



*The First Congregational Church
of the United Church of Christ
Stockbridge, Massachusetts*

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY
April 16, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

For those worshipping at home: you are invited to text the names of those attending to 413-644-6435 that we might welcome you. Please also include prayers of joys and concerns as we will name them in worship.

For those in church: Masks are optional, but masking is always welcome. A section of the first floor is designated as masking required.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE *Hallelujah Chorus*, arr. by Wagner Bell Choir

FRAMING WORDS Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

OPENING JOKE

INTROIT *Come Thou O Love Divine*, traditional Bell Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP From Trinity United Parish

One: Joy is loose,

All: In the wiggles of the children,

One: The whispers of the youth,

All: The smiles of the adults.

One: We praise God for this glorious day,

All: Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.

One: Joy and praise fills our hearts and in our songs

All: Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people.

*HYMN

God Bless You Merry Sinner

(to the tune of *God Bless Ye Merry Gentlemen*)

**God bless you merry sinner, you're forgiven it is true;
Remember Christ your Savior has lived and died for you,
and lives again as King of Kings, of saint and sinner, too.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.**

**In Jerusalem at Calvary that dismal Friday morn,
amid the pain and suffering eternal life was born.
It came with arms outstretched to us, right through the curtain torn.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.**

**So sing an alleluia, for our Savior's victory,
and shout to all "Hosanna!" that we have been set free
from sin and death and devil's grip throughout eternity.
We'll have tidings of Easter peace and joy, peace and joy.
Glad tidings of Easter peace and joy.**

WELCOME

Jo Ann Levitt

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Church and Faith can be FUN!*

THE LORD'S PRAYER courtesy of Yoda

Our God who art in heaven, thy name, hallowed be.

**Thy kingdom come, done, thy will be
in heaven as it is and earth may it yet be.**

**Us this day our daily bread give and trespasses forgive as we those who
have trespassed against us forgiven are.**

Us not into temptation lead but evil from us deliver.

The kingdom and the power and the glory forever, for thine is.

Amen

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

JOKE OF PREPARATION

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE

Twofold Amen

Bell Choir

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Ash Grove, arr. by Allured

Bell Choir

*DOXOLOGY

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

One God, Triune, whom we adore.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS AND AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Don Eaton

Adapted from Rev. Robert M. Thompson

One: We give these gifts in honor of God, who made us in and through the image of Jesus.

All: We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Jesus.

One: With these gifts we celebrate the risen one, Jesus, our Lord and Savior,

All: Who had the last laugh on the devil when he rose from the dead.

One: We give thanks for the gift of the Spirit,

All: Our counselor, our guide, our motivator, our joy!

One: Forgive us Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness you offer.

All: Forgive us when we forget to listen for your laughter and revel in your joy.

One: Accept these gifts

All: And the gifts of our selves

One: Bless them for the purposes of your mercy

All: and for the inbreaking of joy! Amen

*SENDING SONG *Father Abraham had Many Kids*

THE GIFT OF THE WORD / GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

LET'S BUILD! Habitat for Humanity

SCRIPTURE Readings from Genesis 18, Jonah 4, and John 2
 Sarah Conly & Michael Deegan

REFLECTION *Seriously?* Pastor Brent

*HYMN *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* See insert
 Have your kazoos at the ready!

*INVITATIONS / BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE *Hallelujah!* by Peter Frost Hui-Mei Lin, *organ*

... And now for something completely different - Bylaws!

After worship, help yourself to a cup of coffee then join the discussion about the revised by-laws of the church. There will be copies available of the bylaws, both current and proposed. In the classroom.

Welcome! We are an Open and Affirming Church which means that we invite persons of every sexual orientation, gender identification and expression, racial and cultural identity, age, physical ability, economic circumstance, faith background and family structure to share fully in the ministry, leadership and fellowship of this congregation's life in Christ.

The Rev. Brent Damrow, Pastor

Peter Frost, Minister of Music

Will Garrison, Administrator

Marion Pomeroy, Financial Secretary

Will Curtiss and Will Pohl, Livestream Technicians

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