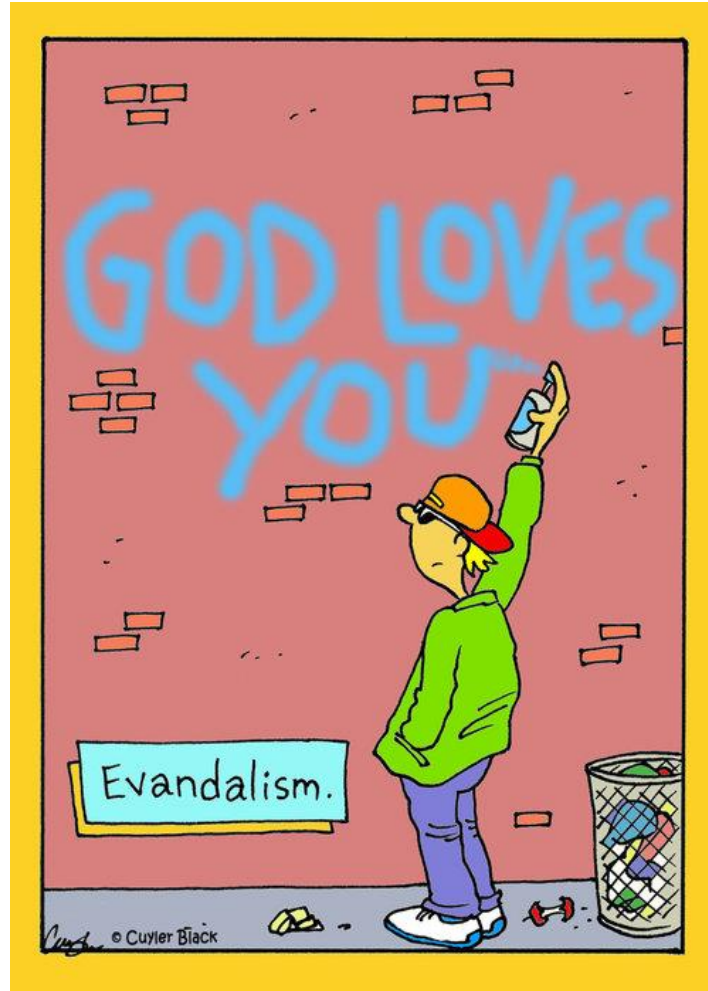


Risus Paschalis

July 25, 2021 – 10 a.m. Intergenerational Worship
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship



Sunday Worship online

Outdoor worship is on NFCC's Facebook page only.
Indoor worship is on NFCC's Facebook page and Zoom.

Preparing for Worship

For outdoor worship, please bring a chair and your coffee.
For indoor worship, please bring your mask.

Ministering to Us Today

Rev. Christina Williams and Barbara Rountree, Deacon, will be leading us in worship today. We are grateful to Babette Bach, Sarah Bach, Lisa Allen & Rev. Christina Williams for providing the music, and to Sarah Bach and Hope Oliveira for being our technical staff for the day. Thank you for ministering to us in these ways.

MEDITATION

"Humor is not a trick, not jokes. Humor is a presence in the world, like grace, and shines on everyone."
—Garrison Keillor

WE GATHER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HUMOR INTERLUDE

GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **C: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

God of Grace and God of Laughter

C. Daw/A. Fedak

God of grace and God of laughter, singing worlds from nought to be-
sun and stars and all thereafter joined in cosmic harmony:
give us songs of joy and wonder, music making hearts rejoice;
let our praises swell like thunder, echoing our Maker's voice.

CALL TO HOLY JOY AND SACRED LAUGHTER

Barbara Rountree, Deacon

L: Come and praise the God of laughter whose humor ripples through the cosmos.

C: Come and see the joy of God's creation here in this place!

L: Come and see how God brings joy out of sorrow and laughter out of tears.

C: Come, clap your hands, sing songs of praise, and laugh out loud!

L: Come and celebrate this day with holy hilarity.

C: Come, let us laugh, let us dance, let us worship God with joy!

SONG OF JOYFUL CELEBRATION

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

GTG #591

If we are outside, *you are invited to sing along with mask on.*

Halle, halle, halle-lujah!

Halle, halle, halle-lujah!

Halle, halle, halle-lujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! *(Repeat 4 times)*

UNISON OPENING PRAYER

Barbara Rountree, Deacon

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. Our hearts bubble over with joy and wonder as we worship you this day. In Christ's name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"This is the Day"

NCH #84

If we are outdoors you are invited to sing along with masks on.

84

This Is the Day

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Lex Garrett, 1967, alt
St. 2-3, traditional, alt

Unison

E \flat B \flat 7

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
 2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
 3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

E \flat

God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
 rose a - gain; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
 Spir - it came; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be

A \flat E \flat A \flat

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joyce and be
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joyce and be

E \flat E \flat /B \flat B \flat 7 E \flat

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

HUMOR INTERLUDE

WE PROCLAIM

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING – Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

Barbara Rountree, Deacon

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Revelations 21:1-6

Rev. Christina Williams

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

The liberating Word of God, for the people of God. **C: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

"Risus Paschalis"

Rev. Christina Williams

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH WITH THE SAINTS

L: We believe with the Bible that

C: "That there is a time to weep and a time to laugh."

L: We believe with Chrysostom that

C: Laughter has been implanted in our souls.

L: We believe with Luther that

C: You have as much laughter as you have faith.

L: We believe with Calvin that

C: We are nowhere forbidden to laugh.

L: We believe with Francis De Sales that

C: Humor is the foundation for reconciliation.

L: We believe with Chesterton that

C: A good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation.

L: We believe with Charles Schultz that

C: Humor is proof that everything is going to be alright with God nevertheless.

ANTHEM

“Sing a Happy Alleluia”

Cooper

Trio: Lisa Allen, Sarah Bach and Rev. Christina Williams

WE RESPOND

JOYS & CONCERNS

For those online, you are invited to write the names of those you wish to lift in prayer and those joys you want to celebrate in the comments section. After a name is spoken, you are invited to respond, “O Lord, hear our prayer.”

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

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 of our daily bread, and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER

Thank you, God, for the joy you have given us which bubbles over into laughter and fun! Thank you for renewing our joy. We pray that you will use our gifts to bring joy to all the world. We pray in the name of our risen Lord, Amen.

HUMOR INTERLUDE

WE GO FORTH

CLOSING HYMN

“Take Time to Be Funny”

Tune: Take Time to be Holy

If we are outdoors you are invited to sing along with masks on.

Take time to be funny, rejoice in the Lord
Let laughter explode and have fun with God’s Word
For laughter is healing, gives strength to the weak
God loves to see smiles, for they lift up the meek.

Take time to be silly, it’s good for the soul
Too many are somber, grabbing control.
Let go and let God’s love wash over your soul
Heavenly transcendence can be your life’s goal.

For humor is holy, it sanctifies life,

Replenishes hope and oft softens advice
It undercuts sorrow, deflates haughty pride
So, smile and hang on, and rejoice in life's ride.

(Authorship unknown)

SENDING

L: The Laughing One called us together,

C: So, we could share in the laughter of life.

L: The Laughing One sends us out,

C: To carry the joy of life and love to the world.

L: Go forth to laugh, live, love, and tell jokes.

C: Share the joy! Share the laughter! Share the Love!

POSTLUDE

"We are Marching in the Light of God"

South African Folk Song



Today's altar flowers were grown in the garden of Marcia McLaughlin.