy. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN

Thine is the Glory PH 193

1 Thine is the glory, Risen conquering Son!
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave – clothes where thy body lay.

2 Lo! Jesus meets thee, Risen from the tomb,
Lovingly he greets thee, Scatters fear and gloom.
Let his church with gladness Hymns of triumph sing.
For her Lord now liveth; Death hath lost its sting.

[Refrain]

3 No more we doubt thee, Glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without thee; Aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors, Through thy
deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan To thy home above.

[Refrain]

Refrain:

Thine is the glory, Risen conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

193

Thine Is the Glory

Edmond L. Budry, 1854-1932
Tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

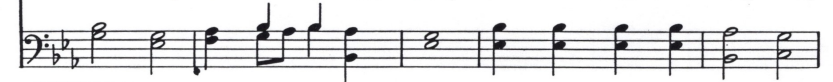
JUDAS MACCABEUS 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5. with Refrain
Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759



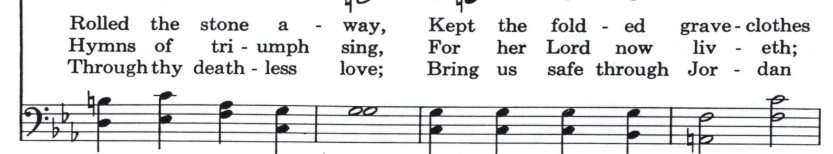
1 Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con - quering Son; End - less is the
2 Lo! Je - sus meets thee, Ris - en from the tomb; Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, Glo - rious Prince of life! Life is nought with -



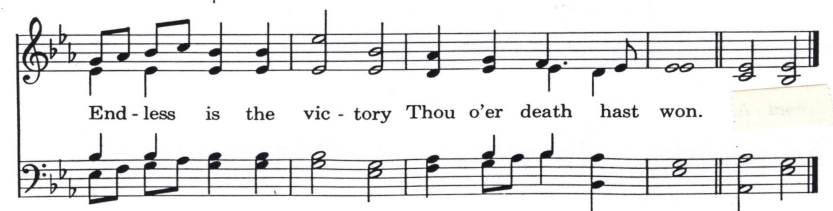
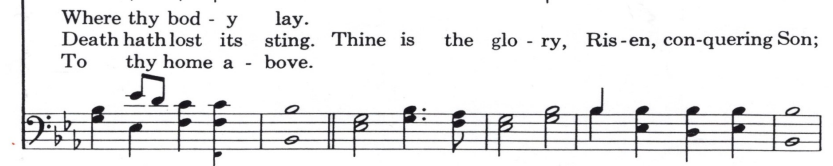
vic - tory Thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, Scat - ters fear and gloom; Let his church with glad - ness
out thee; Aid us in our strife; • Make us more than con - quers,



Rolled the stone a - way, Kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
Hymns of tri - umph sing, For her Lord now liv - eth;
Through thy death - less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan



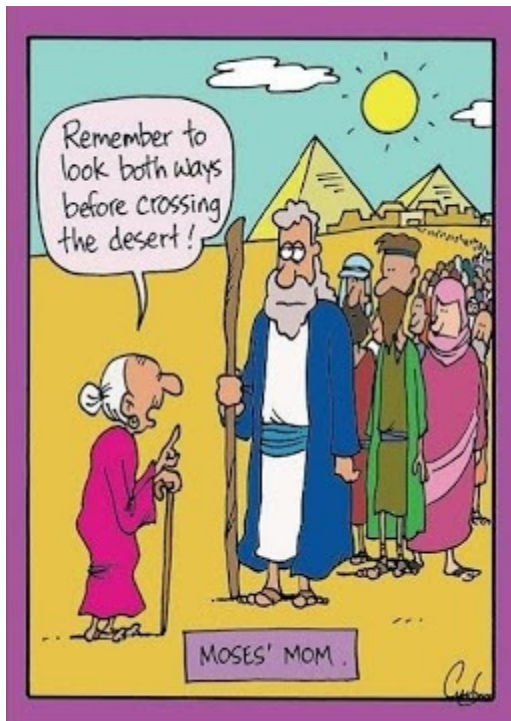
Where thy bod - y lay.
Death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con - quering Son;
To thy home a - bove.



End - less is the vic - tory Thou o'er death hast won.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Why Are We Laughing?

American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity-"Holy Humor Sunday" celebrations of Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after Easter.

For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced.

The custom of Easter Monday and Humor Sunday celebrations were rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Easter was "God's supreme joke played on death."

'Risus paschalis' - the Easter laugh, the early theologians called it. <http://www.joyfulnoiseletter.com/>

SOURCE NOTES:

Thank you to our Liturgist, Julia Clark, our cartoonist, Chris Reaske, and our Zoom Host, Mike Stevens.

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"You're in a rut, Reverend. Every time I come here, you preach about the Resurrection."

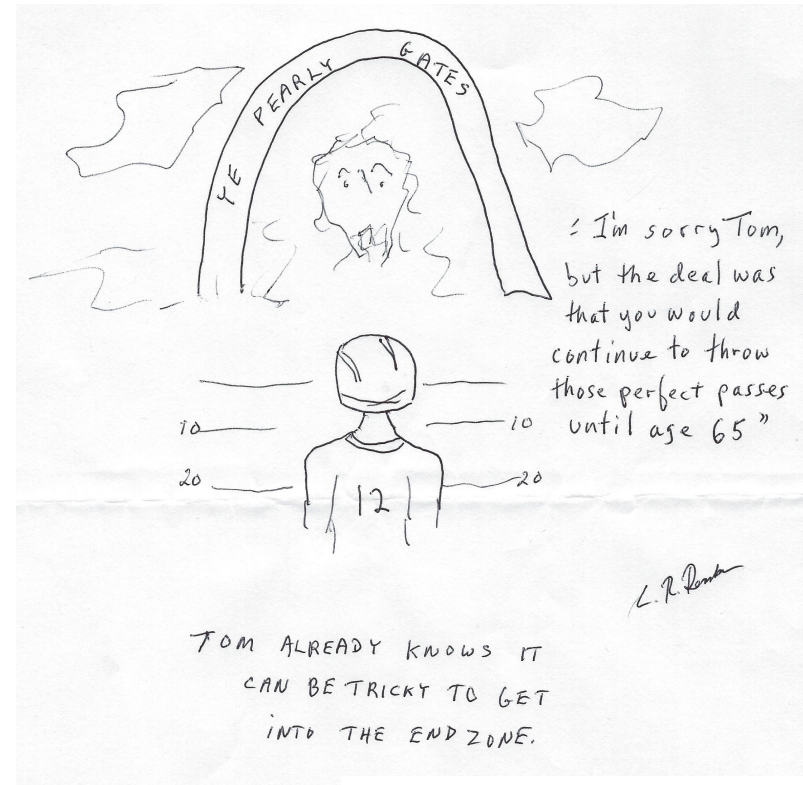


Illustration by Chris R. Reaske

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"What I like best about Easter Sunday is the candy, and Jesus not bein' dead anymore."

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"We have not seen you in the temple since you started hitting rocks with a stick."

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Church Secretaries -
God's Guardians of the Universe

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"Now Verse 33 is one of the most difficult and controversial passages in the whole Bible. So let's go on to verse 34."

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