



First Congregational
United Church of Christ
February 4, 2024



Laughter by Umberto Boccioni

2nd Sunday of Easter/Holy Laughter

Partners in Ministry: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: **Rev. Enno K. Limvere**

Musician: **Linda Noble** Choir Director: **Linda Noble**

Peace Candle Lighter: **Ann Russ** Liturgist: **Barb Bottger**

Greeter: **Bruce Tyler** Usher:

Coffee-Hour Host: **Ann Russ**

grandmaraisucc.org ~ (218) 387-2113
300 West 2nd Street, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Jokes to Enter Worship

Knock Knock!

Opening Hymn God of Grace and God of Laughter (Insert)

Words of Joy:

One: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Response: **Christ proclaims, "You will see me again, and your hearts will rejoice and no one will take your joy from you!"**

One: You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with JOY!

Response: **Christ proclaims, "You will see me again, and your hearts will rejoice and no one will take your joy from you!"**

One: "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in their JOY they goes and sells all that they has and buys that field.

Response: **Christ proclaims, "You will see me again, and your hearts will rejoice and no one will take your joy from you!"**

One: By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Response: **Christ proclaims, "You will see me again, and your hearts will rejoice and no one will take your joy from you!"**

Time of Silence

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.



Laughing Song by William Blake

When the green woods laugh with the voice of joy,
And the dimpling stream runs laughing by;
When the air does laugh with our merry wit,
And the green hill laughs with the noise of it;

when the meadows laugh with lively green,
And the grasshopper laughs in the merry scene,
When Mary and Susan and Emily
With their sweet round mouths sing "Ha, ha he!"

When the painted birds laugh in the shade,
Where our table with cherries and nuts is spread:
Come live, and be merry, and join with me,
To sing the sweet chorus of "Ha, ha, he!"

Passing of the Peace

Hymn Laughter, Lends Itself to Praise (Insert)

1st Scripture Readings

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? **17** If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. **18** Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. **19** For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

"He catches the wise in their craftiness,"

20 and again,

"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are futile."

21 So let no one boast about people. For all things are yours, **22** whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, **23** and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

2nd Scripture Acts 1:1-14

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning **2** until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3** After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4** While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7** He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” **9** When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10** While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. **11** They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. **13** When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. **14** All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Children’s Message What’s Next?

Choir Trees of a Field

Message You will be my witnesses.

Musical Reflections

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, Mother God, you are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Our Time of Giving

Doxology NCH #785

We give you but your own,
What-e’er the gift may be,
All that we have is yours a-lone,
We give it grateful-ly.

Closing Hymn #257 Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

Benediction

Sending Music

Opening Hymn God of Grace and God of Laughter

1. God of Grace God of laughter, singing worlds from naught to be -
sun and stars and all thereafter joined in cosmic harmony:
give us songs of joy and wonder, music making hearts rejoice;
let our praises swell like thunder, echoing our Maker's voice.

2. When our lives are torn by sadness, heal our wounds with tuneful balm;
when all seems discordant madness, help us find a measured calm.
Steady us with music's anchor when storms of life increase;
in the midst of hurt and rancor, makes us instruments of peace.

3. Turn our sighing into singing, music born of hope restored;
set our souls and voices ringing, tune our hearts in true accord:
till we form a mighty chorus joining angel choirs above,
with all those who went before us, in eternal hymns of love.

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U.S.A.

8.7.8.7.D.

HOLY MANNA

For alternate arrangement see 349

One-License No. A-738474



Hymn Laughter Lends Itself to Praise

1. Laughter lends itself to praise
bringing healing from within; hope will surely
rise again as laughter lends itself to praise.

2. Laughter bends where laws may break;
rigid fact cannot contain half the wisdom
Of God's reign, so laughter bends where laws may break.

3. Laughter leaps into the void
finding only Spirit there; shame and fear would
never dare so laughter leaps into the void.

4. Laughter comes in spite of pain
dancing even as we mourn; something dies but
God is near say laughter lends itself to praise.

5. Forgiveness is our joy, receiving, receiving, giving, too.
Keep us from judgments hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you.

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FOSSGREEN

7.7.7.8.

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Closing Hymn # 257 Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

1. Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! Yours the
scepter, yours the throne! Alleluia! Yours the
triumph, yours the victory alone!
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood; Jesus, out of
every nation you've redeemed us by your blood.

2. Alleluia! Not as orphans are we
left in sorrow now. Alleluia! You are near us; faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received you
when the forty days were o'er, shall our hearts for-
get your promise, "I am with you evermore."

3. Alleluia! Bread of angels, you on
earth our food, our stay. Alleluia! Here the
sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead from me, and the songs that
sound in heaven will repeat your gracious plea.

4. Alleluia! Christ eternal, nothing
can disrupt your reign; Alleluia! Born of
Mary, heaven and earth are your domain.
Human life you fully entered,
tending those we count the least, serving both as
Priest and Victim in the eucharistic feast.

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*Tune HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
Rowland H. Prichard, 1844
Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
One-License No. A-738474*