

**April 7 Worship
Humor Sunday**

Announcements/Joys-

Time Of Quiet Meditation- *“This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”*(Psalm 118:24)

Opening Scripture-Psalm 126(page 537)

Opening Chorus- 538- Lord, Be Glorified

Responsive Call To Worship-

Leader: Sing a new song!

People: A joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth

Leader: Sing praise to our Still-Laughing Easter God

People: Who has rolled away the bindings of yesterday

Leader: Immerse your anxiety and despair in the fountain of new birth.

People; We place our visions and hopes on the table of wine and wheat.

Leader: For God has taken ordinary things. And made them extraordinary.

People: Sing a new song!

Hymn- 51- Crown Him With Many Crowns

Unison Prayer- Holy God, as you have taken what we call an absurdity and turned it into possibility, as you have coaxed us to sing springtime alleluias where once there was a gray dawn, as you have called us out of the tombs we inhabit into an undreamed of tomorrow, we praise you for this day! Come, Risen Christ, in newness and hope on this Eastertide day. We pray as Jesus taught, saying...*Lord's Prayer...*

Gloria Patri- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen, Amen.

Old Testament Scripture- Ecclesiastes 3:1-4(page 575)

Special Music- “I Will Follow Him”- Peggy March

Gospel Scripture- Luke 6:20-21(page 895)

Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace

Hymn- 278- Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

New Testament Scripture- Philippians 4:4-7(page 1024)

Message

"What Are We Laughing For?"

There was a time, not that many years ago, when laughing in church was frowned upon. Not just in the church as a whole but right here in this church. You were supposed to come to church to be serious, not to enjoy yourself. Even smiling in church would get some dirty looks from people. Why? The worship of God is not, and never was, meant to be without joy. "Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."(Psalm 126:2) "A time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance."(Ecclesiastes 3:4) "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh."(Luke 6:21)

In a very short time, I was able to find 20 Bible verse about laughing. Depending on the translation, there are between 20 and 40 mentions of laughter in the Bible. Laughter and humor are gifts from God but like most gifts from God, we have a tendency to abuse them or misuse them. Just remember that laughter is not meant to humiliate or hurt others. It is to be used to glorify God and bring joy. Let's laugh together.

Spotted on a church marquee: "Love your enemies; After all, You made them."

Sam shows up at a revival meeting, seeking help. "I need you to pray for my hearing," he tells the preacher. The preacher puts his fingers on Sam's ears and prays and prays. When he's done, he asks, "How's your hearing now?" "I don't know," says Sam. "I don't go to court till next Tuesday."

There was a very gracious Christian lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. 'Is there anything breakable in here?' asked the postal clerk. 'Only the Ten Commandments.' answered the lady.

'Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, 'Good morning, Lord,' and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, 'Good Lord, it's morning.'

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play 'Here's a copy of the service,' he said impatiently. 'But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances.' During the service, the minister paused and said, 'Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up'. At that moment, the substitute organist played 'The Star Spangled Banner.' And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

One day shortly after the birth of their new baby, the mother had to go out to do some errands. So, the proud papa stayed home to watch his wonderful new son. Soon after the mother left, the baby started to cry. The father did everything he could think of to do but the baby wouldn't stop crying. Finally, the dad got so worried he decided to take the baby to the doctor. After the doctor listened to the father all that he had done to get the baby to stop crying, the doctor began to examine the baby's ears, chest and then down to the diaper area. When he undid the diaper, he found that the diaper is indeed full. "Here's the problem", the Dr. said, "He needs

a change." The father was very perplexed, "But the diaper package says it is good for up to 10 lbs.!"

When you're 20 and you drop something, you pick it up.

When you're 80 and you drop something, you decide you don't need it anymore.

A new pastor was visiting the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card that had printed "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it for just such an occasion, and stuck it in the door. When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10." Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

After starting a new diet I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and as I approached, there in the window were a host of chocolates, donuts, and cheesecakes. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed ... "Lord, it's up to You. If You want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery." And sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, there it was! God is so good!

Q: How many Church members does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Change? What do you mean change?

Q: How many Congregationalists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Well, first we need a committee to decide whether or not to change the light bulb. Then we need a committee to decide the process for changing the lightbulb. And finally we need a committee to select the number of people to carry out said process of changing the lightbulb.

Prayers of People/Prayer- God of merriment, for whom the morning stars sing together and all the children of God shout for joy, help us keep our sense of humour. When those around us get hyped-up about the latest scientific discovery or technological wizardry, help us to see the comical side of human self importance. When we take ourselves too seriously, as if the church were built on our devout efforts, enable us to chuckle at our folly. When evil parades itself in finery and thinks it owns the world, or when untimely death appears to cut off saints in their prime, fill us with the robust joy of Easter. God of 'solid joys and lasting pleasures', because of all your victories in Christ Jesus, liberate us to share in the song of the morning stars and the joyful shouts of the children of God. Today and forever more. Amen.

Closing Hymn- 586- Trust And Obey

Benediction- Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Focus your thoughts on all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things, and the God of peace will go with you. Amen.