

First Presbyterian Church
Service for the Lord's Day
2nd Sunday of Easter / Holy Humor Sunday

27th of Nisan 5774

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Joyful Noises and Gathering Music

Warnings, Caveats, and Other Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Take Time to Be Funny" Anonymous
Chapel Choir

Call to Worship

Rejoice in the Lord! Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

God has played a huge joke on the powers of death!

Rejoice in the Lord! In heaven, there are no frowning people.

Let us rehearse for heaven by the lives we live here and now.

* Hymn 546 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

***We are living proof that you have a sense of humor, O God.
If you were a Grumpy Old Man on a throne, we'd all be cooked.
Thanks to some unseen grace, you remain connected to us.
You pick us up when we fall down.
You hit the reset button when we mess up.
Even when we die, you bring us alive again, just like Jesus.
So here we go again: telling you what we have done wrong,
'fessing up to what we have forgotten to do,
and admitting everything that tries your eternal patience.
Forgive us for every inept thought, word, and deed;
But one thing more: make us into your new creation in Christ.***

* Silent Confession for As Long As We Need (But Please End It Before Lunch)

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing God's Peace to Other Sinners

* Easter Response 587

"Alleluia!"

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Psalm 2016

A Time with Children

Anthem "No Disappointment in Heaven" Lehman

Our young children are invited to attend "Joyful Noise" in room 103.

Children will be escorted to and from the program.

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

Sermon: "Comfort and Comedy" His Holy Mess WGC

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 254 "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

* Affirmation of Faith Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

***That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul,
in life and in death – to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven;
In fact, all things must work together for my salvation.
Because I belong to him,
Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life
and make me wholeheartedly willing
and ready from now on to live for him.***

Offering / Offertory

"Lady Gaga Fugue"

Saying Grace

***Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts which we have received
from thy bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * Hymn 408 "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"
- * Charge and Benediction
- * Postlude "Dance, Little Chicken, Dance"

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers this morning have been given to the glory of God by

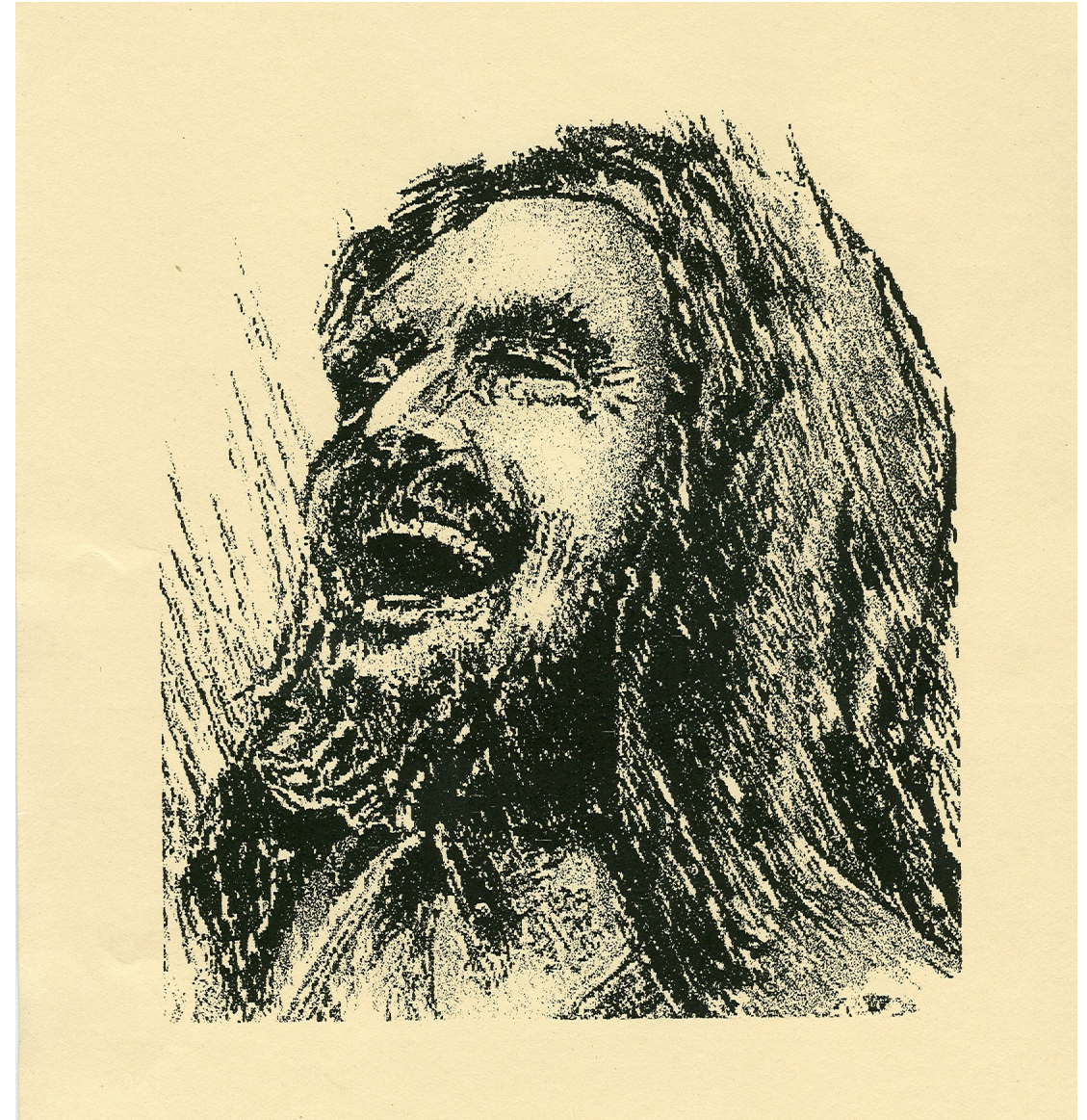
- Barbara Mellander and Carole Grodack in memory of their father, Thomas Abraham, and
- Jack and Diane Scheuer in memory of Jack's parents, John and Betty Scheuer.

Today we continue to celebrate Easter through a gentle observance of Holy Humor Sunday. This is an ancient Easter custom begun in the early centuries of Christian faith, as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection with joy and laughter.

WHO'S WHO IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Pastor	His Holy Mess, W. G. Carter
Director of Educational Ministries	The Ides of Tina
Director of Music	Wings at Kelly's
Organist	Kay "Floor It!" Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Grinning Griffiths
" <i>Joyful Noise!</i> " leaders	Jana Schillinger, Briar Woodley
Ushers	All Who Had an Arm Twisted at the Deacons Meeting
Welcomers	Really Jolly People

Our Holy Humor service includes 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!"



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Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

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.