**The Dayton Church**

***Where the Welcome is Wide***

**Bright Sunday**

**April 11, 2021**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

O Great Laughing God,

we come into your presence with joy

and longing to be surprised.

**We thank you for giving us the gift of laughter and delight.**

These things give hints 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.**

Touch our souls with the brush of your Spirit

to renew our worship and our living. Amen.

**HYMN** *The Day of Resurrection!*

**The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad,  
the Passover of gladness,  
the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
from sin’s dominion free,  
our Christ has brought us over  
with hymns of victory.**

**Let hearts be purged of evil  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light,  
and listening to his accents,  
may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own “All hail!” and hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful;  
let earth its song begin;  
the round world keep high triumph  
and all that is therein.  
Let all things seen and unseen  
their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord has risen,  
our joy that has no end.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF** **CONFESSION**

**Forgive us, Lord,**

**when we take ourselves too seriously,**

**when we don’t claim the happiness**

**that is rightfully ours as your children,**

**when we forget**

**that you will have the last laugh in this world.**

**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.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

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.**

**GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning; it now and ever shall be.**

**World without end! Amen. Amen.**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Genesis 18:11-15; 21:1-6

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4a

1Corinthians 1:18-31

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**MEDITATION** *Ha Ha – Very Funny…* Rev. Wendi L. Werner

**HYMN *Give to Us Laughter*** written by Walter Farquharson

**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.**

**THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERINGS GIVEN & RECEIVED**

Lord of laughter, open our eyes to see through the

absurdities of this brazen century and to confront

them with good humour rather than faithless despair.

When ignorance poses as dogmatic, scientific wisdom,

enable us to laugh heartily with the faith and daring

that is born of your Easter victory.

**Lord of laughter, when we take ourselves too seriously,**

**laugh at us until we come to our senses.**

**Remind us that all the gifts we share with the church**

**are an expression of our love for you,**

**for your love’s sake; Amen!**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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 our daily bread**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine in the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**In quietness my Lord conferred  
two truths I now declare:  
no greater love than God’s is known;  
no power can compare.**

**God is my rock; God is my strength;  
God is my salvation,  
my refuge, my abiding peace.  
I shall not be shaken.**

**BENEDICTION**

**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Wendi L. Werner, pastor

Mr. Peter Manning, student pastor

Mr. Noel Werner, accompanist

Elder Sophie Werner, technical support

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