

Why do we worry that we will lose face?  
Why act like king for the whole human race?  
Often in family, and often with friend,  
laughing at pride causes anguish to end.

Even in sorrow and hours of grief,  
laughter with tears brings most healing relief.  
God, give us laughter, and God give us peace.  
joys of your presence among us increase.

#### The Offering

#### Prayers of the People

Gracious God, hear our prayer.  
And in your love, answer.

#### The Lord's Prayer

#### Closing Hymn 179 (VU):

*Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Give thanks to the risen Christ;  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Give praise to God's name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,  
first born of all creation.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and is risen.

We have been crucified with Christ,  
now we shall live for ever.

Come let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Saviour.

#### Sending Forth and Blessing

Go with joy. God's hope be in you.  
God's peace spread through you.  
God's laughter ring in your heart.  
**Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed!**  
**Let the whole world rejoice!**

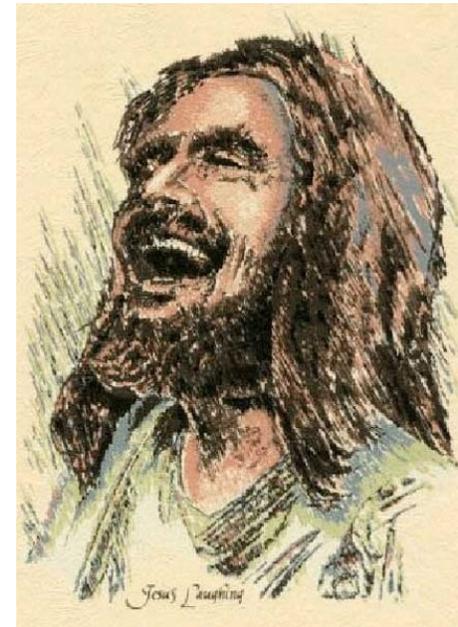
#### The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

### Pembina Parish

### Zion-Calvin & St. Paul's



## Holy Humour Sunday

**April 19th, 2020**

## Welcome and Sharing

### Lighting of the Christ candle and Rainbow candle

#### Call to Worship

Come, let us make a joyful noise before God!

**We will sing songs of praise to celebrate this  
springtime of new life!**

Let us worship God with gladness!

**We will laugh and give thanks,  
sing and pray with joy this day!**

Come to this place with a song!

**We will make a joyful noise  
as we celebrate the Easter season.  
Hallelujah!**

#### Opening Hymn p. 820 (VU):

*Refrain: Make a joyful noise all the earth!  
Worship your God with gladness.  
Make a joyful noise all the earth.  
Come to this place with a song!*

**Know that your God has made you.  
Know it's to God we belong.  
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.  
Worship your God with a song!**

**Enter these gates, thanksgiving.  
Enter these courts with praise.  
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.  
Worship your God with a song!**

**Ages through endless ages,  
seasons of endless years,  
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.  
Worship your God with a song!**

#### Opening prayer

**God of laughter and song, we gather this morning to  
celebrate the wonder of your love that brings  
light out of darkness,  
life out of death,  
hope out of despair,  
springtime out of the snow of winter.  
May our worship this day bring you joy  
and our praise overflow  
as we are filled with the Spirit's lively energy.  
We ask this in the name of your Risen One,**

**Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

### Time of Sharing

#### Prayer of Confession

**Holy One,  
you have given us many gifts:  
gifts that help us cope with the joys and challenges of life.  
Yet we sometimes forget that even in the hard times,  
laughter can lift us up to see the hope that is sometimes hidden.  
Help us, O God, that we may grow:  
more joy-filled even in the midst of difficulty,  
more grace-filled even in the midst of disagreements,  
more light-filled when too much seems gloomy,  
more inclined to see the humour in living,  
more delighted by the abundance of your love.  
Lead us to smile more, to laugh more,  
and to experience life as you intended.  
(time of silent prayer)**

#### Words of Affirmation

God is good.  
God is forgiving,  
smiling and laughing with us when we turn again in faith.  
**We respond with joy and thanksgiving!**

#### Hebrew Scripture reading: Genesis 18: 9-15, 21: 1-6

*Sarah is told she will have a child in old age.*

*"This is the witness of Israel."*

**"Thanks be to God for the Word."**

#### Gospel reading: John 15: 1- 11

*Jesus gives the metaphor of a vine and branches.*

*"This is the Gospel of Christ."*

**"Praise to Christ, our Life."**

### Faith Reflections

#### Hymn 624 (VU):

**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.**