



Holy Humour Sunday

April 19, 2020

The 2nd Sunday of Easter , 11:00 am

*A joint online Zoom worship Service with:
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United Churches*

Leading today:

Pastor Steven Loweth & Rev. Lionel Ketola

Onelicense # A-723979

**Lighting of Christ Candle
Acknowledging the Land
We Share of the Peace**

Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise!

We will sing songs of joy to celebrate this springtime season of new life!

Let us worship God with gladness!

We will laugh and praise, sing and pray with joy this day!

Come to this place with a song!

**We will make a joyful noise as we celebrate
the Easter season. Hallelujah!**

Hymn: Make a Joyful Noise (Psalm 100)

(Video)

Make a joyful noise, all the earth!

Refrain:

Make a joyful noise, all the earth!

Worship your God with gladness

Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Come to this place with a song

1. Know that your God has made you
Know it's to God we belong
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise
Worship your God with a song!

2. Enter these gates thanksgiving

Enter these courts with praise

Sing thanks to your God and bless this holy name Worship your God with a song!

3. Ages through endless ages

Seasons of endless years

The love of our Maker ever shall endure

Worship your God with a song!

Opening Prayer

God of laughter and light, we gather this morning to celebrate the wonder of your love that brings light out of shadows, life out of death, and springtime out of the cold and snow of winter. May our worship bring you joy as we are filled with the Spirit's lively energy. We can't help but let our praise overflow into laughter. This we pray in the name of the Risen One. Amen

***Song of Praise: All God's Critters**

(Video)

We Open our Hearts to the Spirit's Voice

One: Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen to these words now, for the meaning that they hold for you this day.

**All: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder,
as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.**

Psalm: Psalm 150 (Video)

First Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by

fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Sung Gospel Acclamation (Video)

The Holy Gospel according to 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.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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.”

²⁶A 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.” ²⁷Then 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.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

Some Thoughts from Rev. Lionel

In today’s Gospel text, the disciples are hidden in fear, behind closed (locked!) doors. This feels familiar, especially as we ‘physical distance’ at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. I’ve heard members of our churches talk about the palpable feelings of fear and anxiety, not just behind our closed doors, but even in our grocery stores as we dart past each other to gather together the essentials for life. And yet, in the midst of this, in the midst of our fear and anxiety, Jesus appears and says words of deep comfort to the disciples: “Peace be with you!” And he invites his disciples to do something that we are so fearful to do – to reach out (beyond

our safe 2 meters of physical distancing) and touch him, to feel his presence, to feel his assurance, to feel his love, to feel his Risen Life present among us. As we journey further into these days of 'social distancing', waiting and watching for what is to come, what do we need the Risen Christ to gift us with ... as he steps past our closed doors, past our fears, past our anxieties, and into our lives, and our struggles and our fears? How can the Risen One break into our lives today to ground us more deeply in faith in a more hopeful way? May his Risen presence fill us with hope and encouragement, even in ways that surprise us! Amen.

Hymn of the Day: O Happy Day

(Video)

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts

Tender God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving our time, our abilities, our resources – signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of the One who brought healing, life and laughter to all – Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Amid the laughter and celebration of this day, it's good that we pause and remember that many carry burdens that need not be carried alone.

God of grace, God of love and laughter, we thank you that we are so wondrously created and that we are made for relationship with you and with one another. We thank you for laughter with friends and loved ones. We thank you for the laughter of children, and the song it creates in our hearts.

By your great unending love, you inspire in us a spirit of imagination and creativity. Help us to use that spirit to play more, to laugh more, and to create beauty in every way possible. Remind us to laugh out loud, for doing so will heal some of the wounds within us. Not all, but some.

God, we pray for those who cannot find their laughter today. For those who are grieving, or suffering illness of body, mind or spirit...for those who are lonely and in need of someone to share their time and friendship... for those who have not yet moved into the season and spirit of Easter and find themselves struggling in the gloom of Good Friday.

May these and the troubles of all your people be soothed, blessed, and comforted by your

holy presence. May we each find the laughter within us that sets our spirits free, and in that freedom, may we take your love into every part of our lives. These and all the prayers of our hearts we offer now in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together saying/singing...

Closing Hymn: Joyful Joyful (Video)

Blessing and Commissioning

Somebody once said: "There are three stages in Life:

Childhood and Youth,
Middle Age,
and "My, you're looking good!"

So whatever stage you are at,
and wherever you are in life's journey
may you know that you are deeply loved by God.

May you go forth
with a joyful song on your lips,
with peace in your soul
and laughter in your heart.

May you can share God's joyful and life-giving presence with many!

And the blessing of God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit
Be with you now and always! Amen!

Sung Blessing: Go Now in Peace (Video)

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Goodwood United Church: This coming Tuesday April 21 at noon: “Online Congregational Coffee / Lunch and Check-in” on Zoom, for everyone to join in. Instead of our regular “Conversations about Life” Bible study, our group wanted to offer the congregation an opportunity to connect via Zoom for a social hour to connect and check in with each other. The link will be sent out early next week.

Claremont United Church: *Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon - Join us for a Zoom drop in meeting* Everyone is invited to join us for these “virtual Brock Café” gatherings to connect with each other and check in with our congregational community. The link will be sent out at the beginning of each week for Wednesday’s drop in.



Find us online! Check out our websites!

Check out our church websites for **new updates** during this time, including Sunday devotions, and also information about coping with stress during the COVID-19 pandemic.

www.claremontunitedchurch.com

www.goodwoodunitedchurch.com



Find us on Facebook!

Check out our facebook pages for both congregations:

<https://www.facebook.com/goodwoodunited>

<https://www.facebook.com/claremontunited>

Continued Support for our Congregations

During these weeks when our churches are not meeting for public worship, we ask you to please prayerfully consider how you are able to continue supporting our congregation with its continued financial obligations. Offerings can be mailed to the church address itself, or you can mail your offering to your church’s treasurer. PAR forms are also available if you would like to use one for direct debit givings. Thank you for your continued support of our congregation’s ministry.

