



Our Worship of God

April 8, 2018

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

Holy Humor Sunday

For centuries, in Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant countries, Easter Monday and “Bright Sunday” (the Sunday after Easter) were observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Parishioners and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, sang, and danced.

It was a time for worshipers to tell jokes and to have fun.

While these joyful celebrations seemed to be a reaction to the austerity of the Lenten season, the custom of Easter Monday and Bright 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.”

A Time to Laugh:

- Are part-time band leaders semi-conductors?
- Can you buy an entire chess set in a pawn shop?
- If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy all her friends?

Greeting

Michael McEntyre

Prelude

Prelude in F

Bach

Call to Worship (responsive)

Come into God's presence with thanksgiving and joy!

Come with silly grins and teathy smiles;

Come with infectious giggles and gut-busting laughter;

Come with scintillating snickers and uproarious guffaws;

For Christ is risen!

Our world has been turned topsy-turvy.

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

Ed Rollins

Invocation (unison)

Good and gracious God, we laugh as a sign of the joy you have brought into the world through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Help us to see light through your eyes – eyes of grace and forgiveness – and help us to laugh when the world presses in around us and we are afraid. Amen.

†Processional Hymn

Christians, We Are Made for Laughter
Sung to MENDELSSOHN

Christians, we are made for laughter, born to giggle and guffaw!

Even in the great hereafter mirth is interspersed with awe.

So don't hold back, let it fill you, let your muscles do their thing!

Don't you worry, we won't drill you! Just let go and laugh and sing.

Don't you worry, we won't drill you! Just let go and laugh and sing.

This is how our great God made us – faces, lungs, and hearts for glee

and it's how God would parade us, showing forth most joyously

all the love and all the gladness, such a great capacity

for the joy that drives all sadness out of even you and me.

for the joy that drives all sadness out of even you and me.

We are people with a Savior who was not above a joke,

play with words was his behavior, he loved puns with all the folk.

Joy Christ showed us, joy Christ showers everywhere on everyone.

Turn your face up like the flowers, catch the joy and have some fun!

Turn your face up like the flowers, catch the joy and have some fun!

*Christ was dead and now he's risen! Isn't that a cause for glee?
Love has shattered all the prisons we have built so carefully.
Now unfettered, free as breezes, giggles, snorts, and glee abound!
Even when our laughter wheezes, we praise God with every sound.
Even when our laughter wheezes, we praise God with every sound.*

†Passing the Peas

*(As you pass the peace of Christ you are encouraged
to share a funny story with those you greet.)*

A Time to Laugh:

God went to one of the angels and said, "I just figured out how to rotate Earth so it creates this really incredible 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness." The angel said, "What are you going to do now?" God said, "Call it a day."

Gospel Reading

Cheryl Brewer

John 20:19-31

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.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise be to Christ.

Prayers of Intercession

Pastor Carol McEntyre

Hebrew Bible Reading (unison)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

**For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.**

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

A Time to Laugh

Hymn

It Came Upon a Sunrise Bright

Sung to CAROL

*It came upon a sunrise bright, that glorious promise anew,
that Jesus, though he was crucified, now lives for me and for you.
Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from Heaven rejoicing on high,
the world with joyful dancing shares the news that He is alive.*

*The women with their spices came, the body to anoint,
they found the tomb was empty and they heard an angel appoint.
The time, the place, the reason why, you'll find your Jesus on high,
and then in joy the women shared the news that He is alive.*

A Time to Laugh:

Dear God – I read the Bible. What does begat mean? Nobody will tell me.

Love, Alison

Dear God – Are you really invisible or is that just a trick? -Lucy

Dear God – Thank you for the baby brother but what I really prayed for was a

Puppy. –Joyce

(From “Children’s Letters to God,” compiled by Stuard Hample and Eric Marshall, Workman Publishing, 1991).

Message

Pranking Thomas

Brittany McDonald Null

Prayers of Joy and Laughter (responsive)

O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us these gifts.

For the moments of laughter and unbridled joy you give to us:

For opportunities to laugh at ourselves,

for the belly laughs of children,

**for friends and family who love us because of our quirks,
and not just in spite of them,**

for artists who give us the opportunity to see the world through the surreal,

for the courage to smile even when difficulties arise,

for those who have hope even when others think there is no hope,

**for saints in the Lord who overflow with laughter and
spread your joy to all of us.**

For the words of Jesus that defy our logical minds;

for teaching us that we can be born again,

for the woman who finds a lost coin and calls her

friends and neighbors to celebrate,

**for the absurdity of a camel trying to fit through
the eye of a needle,**

for the father of the Prodigal son who is willing to look

like a fool as he runs to greet his son,

**for the generosity of Jesus who insists on showing up
to his disciples locked in fear behind closed doors,**

for tiny bits of faith that can move entire mountains,

for the reality that nothing can live unless it first dies.

For the great reversal of the Gospel:
that the last shall be made first,

that the rejected stone became the cornerstone,

that those who wish to become great must serve,

that the lost will be found,

that the small will become great,

that though you are Wisdom, you choose to forget our sins,

that when we are weak, your strength shines through us.

O Lord, giver of joy and laughter,

We thank you for giving us these gifts.

Thank you for the gift you give us that allows us to enjoy
these things to the fullest.

We can laugh because of the most amazing thing of all –

**that you conquered death, that the tomb is empty, that light shone
so bright that it overcame the darkness.**

Thank you.

Thank you. Amen.

†Hymn

Good Christians All, Rejoice

Sung to JUNGST

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!

How great our joy! (Great our joy!)

Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Up from the grave he rose again! Victory over death and sin!

How great our joy! (Great our joy!)

Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Death has been conquered – love has won! Praise to God's high-exalted Son!

How great our joy! (Great our joy!)

Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Raise hands and hearts – together sing! Throughout the earth, in chorus ring!
How great our joy! (Great our joy!)
Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

†Offertory Sentence

Offertory You Shall Go Out with Joy Beebe
Maddie Page, Samantha Walker, David Fazekas, Ben Worley, Ed Rollins

†Benediction (responsive)

May the God of surprises
bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.
May the God of love
be seen in all we do and say.
Go forth rejoicing,
for the good work has just begun!
Amen.

Postlude

A Time to Laugh:
The world tongue twister champion just got arrested. I hear they're going to give him a really tough sentence.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, April 8

4-4:50 pm First Kids Music

Sanctuary

5:30-7 pm College/Young Adult Bible Study

Youth Suite

Monday, April 9

9-10:30 Senior Yoga

Parlor

1-3:30 pm Staff Meeting

Conference Room

5:30-7 pm Serving Team Meeting

Conference Room

Tuesday, April 10

11:45 am – 2 pm Crafty Critters

E2

Wednesday, April 11

6-7:15 pm The Calling for Youth

Youth Suite

5:30 pm Psalm Players Rehearsal

Sanctuary

6:30 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal

Sanctuary

7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sanctuary

7:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 15

4-4:50 pm First Kids Music

Sanctuary

5 pm Critical Conversations

Second Baptist Church

5:30-7 pm College/Young Adult Bible Study

Youth Suite

Announcements

ForColumbia 2018 is April 28

Sign up online now for one of the ForColumbia projects – visit www.forcolumbia.org. While online signup is preferred, you may also use the form on the bulletin board in the children's hallway. The bulletin board also has details for our chosen projects. Special incentive: if you sign up by April 13 you will receive free lunch and a t-shirt!

This year, First Baptist will serve as a collection site for supplies leading up to our day of service; and during ForColumbia workday, our church will serve as a prayer hub for work efforts in Columbia's Second Ward. The prayer hub is a new addition to the day of service. We are asking that people sign up to come and pray for the sites, volunteers, and needs of those we encounter during the day.

Through next Sunday, April 15, we invite you to contribute travel sized mouth wash, Q-tips, bar soap, and Chapstick. These items will be combined with items collected by other churches to create kits to give to various organizations. Bring your donations to worship next Sunday, or bring them to the church office no later than Friday, April 13.

First Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast

Several of the men in the church have expressed an interest in gathering together on a regular basis. If you are interested as well, join us on Tuesday, April 17th at 7 am in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and discussion about starting something new at First Baptist.

Needed: A Few Good Scripture Readers

Part of the diaconate's responsibilities is to recruit scripture readers for worship services every Sunday. They would like to have a list of readers for the next few months, so please see Jen Boeckman or Rena Tratchel (Awakening) and Ed/Betty Felts (Traditional) after service today to pick a weekend to read that works in your schedule.

Worship Notes

The Call to Worship was written by Ed Rollins.

The Invocation is from the website of **Christ the King Lutheran Church.**

Christians We Are Made for Laughter is by Jo Cassiday-Maloney.

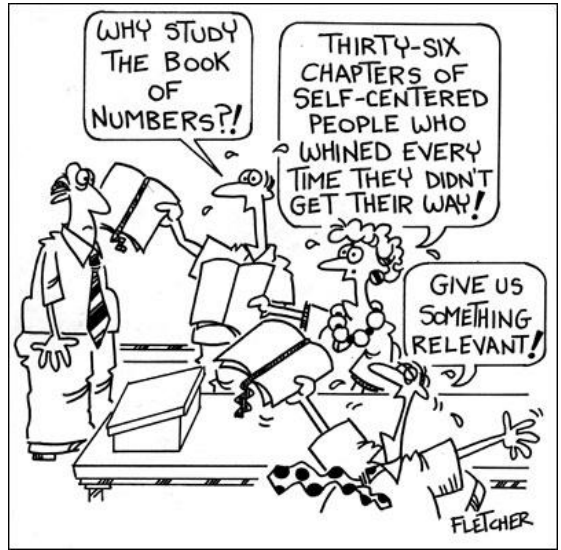
The Prayer of Joy and Laughter and Good Christians All Rejoice and Sing are from the Joyful Noiseletter.

The Benediction was excerpted from a slightly longer benediction by Rev. Susan A. Blain and Rev. Scott Ressman. Posted on the United Church of Christ website. <http://www.ucc.org/50/pdfs/worship-resources.pdf>

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Thank you for worshipping with us today! If you wish to share this worship experience with a neighbor, the service is broadcast live, and the sermon is available on our website within a week.

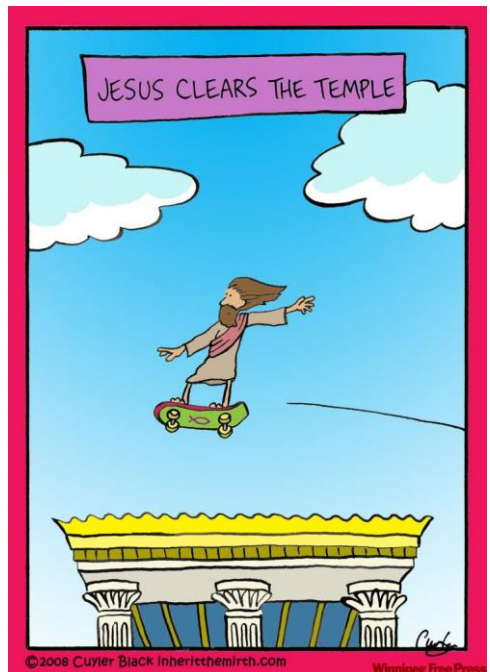




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Winning Tree Press



11:15 am Traditional Worship Service

For those who may prefer a more contemporary worship experience, First Baptist Church offers Awakening Contemporary Worship at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.

The flowers are given by Richard & Susan Hayden in memory of Barbara Toolson.

For Children During Worship:

1st- 5th Graders are encouraged to participate in worship with their family.

Children (Birth-Kindergarten) can be dropped off in the nursery, located next to the sanctuary, prior to worship where they will be cared for by our professional staff.

10:15 Spiritual Formation Hour:

Birth-Age 3 childcare is provided by our professional staff in the nursery, located next to the sanctuary.

First Kids Sunday School (3 year olds through 5th grade) is on the third floor.

Youth Bible Study (grades 6-12) is on the third floor.

Adult Small Groups which dive into various topics (visitors and guests welcomed):

Faith Forum in the second floor classroom, next to the elevator.

Discussion Class in the parlor on the second floor.

Young Adult Small Group in the 2nd floor library.

1112 E. Broadway | 573-442-1149 | www.fbc-columbia.org

Church Staff

Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor † *Ed Rollins*, Associate Pastor

Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor of Youth, College and young Adults, and Missions

Brittany McDonald Null, Pastoral Resident

Yvette Chambers, Director of Children's Ministry

Shelby Myers, Awakening Worship Praise Band Director † *Colleen Ostercamp*, Pianist and Organist

Jess Wolfe, Child Development Center Director

Janet Deneke, Admin. Assistant † *Brenda Rice*, Project Coordinator

Bethany James, Nursery Director † *Jason Bell*, Custodian