

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
3 Gray Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097
Organized in 1806



The Second Sunday of Easter
Bright Sunday / Holy Humor Sunday
April 16, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.

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Bright Sunday / Holy Humor Sunday
April 16, 2023 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

Welcome. We pray that you may be blessed through our worship and fellowship today.

* Indicates: Please stand if you are able.

We Gather to Worship God

Expect the end of the world. Laugh.
Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful
though you have considered all the facts. . . .
Practice resurrection.

Wendell Berry, *Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front*

Prelude

**All Sing: God welcomes all! Strangers and friends!
God's love is strong! And it never ends!**

Words: John L. Bell; Music: Trad. South African, transcribed by
John L. Bell at the Sunrise Hospice, Themba. © 2008, GIA/Iona
Community / WGRG

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship from **Psalm 16** (CEV & *The Message*)

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: You, LORD, are all I want! You are my choice; you keep me safe.

People: **You make my life pleasant; my future is bright.**

Pastor: Your people are wonderful, and they make me happy.

People: **I'm happy from the inside out, and from the outside in.**

Pastor: You have shown me the path to life; you make me glad by being
near to me.

People: **Sitting at your right side, I will always be joyful.**

***Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

CH # 2

Words: Henry van Dyke, alt.; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven

- 1. Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!**
- 2. All Your works with joy surround You, Earth and heav'n reflect Your
rays, Stars and angels sing around You, Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain Praising You eternally!**
- 3. Always giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother, Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.**
- 4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.**

***Invocation (in unison)**

Great Laughing God, we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised. We thank you that you have given us the gift of laughter and delight. These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us and for all the earth. May we find that in giving ourselves to laughter there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing. Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit to renew our worship and our living. Amen.

The Gospel

John 20:19-31

Call to Reconciliation & Prayer

Pastor: On that first Easter Day the disciples did not believe the women who told them Christ had risen. They had to see him for themselves. Thomas

was not with them and did not believe the others. He had to see Jesus himself. Let us confess our own slowness to believe the Good News.

People: **O God, troubles, uncertainties, pain, doubts and despair are uncomfortable, but we've grown accustomed to them and cling to what is familiar. We take ourselves so seriously and believe we have to be serious all the time; we miss out on the joy of your creation. 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 your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

+ Silent Prayer +

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The Good News is that this joy is now given to us.

***Passing the Peace**

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: **Yes! I can see him in your face.**

Time with God's Children

Choir Anthem

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth

The Good News

Joy and Laughter

Pastor Paul Day

1 Peter 1:1-9 (*The Message*)

An Affirmation of Faith for Holy Humor Sunday (in unison)

We believe in God, who made us in God's own image.

We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like God.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

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

We believe in the Holy Spirit, our counselor, our guide,

our motivator – He is our joy!

***Hymn**

Give Me Oil in My Lamp

Traditional

- 1. Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning (burning, burning)
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning (burning, burning)
Keep me burning till the break of day.**

**Refrain: Sing Hosanna! Sing Hosanna!
Sing Hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing Hosanna! Sing Hosanna!
Sing Hosanna to the King!**

- 2. Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing (singing, singing)
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing (singing, singing)
Keep me singing till the break of day.**

Refrain

- 3. Give me gas for my Ford, keep me truckin' for the Lord.
Give me gas for my Ford, I pray.
Give me gas for my Ford, keep me truckin' for the Lord.
Keep me truckin' till the break of day.**

Refrain

- 4. Give me unction in my gumption, help me function (function,
function). Give me unction in my gumption, I pray.
Give me unction in my gumption, help me function (function,
function). Help me function till the break of day.**

Refrain

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

The Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves to God

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a hilarious giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Offertory

***Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

Lord, we give joyfully and thankfully, confident that you use our gifts to spread Good News: grace, love, and joy. Amen.

***Hymn**

The Joy of the Lord

Traditional

- 1. The joy of the Lord is my strength. The joy of the Lord is my strength.
The joy of the Lord is my strength. The joy of the Lord is my strength.**
- 2. He gives me living water and I thirst no more. He gives me living water
and I thirst no more. He gives me living water and I thirst no more.
The joy of the Lord is my strength.**
- 3. He fills my mouth with laughter and I say, "Ha-Ha!" He fills my mouth
with laughter and I say, "Ha-Ha!" He fills my mouth with laughter and
I say, "Ha-Ha!" The joy of the Lord is my strength.**
- 4. The joy of the Lord is my strength. The joy of the Lord is my strength.
The joy of the Lord is my strength. The joy of the Lord is my strength.**

***Charge and Benediction**

Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy. We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness. Go in laughter; go in grace. Keep the Lord in your heart and a smile on your face. Amen.

Postlude

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

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Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day
Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock
Organist: Peter Dickson
Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman*
Choir Director: David Myers-Wakeman
Sexton: Mark R. H. Heath
Treasurer: Liz McGlinn, CPA, CGMA

Church Phone: 829-3644
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Pastor Day's phone: 207 712-9896
Pastor Day's email: revpaulday@gmail.com

Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>
Maine Conference Website: www.maineucc.org
YouTube: youtube.com/c/nyccucc

Note: This service is recorded and streamed on YouTube.

If you are not receiving church emails and would like to, please send an email to nyarmouthcucc@gmail.com asking to be added to the list. Like the NYCC FB page and you will be notified of what is happening there, too!

Offerings can also be made online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1301940> or text "Give" to 833-751-0314.

THIS WEEK*

Mon. – Patriots Day – Office Closed

Tue. 10:00 am, Tuesday Gals

Wed. 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Thu. 6:30 pm, Church Council

Sat. 9am—3pm, “Alive and Thrive” Workshop, Winthrop Cong’l. Church

Next Lord’s Day – April 23 – Third Sunday of Easter

8:30 am, Choir Rehearsal

9:30 am, Worship Service

Looking ahead . . .

April 30 – 2:00 pm, Cumberland Association Spring Meeting – Here!

IN OUR PRAYERS*

We extend of prayers and sympathy to the family of Pearl Brackett, who passed away on April 6. Peace be to her memory.

Congregation & Community: Diana Day, Sandra & Vince Golonka, Wayne Malloch, Blanche Mays, Ladd Meyerhoff, Cindy Thompson

Nation & World: Louisville, KY; Earth Day; Autism Awareness; Ukraine; Israel & Palestine

*Please submit items for the Church Calendar or the Prayer List to Pastor Day or Lyn Glassock by Tuesday in order to be included in the bulletin. Thank You.