Duke Memorial United Methodist Church

Service of Worship
2nd Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 11, 2021
10:55 AM

Tower Bells

GATHERING

Welcome
Rev. Heather Rodrigues

Welcome Statement
Cooper Norris

As our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to love and accept every person, Duke Memorial United Methodist Church welcomes into our life together those of every age, race, ethnic background, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, family or socioeconomic status, educational background, and physical or mental ability. In our commitment to the reconciliation of all persons as beloved children of God, we celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all. We invite you to join us in our faith journey toward discipleship in Christ with mutual respect, understanding, and love.

Prelude
Fred Mason

Call to Worship
Emma Rankin

Joy is loose,
   In the wiggles of the children,
The whispers of the youth,
   The smiles of the adults.
We praise God for this glorious day,
   Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.
Joy and praise fills our hearts and in our songs
   Let the laughter be deep, for we are God’s people.

Humor from Home
Augie Tassa & Millie Barrow

Opening Hymn
Cyril Murphy

UMH 261 | Lord of the Dance

Lord of the Dance
Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

You know better than we do, amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious all the time, we miss out on the joy of your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair which is our best friend, we ignore Jesus who can bring us home to your heart.

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 and Savior.

Moment for personal confession

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Through the Holy Spirit, you are gifted with joy.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Through the Holy Spirit, you are gifted with joy.
Glory to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace

All extend signs of reconciliation and love by greeting one another with the words, “The peace of Christ be with you.”

Proclamation

Children’s Time

Prayer for Illumination

God of ‘solid praise and lasting pleasures’, through of all your victories in Christ Jesus, liberate us to hear, dance and share in the song of your life-giving Word and the joyful shouts of the children of God. Today and forever more. Amen.

adapted from a prayer of Bruce Pewter

Psalter Lesson | Psalm 133

This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God. The Message

New Testament Lesson | 1 John 1:1-4, 8-10, 2:1

This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.
A COMMUNION OF SAINTS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 John 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 Bonhoeffer that
“Ultimate seriousness is not without a dose of humor.”

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

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

We pray with St. Theresa that we may
“allow [our] soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us.”

HUMOR FROM HOME

Elizabeth Brown & Robbie Tonkin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following each petition:
O Lord, giver of joy and laughter. We thank you for giving us these gifts.

THE LORD’S PRAYER | UMH (red) 895

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

Support the mission and ministries of Duke Memorial online at dukememorial.org/give.
**Doxology**

UMH 94 | Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Sending Forth**

**Closing Hymn**

UMH 89 | Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Fred Mason