

The UMC of New City Hybrid Worship
April 27, 2025
2nd Sunday of Easter; Holy Humor Sunday

Welcome and Introduction to Holy Humor

Pastor Amanda

Prelude

Dr. Diana Hughes

Call to Worship

Leader: Knock, knock!

People: Who's there?

Leader: Lettuce.

People: Lettuce, who?

Leader: Lettuce pray.

All: God of joy, you created us in your image to smile and sing, to dance and daydream, to laugh and love. Bless this foolery here, that our joy may reflect your Spirit, and we may truly know and understand the happiness of this Easter season. Laugh with us; sing with us; dance with us, as we celebrate the joy of salvation in Christ! It is in his holy name we pray. Amen.

****Hymn**

Joy to the World, We Love to Laugh (to the tune of Joy to the World)

1. Joy to the world, we love to laugh! And smile! And dance! And sing! Our God has made our hearts to celebrate, and laugh with Christ our King, and laugh with Christ our King, and laugh, and laugh with Christ our King!
2. Joy to the world, our Jesus smiles! And beckons us to share his happiness and blessedness with people everywhere, with people everywhere, with people, with people everywhere!
3. No more let's sins and sorrows grow; we shoo them all away! In Christ there is no room for bitterness and gloom. His joy is here to stay, his joy is here to stay, his joy, his joy is here to stay!
4. He rules the world forevermore, and does so happily! His joy's in me and you; we're meant to share it, too; so laugh along with me. So laugh along with me. So laugh, so laugh along with me!

Laugh Session #1

Children's Message

****Hymn #314**

In the Garden

1. I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.

(Refrain): And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own; and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other have ever known.

2. **He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing, and the melody that he gave to me within my heart is ringing. (Refrain)**
3. **I'd stay in the garden with him though the night around me befalling, but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe his voice to me is calling. (Refrain)**

Scripture Readings

A Selection of Readings on Joy and Laughter

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)

I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord! (Psalm 122:1)

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice; and let all say among the nations, The Lord reigns! (I Chronicles 16:31)

Be happy and rejoice and be glad-hearted always. (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy, at your right hand there are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)

And the redeemed of the Lord shall return and come with singing to Zion; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 51:11)

A glad heart makes a joyful countenance, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken. (Proverbs 15:13)

I have told you these things that my joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing. (John 15:11)

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. . . A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance. (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4)

This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God. People: Thanks be to God.

Message

Rev. Dr. Amanda Hemenetz

****Hymn #322 (UMH)**

Up from the Grave He Arose

1. **Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!**

(Refrain): Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2. **Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior; vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! (Refrain)**
3. **Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior; he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! (Refrain)**

Laugh Session #2

Confession and Creed for Bright Sunday *(adapted from The Joyful Noiseletter)*

Pastor: We believe in God, who made us in her own image.

People: We believe, we love, we laugh, because we are like him.

Pastor: We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

People: He had the last laugh on the devil when he rose from the dead.

Pastor: We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Creator and with Christ.

People: Our counselor, our guide, our motivator--the Spirit is our joy!

Pastor: 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.

People: Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer Requests and Praises

Pastoral Prayer

The 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 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.

Announcements

The Offering of Our Gifts

Dr. Diana Hughes

****Doxology #95 (UMH)**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

****Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, bless these gifts, and use them to your glory, that they may be used to spread your joy. Amen.

****Hymn #89 (UMH)**

Joyful, Joyful

- 1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!**
- 2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.**
- 3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love to each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

4. **Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.**

****Blessing**

****Choral Benediction**

If You're Happy and You Know It Say AMEN!

Postlude

Dr. Diana Hughes

Join us for refreshments and fellowship.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. You are always welcome here! To be added to our email list, ask questions, request pastoral care, or explore the possibility of membership, contact the church office at umcofnewcity@gmail.org or call (845) 634-1758.

Sunday School for children pre-k (potty trained) through 6th grade is held during the worship service, directly following the Children's Message.

For online giving, please visit our website at newcityumc.org

Our thrift shop, Angel's Attic, is open Saturdays 9am-2pm and Thursdays 10am-12pm.

We are a Reconciling Church; we fully love and accept ALL, including LGBTQ+ individuals and families.

Our Mission Statement is "Serving God through Serving Our Community."

****Indicates to please stand, if you are comfortable doing so. 'UMH' = The United Methodist Hymnal (red); 'TFWS' = The Faith We Sing (black). Both are available by the ushers.**

May you go in Christ's peace, assured of God's love.

