



## PRELUDE "A Faith Family Self Isolates"

What is Holy Humor Sunday? In the early church, the Sunday after Easter was observed by the faithful as a day of joy and laughter with parties and shenanigans to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The custom of Bright Sunday, as it was called, came from the idea of some early church theologians that God played a joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead.

Easter was God's supreme joke played on death, hence the *risus paschalis* – "the Easter laugh."

So on the Sunday after Easter, parishioners and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, sang, and danced. It was a time for clergy and people to tell jokes and to have fun. The idea of setting aside one Sunday each year to celebrate God's gift of laughter and joy may be new to me, but it's got a long and rich history in many congregations around the world.

*Laughter Sunday* (also known as *Holy Humour Sunday*, *Hilarity Sunday*, *God's Laughter Sunday*, *Bright Sunday* or *Holy Fools Sunday*) has its roots in a number of different Christian traditions.

Churches in 15<sup>th</sup> century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as *Risus Paschalis* ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh'). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.

The observance of *Risus Paschalis* was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Perhaps people were having too much fun.

In the Orthodox tradition, people would gather on Easter Monday to tell jokes and funny stories, and to dance and eat together.

Other traditions celebrate *Laetare Sunday* (also known as 'Mothering Sunday') on the fourth Sunday in Lent. "Laetare" simply means 'rejoice,' and comes from the opening collect for that day: '*Rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow.*' On this Sunday, the usual Lenten purple vestments and cloths are replaced by rose-coloured ones instead. Flowers (not normally present during Lent) are also brought into the sanctuary.

In 1988, the [Fellowship of Merry Christians](#) began encouraging churches to resurrect some of these Christian traditions—to celebrate the grace and mercy of God through the gift of laughter and joy.

### Laughter Lends Itself to Praise

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

Laughter bends where laws may break;  
rigid fact can not contain  
half the wisdom of God's reign,  
so laughter bends where laws may break.

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

Laughter comes in spite of pain  
dancing even as we mourn;  
something dies but something's born  
for laughter comes in spite of pain.

Laughter lends itself to praise;  
all the love and all the fear,  
all the signs that God is near  
say laughter lends itself to praise.

—**Daniel Charles Damon**  
Words © 1993 Hope Publishing Company  
From his collection, [\*Faith Will Sing\*](#).

The online 'get ready to have fun' bulletin can be anything we want it to be...

Why not listen to the Song 'Happy' on YouTube this Saturday to get yourself moving and grooving for Sunday worship?

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**BULLETIN**, noun: 1. something to read during the sermon; 2. a fan used in church without air conditioning; 3. your receipt for attending church.

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### Call to Worship Wiggly Laughter

Leader: Joy is loose,

**People: In the wiggles of the children,**

Leader: The whispers of the youth,

**People: The smiles of the adults.**

Leader: We praise God for this glorious day,

**People: Let the praise break forth  
in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.**

Leader: Joy and praise fills our hearts and in our songs

**People: Let the laughter be deep,  
for we are God's people.**

~ posted on **Trinity United Parish.**

Song of Joy:

**God Bless You Merry Sinner**  
(Sung to the tune of "God Bless Ye Merry Gentlemen")

God bless you merry sinner,  
you're forgiven it is true;  
Remember Christ your Savior  
has lived and died for you,  
and lives again as King of Kings,  
of saint and sinner, too.  
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy,  
peace and joy.  
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

In Jerusalem at Calvary  
that dismal Friday morn,  
amid the pain and suffering  
eternal life was born.  
It came with arms outstretched to us,  
right through the curtain torn.  
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy,  
peace and joy.  
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

So sing an alleluia,  
for our Savior's victory,  
and shout to all "Hosanna!"  
that we have been set free  
from sin and death and devil's grip  
throughout eternity.  
We'll have tidings of Easter peace and joy,  
peace and joy.  
Glad tidings of Easter peace and joy

### **Prayer of Confession for Holy Humor Sunday (responsive)**

Leader: Redeeming God,  
with you there is always more life, more hope, more joy.

**People: Forgive us for doubting to see your work  
in the still things, the busy things, the darkest moment**

Leader: and the everyday, under-noticed plod of life.

**People: Forgive us when we balk at action,  
and refuse to turn on fully the tap of compassion, settling for a mere trickle.**

Leader: Open us now to your love that lets us relax into life,

**People: and fill us with trust, hope and justice. Amen.**

*~ from Still Laughing God: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter, posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-a/le/eas.html>*

**Sermon**

"Now That's Not Funny"

Pastor Dave Henry

**Affirmation of Faith**



### **Affirmation of Faith for Bright Sunday**

Leader: We believe in God,  
who made us in Jesus' image.

**People: We live, we love, we laugh,  
because we are like Jesus.**

Leader: We believe in Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God, our Sweet Love and Savior.

**People: He had the last laugh on the devil  
when He rose from the dead.**

Leader: We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son.

**People: Our counselor, our guide, our motivator –  
The Spirit is our joy!**

Leader: Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously,  
when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours  
as your children,  
when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.  
People: **Restore to us the joy of our salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our King. Amen.**

~ Rev. Robert M. Thompson

## CALL TO OFFERING

### DOXOLOGY (Sung to the tune of "The First Noel")

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Noel, noel, noel, noel  
Born is the King of Israel.

### Lord's Prayer (Holy Humor Version)

Our Father in heaven,  
let Your holy name be known,  
let Your kingdom come, and Your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today the bread that we need,  
and forgive us our wrongs, and OK,  
we'll forgive those who have done wrong to us, too.

Do not lead us into trial, but save us from evil.  
For we want for You alone to rule in our hearts.  
You have power to transform,  
and in the light of Your smile is Your glory. Amen.

— from an order of worship by the **Oakton United Methodist Church.**

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RECESSIONAL HYMN, noun; 1. The final hymn of a Church service; this hymn is usually the quietest of all hymns because so many parishioners have already left before its sung.

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HYMN

### "Joy to the World" (verses 1 & 2)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

G.K. Chesterton once wrote (this is the **CHARGE** before the Blessing):  
*"Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly.  
Never forget that the devil fell by force of gravity.  
He who has the faith has the fun."*

**Benediction** God's Joyful Blessing

(based on Romans 15:12-14, *The Message*)

May the God of hope  
fill you up with joy,  
fill you up with peace,  
so that your lives,  
filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit,

## **POSTLUDE**

"Drop Kick Me Jesus"

"Everyone in your home sport a fun hat, polka dots, silly ties, etc. and post pics of yourself or email them to Pastor Angela: [amadden@fpcjcmo.org](mailto:amadden@fpcjcmo.org) #fpcjcmo"

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*After 8 months, 3 surgeries and numerous trips to St Louis, I am amazed and thankful to report I am on the mend.*

*I want to thank Everyone for the prayers, and cards, and offers of help.*

*I so appreciate the constant outpouring of love and support.*

*God has saved me. He put me in right place at the right time, with the right people.*

*Thanks!*

*Andy Cleeton*

*Let's be kind*

## **MISSION PRAYER**

Please pray for our ministry with the Salvation Army providing meals several nights a month. Pray for the FPC teams still providing meals, for the stall at the Center of Hope, and for all those receiving the food, both those living at the center and the community neighbors picking up a to go meal.

## **THESE DAYS DEVOTIONS**

The April - June "These Days" devotionals are available. If you would like one, please email [office@fpcjcmo.org](mailto:office@fpcjcmo.org), or call 636-2149 and we will mail you a copy.

If you would like to help defray the mailing costs, it is \$1.35 per booklet.

## **Steps for Online Giving**

1. Go to [fpcjcmo.org](http://fpcjcmo.org) - scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the "Give Now" button.
2. Enter the dollar amount of your donation.
3. Select a fund from the drop down list. (there are only 2 choices - all other contributions should be made by check only).
4. Add an optional memo for special instructions for the church office.
5. Add your email address.

If your email address is on file, you will get a screen with options to either log in (if you have created an account) or to "Continue as a Guest" (which can be used for a one-time gift). You can Create an Account the first time, then your account information will be saved for the next time.

If you "Continue as a Guest" you will need to enter:

Account type (from drop down list)  
Account number  
Routing number  
Billing name (as appears on your checks)  
Address (as appears on your checking account)  
City, State, Zip Code

Click the "Give" button when information is complete.

After the transaction you will receive a message with the transaction details. An email will be sent as your

confirmation of the transaction details. When you close your browser, you are automatically logged out. The information you enter is NOT stored on the church's website or on the ACS website. If you have any questions about online giving, please call the church office at 573-636-2149 and leave a message for Cynthia Wankum, extension 101.

The address to mail faithful pledges and offerings (if you do not wish to participate in online giving) is: 324 Madison St., Jefferson City, MO 65101.

Thank you for your generosity of time, talents and treasures.

### **ELASTIC NEEDED**

Do you have some elastic you are willing to donate? Some members of our Faith Family are making face masks and are in need of elastic - and we thought some of our crafty folks might have some to donate. They prefer 1/4" to 1/2" but can use 1" and cut in half length-wise. If you have any to donate, contact Pastor Angela or Pastor Dave and we can pick it up from your front porch!

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN IS ON YOUTUBE**

You can now watch archived church services on our Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/FPCJCity>. The services are posted at a later time and available for you to see at your convenience. Subscribe today! The Easter Worship movie is on Youtube, in case you missed it. *Pastor Angela's Sunshine Moments will also be posted on the Youtube channel after the live Facebook event.*

### **CREDIT CARD GIVING**

As a result of your great thinking we are making CREDIT card giving an option for anyone anywhere! Perhaps you will earn a rebate on your donation to the church?! Perhaps your gift will allow you to earn some bonus miles on a trip. Perhaps you don't even have a check book and never use cash. No matter the reason, your gift through a credit card helps your church in her mission and outreach and we appreciate your ongoing stewardship. Send an email to Cynthia Wankum and she will invoice you for a credit card donation. Cynthia's email: [cwankum@fpcjcmo.org](mailto:cwankum@fpcjcmo.org) . --Cynthia Wankum, Steve Brennaman and Pastor Angela

### **WAYS YOU CAN JOIN WORSHIP ONLINE**

For a more immersive experience while watching FPC services on your television, please see the instructions below. This works on Smart TVs and Roku devices.

- 1) Go to the Livestream app
- 2) Search Accounts
- 3) Search for First Presbyterian Church
- 4) Find FPC Jefferson City
- 5) Look for today's date
- 6) Enjoy!

To watch Live Stream from your computer:

- 1) Go to [fpcjcmo.org](http://fpcjcmo.org)
- 2) Scroll to the bottom of the page to the Live Stream logo
- 3) Click on the link at "Watch Live Sunday at 9:30 am"
- 4) Click on the red "Go Live" button
- 5) Enjoy

To watch on Facebook Live:

- 1) Go to: [facebook.com/fpcjcmo](https://facebook.com/fpcjcmo) during 9:30 am service time
- 2) Click on Live worship service.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO LYLE & KATHERINE BEST!**

Welcome to the world and to our faith family: Lincoln David Best arrived at 5:49 pm last night! 7lbs 8oz and 20 inches long. Parents and baby are all doing well and should be able to go home tomorrow morning!