



# ALKING POINT

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

SUNDAY 19th April 2020

Volume 26 Issue 12

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been a very different Easter this year. I'm sure that many of you, like me, missed being able to gather for worship, and being able to catch up with family and friends. Some of you will have also missed out on holidays or trips that you would have otherwise enjoyed. Instead we have largely been confined to home. It hasn't been all doom and gloom because many people have been quite creative in finding new ways to worship and new ways to communicate with family, friends and neighbours, and new ways to share some joy. My friend Jenni turned her letter box into a giant Easter Bunny!

These attempts to bring joy reminded me of an old custom whereby the first Sunday after Easter was designated Laughter Sunday or Holy Humor Sunday. This was first celebrated by the Greeks in the early years of the church, fell into disuse then was revived by churches in 15th century Bavaria. Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, Churchgoers and pastors enjoyed a fun time. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.

It was later banned by the pope, but in more recent times it has been revived in some churches. I learned of it only a few years ago on the internet through some Canadian Christians, and thought it an excellent idea to have some fun after the solemnity of Easter. This year, I think we need a little fun and laughter, so I hope you don't mind if our worship service includes some of my daggy humour. Blessings, Sandra

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## ***A PRAYER FOR FORTITUDE*** - Rev Maurice Fearn (Submitted by Mary Mattheyse)

*Here I am, Lord, in isolation. Your word reminds me 'you rule the world', 'you are a refuge and a stronghold in time of trouble', 'you are gracious and compassionate, your unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts you', so, as David and many others have done in a time of stress, I cry to you, "How long?" Unable to share conversation over coffee in the company of family and friends, grant me an awareness of your presence. Withdrawn from my normal activities, help me to turn this isolation into a sanctuary, silence into meditative listening and solitude into a time of creative reflection and faith-filled expectation. Deliver me from the gloom of depression.*

*Lord, teach me how to overcome anxiety through faith, how to turn a negative situation into a positive one, how to draw energy from you and be alive to the beauty of life, how to ponder, in wonder, the sacred world around me, how to move from self-concern to compassion for others, and how to emerge from this experience with a deeper knowledge of who you are and who I can be in you.*

*Lord, you went alone into the wilderness. Sharing our humanity to the full, your mental, psychological, physical and spiritual capacities were tested to the extreme. In this present experience, plagued by the demons of uncertainty and fear, help me realize no virus can separate me from you.*

*Keep the light of joy and hope on within me. Remind me your grace is sufficient to get me through this lockdown with fortitude and courage. AMEN.*



**Traralgon District Uniting Church**

Incorporating: Traralgon, Glengarry & Rosedale.



Traralgon, Glengarry, and Rosedale Uniting churches  
Worship at Home

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020 EASTER 2A

**SING:** Together in Song 390: [Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord](#)

Refrain-

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth;  
he is the king of creation.

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

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

God has proclaimed his gracious gift:  
new life for all! Alleluia!

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

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**CALL TO LAUGHTER:**

We believe in God, who made us in His image.

**We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him.**

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Saviour.

**He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.

**Our counsellor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!**

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.

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

“Wireless communication is nothing new.  
I've been praying for 75 years!”



*May hope rise in your soul,  
as the sun rises in the sky.  
May joy dance in this day,  
and lift your heart up high.*



**We would like to wish  
Alex Palmer a belated  
Happy 90th Birthday.  
May you be blessed with  
many more healthy  
years Alex!**

**NEW OFFICE HOURS (until further notice):** Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

If you are unsure whether your contact details and email address are correct, please contact the Church Office. We want to get the worship resources out to as many members of our congregations as possible.

## A JOKE

A drunk stumbles upon a baptismal service on Sunday afternoon down by the river. He proceeds to walk down into the water and stand next to the Preacher.

The minister turns and notices the old drunk and says, "Mister, Are you ready to find Jesus?" The drunk looks back and says, "Yes, Preacher, I sure am."

The minister then dunks the fellow under the water and pulls him right back up. "Have you found Jesus?" the preacher asked.

"No, I didn't!" said the drunk.

The preacher then dunks him under for quite a bit longer, brings him up and says, "Now, brother, have you found Jesus?"

"No, I did not Reverend."

The preacher in disgust holds the man under for at least 30 seconds this time brings him out of the water and says in a harsh tone, "My God, have you found Jesus yet?"

The old drunk wipes his eyes and says to the preacher... "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

## OPENING PRAYER:

O Great Laughing God,  
we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised.  
We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and delight.  
These things give hints as 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.  
Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit  
to renew our worship and our living. Amen.

~ from the United Church of Canada's *Bay of Quinte Conference* website. <http://www.bayofquinteconference.ca/>

## BIBLE READINGS: Psalm 16 & John 20:19-31

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

You know better than we do, Amused God,  
what important people we believe we are.  
Believing we have to be serious all the time,  
we miss out on the joy of your creation.  
Choosing to feast on the pain of the world,  
we skip the picnic offered in paradise.  
Clinging to the despair which is our best friend,  
we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart.  
Forgive us, Heart of Joy,  
and make us open to the startling, and upside-down,  
ways in which you work.  
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 Saviour. **Amen.**

from a worship order by the *Liberty Grove United Methodist Church*.

## THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



I would have RUN THE GOOD RACE ,  
but I didn't want to get my new  
**WWJD** Tshirt all sweaty!  
I Corinthians 9:24, II Timothy 4:7

## HOMILY

**HYMN:** TIS 361: [The day of resurrection](#)

### **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION for "Laughter" Sunday**

*Amid the laughter and celebration of this day, it's good that we pause and remember that many carry burdens that need not be carried alone.*

God of grace, God of love and laughter, we thank you that we are so wondrously created and that we are made for relationship with you and with one another. We thank you for laughter with friends and loved ones. We thank you for the laughter of children, and the song it creates in our hearts.

By your great unending love, you inspire in us a spirit of imagination and creativity. Help us to use that spirit to play more, to laugh more, and to create beauty in every way possible. Remind us to laugh out loud, for doing so will heal some of the wounds within us. Not all, but some.

God, we pray for those who cannot find their laughter today. For those who are grieving, or suffering illness of body, mind or spirit...for those who are lonely and in need of someone to share their time and friendship... for those isolated because of COVID 19... for those who are fearful... for those who have not yet moved into the season and spirit of Easter and find themselves stuck in the gloom of Good Friday.

May these and the troubles of all your people be soothed, blessed, and comforted by your holy presence. May we each find the laughter within us that sets our spirits free, and in that freedom, may we take your love into every part of our lives. These and all the prayers of our hearts we offer now in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**SONG:** [Resurrection Day by Matt Maher](#)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP IN THE WORLD:**

Go taking your doubts, your hopes, and your faith

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Go! In spite of your questions, your wonderings, and your misgivings

**Christ is risen! Hooray!**

Go! Overcoming your fear, your sadness, and your timidity.

**Christ is risen! Hip hip hooray!**

Go! Rejoicing and worshipping God, the One who lifts us from death to new life.

**Christ is risen! We go rejoicing, full of God's love and laughter.**

**DOXOLOGY:** *tune TIS 768 (Praise God from whom all blessings flow)*

Praise God from whom our humour flows

Praise God all joyful hearts below

Praise Spirit with whom our hearts soar

Praise Christ whose smile is evermore

*Call to Worship in the World & Doxology by Susan Hamilton in Before the Amen, p. 163;*

*Prayers of Intercession written by Sue, and posted on RevGalBlogPals.*

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