

Welcome to worship!

April 18, 2021

Holy Humour Sunday / 3rd Sunday of Easter

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

*Worship Leaders: Pastor Steven Loweth, DLM
& Rev. Lionel Ketola, BA, M Div*

Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

Thanks to this Sunday's Musicians: Alex Hyunh Do, Jane Plewman, and Gabrielle Untermann.

We Gather to in Joyful Expectation

Words of Welcome

Opening Video

Lighting the Christ Candle

There was a man named Jesus, who brought life and laughter to all he met.
And he said **"I am the light of the World"**.

Acknowledgement of the Land

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the history, spirituality and cultures of the First Nations who are the traditional custodians of the land where each of us is gathered today. Their relationship with the land remains central to their lives.

God of new life, ground us in love and justice so we can work toward reconciliation and fulfill our treaty obligations with Canada's First Nations peoples. Amen.

Call to Worship

Rejoice in our God always!

Again, I say rejoice!

Clap your hands together, all God's people

Sing to God with shouts of joy!

Here is joy:

**Jesus risked everything - even the shame of the cross –
to embody God's love**

But God has highly exalted Jesus

and given him a name above all names

**God has gone up with a merry noise!
Our hearts are filled with laughter!
You have turned our mourning into dancing
You have turned our sackcloth into garments of joy!
Blessed be God forever!**

Opening Hymn: This is the Day That God Has Made VU # 175

Prayer of the Day

**Loving God,
you smiled and the sun burst
 through the shadows of chaos;
you chuckled,
 and the beaver splashed its tail with delight;
you laughed,
 and all that is good and beautiful
 was given shape by you.**

**Laughing God,
Fill us with your joy
Fill us with your grace
Fill us with your refreshing new life!
We pray this in the name of our Risen Saviour, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

We Open our Hearts to the Spirit's Voice

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 now to these words for the meaning they hold in your lives today.

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

3For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is

planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; ⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. ⁹What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

¹¹God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover God has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Thanks be to God!

Scripture Song: MV # 133 "Jesus Laughed Out Loud"

Philippians 4:1, 4-9

4Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

❖ Reflection by Pastor Steve & Rev. Lionel: "Laughing in Church: Then & Now".

❖ **Hymn: Give to us Laughter VU 623**

❖ We share JOKES ...

Hymn of the Day: I've got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in my Heart

VIDEO

Video Hymn by Jane Plewman and Gabrielle Untermann

We Respond to the Joyful News

Affirming Moment

Video

A Video Message from the joint Affirming Committee of Claremont United Church and Goodwood United Church (Video: Wendy Duncan, Claremont United Church)

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts

**God of life, we offer these gifts with gratitude
for the joy that is ours through the Risen Christ.
May these gifts bring light and life to our world
which yearns for your healing presence.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us offer our prayers to God, who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. *Silence*

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy, we are still filled with questions, struggles and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church may embody your good news for all people. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. May your creation find healing where it is in need of restoration. May all of earth's inhabitants enjoy a peaceful and sustainable home. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness and justice. May your dream of peace fill the hearts of all who govern and serve in leadership. God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. May those who are sick, suffering, or struggling with isolation during this time of lockdown be strengthened with health, wholeness and care. Empower us to offer support, listening, and understanding for all who are struggling with mental health concerns.

God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

At this time we remember all who have asked us for our prayers:

(Intercessions are now offered)

In the hope of new life in Christ, we offer our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy. With confidence, we pray with the words that Jesus taught us:

God our Mother and Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name ...

VU # 245 “Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet”

Blessing

Somebody once said:
that there are four stages in Life:
childhood, youth, middle age,
and “My, you’re looking good.”

So wherever you are on 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.

And may the blessing of God
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit
be with you always! **Amen!**

Sung Dismissal: Go Now in Peace



Church Announcements ... see the pages below!



Earth Day Evening Prayer

Thursday April 22, 2012,
7:30 pm

We will use the Sunday Zoom Link from the previous Sunday's Service.

Please save your Sunday Bulletin email for the link.

Goodwood United Church - Weekly Programs & Meetings

The Knit-Wits: Wednesdays at 10:00 am. This is **Goodwood United Church's weekly ZOOM group** for Knitting, crochet and other needle craft. This group facilitates our congregation's **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. They will keep you in stitches! To find out how to connect with this group on Zoom, contact Shirley Baster.

Online Community Check-in: Thursdays at 10:30 AM, on Zoom. Join us for an opportunity to connect and find supportive community through our regular weekly check-in meetings. At the conclusion of our check-in time, we move into our weekly **"Conversations about Life / Not your Typical Bible Study" group**. Feel free to join us!

Book Study: Fridays at 10:00 am on Zoom – See Below for details of our Lent Study.

CLAREMONT UNITED CHURCH - Weekly Programs and Meetings

Mission & Outreach Committee - Tuesday April 20th @ 3:00 pm

Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon – Join us for a Zoom "drop-in" meeting.

Everyone is invited to join us for these "Virtual Brock Café" Zoom gatherings to connect with our congregational community, catch up with each other and to share support.

Check out our new YouTube channel - CFG Worship

- Join us for worship either on Zoom, or on Youtube
- Watch past services uploaded to our YouTube channel

Here is the link for our new **CFG Worship** YouTube Channel for all three Churches:

<https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCSwegSn9y2rGxyVFtdGGtxA/videos/live?filter=%5B%5D&sort=%7B%22columnType%22%3A%22date%22%2C%22sortOrder%22%3A%22DESCENDING%22%7D>

Or go to Youtube.com and search **CFG Worship**. Please also click the subscribe button.

Our goal is to get 100 subscribers, then we can get bonus stuff to boost our YouTube channel!

So please subscribe!

Join our BOOK STUDY GROUP

for all 3 Churches & friends:

Friday Mornings at 10:00 AM on Zoom.

We are currently reading: **UNSETTLING the WORD: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization**.

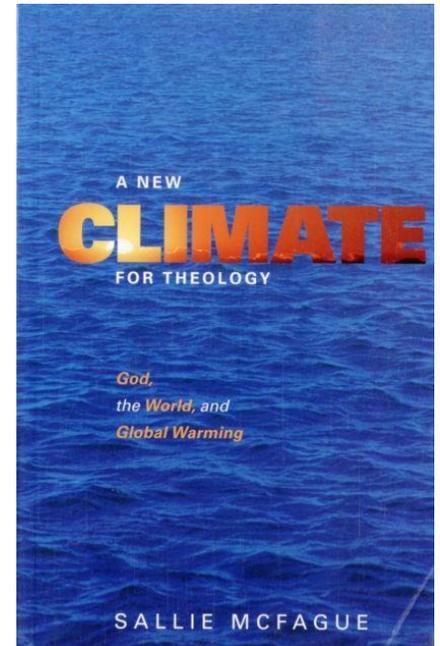
In several weeks we will begin our next new book:

A New Climate for Theology:

God, the World, and Global Warming,

by Sallie McFAGUE. It is an excellent book, so please join us!!

The book is available on Amazon, or Chapters Indigo, or other online outlets. So please order it now!



Continued Financial Support for our Congregations

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support your congregation's ongoing ministries during this time.

- Offerings can be **mailed to the church address** itself
- **PAR forms** (for pre-authorized debit) are available from your church treasurer
- You can send your offering by **E-TRANSFER** through your online banking. **Here is where to send them:**

For **Claremont United** send to: treasurercuc@outlook.com

For **Goodwood United** send to: goodwoodctreasurer@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation's ministry.

THANK
YOU!