

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
Second Sunday of Easter / Holy Humor Sunday

April 15, 2012

9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Hymn

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Lady Gaga Fugue"

Giovanni Dettori

Call to Worship

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

What did the salad bar say to the congregation?

Lettuce pray!

How many choir directors does it take to change a light bulb?

No one knows, because no one ever watches the director!

What is the greatest joke of all time?

The one God played on death on Easter morning!

* Hymn 280 (PH) "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

**Lord of life, as we rejoice in the gift of laughter,
we confess the ways we have abused the gift.**

We fall short of your glory

when we use laughter as a weapon,

when we laugh at the expense of another,

when we use humor to tear others down,

or to excuse hateful beliefs and harmful stereotypes.

Lord, forgive us and grant us wisdom.

Teach us to take ourselves lightly,

to giggle, guffaw, and howl when the moment is right,

to diffuse tension with an injection of humor,

to distinguish between that which builds up or tears down.

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon

* Passing of the Peace

* Gloria Patri (PH 579)

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: John 20:19-31 (NT, p. 115)

Psalter: Psalm 133 (PH 241)

A Time with Children

11:15 - Children through grade 4 are invited to Children's Worship in Room 110.

Anthem

"It Ain't Necessarily So"

George Gershwin

Paul Lyon, soloist

Second Lesson: 1 John 1:1-2:2 (NT, p. 238)

Sermon: "Fooling Ourselves"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn

"God Rest You, Merry Sinner" (see insert)

* Affirmation of Faith: **A Communion of Saints Affirmation of Humor**

We believe with the Bible that "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh."

We believe with Chrysostom that "laughter has been implanted in our souls."

We believe with Aquinas that there is a time for "playful deeds and jokes."

We believe with Luther that "You have as much laughter as you have faith."

We believe with Calvin that "we are nowhere forbidden to laugh."

We believe with Francis De Sales that "humor is a foundation for reconciliation."

We believe with Wesley that “A sour religion is the devil’s religion.”

We believe with Kierkegaard that “Humor is intrinsic to Christianity.”

We believe with Chesterton that “A good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation.”

We believe with Fulton Sheen that “The only time laughter is wicked is when it is turned against he who gave it.”

We believe with Flannery O’Conner that “Christianity is a strangely cheery religion.”

We believe with Elton Trueblood, “Never trust a theologian without a sense of humor.”

We believe with Charles Schultz that “Humor is proof that everything is going to be alright with God nevertheless.”

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

A Minute for the Centennial Campaign

Offering

Offertory

"Humoresque"

Dvorak

* Doxology (PH 592)

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 104 (PH) “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

"Allegro"

Anonymous

* All who are able shall stand.

PH Presbyterian Hymnal

Sing Sing! A New Creation (green songbook)

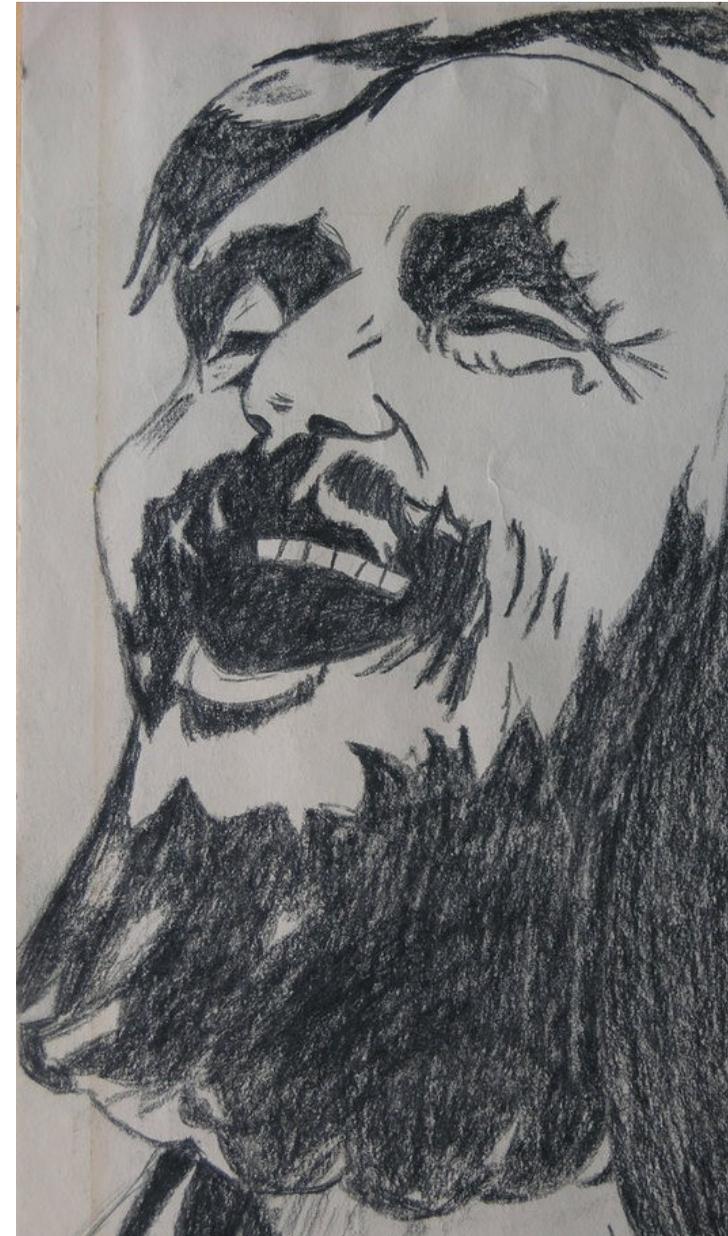
The flowers this morning have been given by Linda Schuller to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones.

First Presbyterian Church
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Clarks Summit, PA 18411

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	William Carter
Director of Educational Ministries	William Cosnett
Director of Music	Alan Baker
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Wayne Griffiths
Children's Worship Leader	S. Flynn, P. Williams
Ushers	Char Lyon, Jack Pittman (9:00); Bill Farrell, Karen White (11:15)

ABOUT THIS MORNING'S EXTRA-SPECIAL MUSIC

Our Holy Humor service begins this morning with an organ fugue on a theme from "Bad Romance," a 2009 hit by the artist known as Lady Gaga. Her real name is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta; you can understand why most folks just call her Lady Gaga. Raised on a musical diet of Michael Jackson, Madonna and Queen, she has won 5 Grammys and 13 MTV Video Music Awards, and in 2011 she grossed more than 25 million dollars, out-earning even the Presbybop Quartet. Her sense of fashion and music videos are flamboyant, even notorious; she arrived at the 2011 Grammys in an egg from which she subsequently "hatched." Besides her musical career, she involves herself with humanitarian causes and LGBT activism. Musically, "Bad Romance" features lyrics that concern the situation of being in love with one's best friend. The accompanying music video shows Gaga kidnapped by a group of supermodels who drug her and sell her to the Russian mafia (I'm not making this up). If you want to sing along, the words to the theme are, "Rah rah ah-ah-ah! Ro mah ro-mah-mah. Gaga ooh-la-la!"

Our anthem is a condensed version of "It Ain't Necessarily So," from the 1935 George Gershwin opera, Porgy and Bess. Sung there by a drug dealer called "Sportin' Life," it expresses his skepticism about several Old Testaments stories. Some have noted that the melody resembles that used for the Hebrew Aliyah blessing before reading from the Torah, but I digress. The song has been covered by many, including The Moody Blues, Cher, Aretha Franklin, Bobby Darin, Sting, Brian Wilson, and Hugh Laurie. We are pleased to add the FPC-CS choir and Paul Lyon to that illustrious list this morning. The lyrics include the lines, "Wadoo, Zim bam boddleoo, Hoodle ah wada, Scatty wah..." Lady Gaga got nothin' on us!

God Bless You Merry Sinner

(Tune: God Rest 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.

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.