

St. Andrew Worship

Holy Humor Sunday

April 16, 2023
Sunday at 10:30 AM

Dial: 669 900 9128
Zoom Meeting ID: 831 688 4211
Password: 9850
Use *6 to unmute your phone

We are glad that you are worshipping online with us this morning and pray that your experience here is a blessing to you. If you are a visitor and want to know more about the church, please visit our website for more information and to contact us: www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org

Welcome and Announcement

Opening Prayer (Unison)

O Great Laughing God, we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised. We thank you that you have given to 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 up 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.

*Hymn 248

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

*Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.
Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.
Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

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.

(Time for Silent Reflection)

Assurance of Grace (Responsive)

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.

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. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Response: ***“Gloria Patri”***

Anthem

“O Risen Lord”

St. Andrew Choir

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

“Lord Listen to Your Children Praying”

*Hymn 242

“Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded”

Refrain { *Day of delight and beauty unbounded, tell the news, the
gospel spread! Day of all wonder, day of all splendor, praise Christ
risen from the dead!* }

*Sing of the sun from darkness ap-
pearing; sing of the seed from barren earth greening;
sing of creation, alleluia! Sing of the
stream from Jesus' side flowing; sing of the saints in
water made holy; sing of salvation, alleluia!*

Refrain

*Sing now of mourning turned into
dancing; sing now the mystery, hope of our glory;
sing with thanksgiving, alleluia! Sing now of
fasting turned into feasting; sing the Lord's favor
lasting forever; sing, all things living, alleluia!*

Refrain

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened. Amen.

First Lesson:

Psalm 126

¹When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. ²Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” ³The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. ⁴Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. ⁵May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. ⁶Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

(Congregational Participation)

Second Lesson:

Genesis 18:1-15

¹The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ¹⁰Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

Sermon

“Sarah Laughed”

Rev. Anne McAnelly

*Affirmation (Unison)

We believe in God, who made us in His image. We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him. 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, coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son. Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!

Offertory

“Joy in My Soul” by Mark Hayes

Eileen Mihm, Piano

Doxology

Offering Prayer

*Hymn

“Give To Us Laughter” (tune Slane)

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*Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.
Laughter can banish so much of our strife!
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.*

*Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with Stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.*

*Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings us healing relief!
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joy of your promise among us increase.*

Benediction