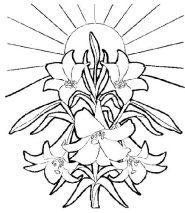


Second Sunday of Easter
Theme: Bright or Holy Humor Sunday

April 27, 2025



GATHERING

Prelude:

“ I Will Sing of My Redeemer”
J. McGranahan, arr. C. Berry

Call to Laughter /Worship:

L: Listen to God’s breath within, it is fluttering over our belief.

P: We are happy resurrection people.

L: The world is upside down now: the Spirit has pushed its way through.

P: We are joyful resurrection people.

L: The world is upside down now: death’s despair has been replaced with joy!

P: We are hilarious resurrection people.

L: We can say with conviction that our God is an awesome God!

P: We are light-hearted and joyful resurrection people. Let’s celebrate God!
Let us worship God with laughter, joy, and delight for Christ has risen!

*Hymn: #611 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Call to Confession: None of us likes to look foolish. But which is sillier: chasing after the world and all its gaudy trinkets which flatter our souls, or being a “fool for Christ”, imitating him in service to others, offering ourselves in love and joy to the world? Let us admit to God the foolish choices we make each and every day, first in silence and then responsively.

***Prayer of Confession:**

Laughing Jesus, snickering at the feeble attempts at the evil one, you showed us how to resist temptation; giggling at sin’s desperate desire to hold on to us, you released us by your love; howling with laughter at death’s foolish belief that the tomb could hold you, you burst forth into the kingdom as the stars pealed with joy. However, we know it is no laughing matter that we are able to come before God because of your death on the cross and confess our sins.

God, you know better than we do what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious all the time, we miss out on the joy of your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair, which is our best friend, we ignore Jesus who can bring us home to your heart.

Forgive us, heart of joy, and make us open to the startling, and upside down, ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter’s laughter; fill us with Easter joy; fill us with your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon: The gospel tells us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy which comes to us through Christ. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Meditation: “Give of Your Best to the Master” Barnard, arr. W. Auld

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Sermon: “No Laughing Matter”

*Hymn: #333 “How Our Hearts with Joy Abound”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

excerpt from the *Brief Statement of Faith*

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Offertory Prayer: Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them into healing for the wounded, hope for the disheartened, courage for the frightened, faith for the embittered, and joy for the discouraged. In the name of Jesus Christ, your faithful witness, the first resurrected, and ruler of the sovereigns of the earth. Amen.

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn: #623 "I've Got Peace like a River"

***Benediction**

Go! Take your doubts, your hopes, and your faith.

Christ is risen! Yipee!

Go! In spite of your questions, your wonderings, and misgivings.

Christ is risen! Hooray!

Go! Overcoming your fear, your sadness, and your timidness.

Christ is risen! Yeehaw!

Go! Rejoicing and worshipping God, the One who lifts us from death to new life.

Christ is risen, you betcha! Our faith takes off! Amen.

Silent Prayer (be seated)

Postlude: "Morning Has Broken" Trad. Gaelic, arr. J. Wilson
(Please remain seated)

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor
Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

Leacock Presbyterian Church

*First met in Leacock Township in 1724, recognized by the Synod in
1740, moved to Paradise in 1840.*



3181 Lincoln Highway East
Paradise, PA 17562
Telephone: 687-6619
www.leacockpres.org