

Worship Outline
April 7, 2024
Holy Humour Sunday

THIS WEEK AT BRECHIN

Minister: Tif McNaughton

Music Director and Choir Leader: Tim Weger

Reader: Susan Ward

Greeters: Salome Carey & Jane Wiebe

Power Point: Presented by Ian Gartshore
Prepared by Eileen Carolan

Welcome and Announcements, Land Acknowledgement

Affirming Statement:

As an Affirming Ministry we boldly declare that we fully welcome and include the full participation of *all* people in the life and work of the Ministry as we journey together, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, marital status, mental or physical ability, beliefs, cultural backgrounds, or economic circumstance. We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards justice and wholeness for *all* God's people.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering words and Opening Prayer

On this Holy Humour Sunday, we've come to laugh, to giggle, and to groan at terrible puns as we spend some time pondering God's movements in our living. We need to remember the joyful bubbling of spirit—even when we are beset by worries, by concerns, by isolation. Let us find that bubbling delight as we join in prayer:

Surprising Spirit, distill our weary spirits with your flame of faith, pouring us out as gifts of joy to encourage one another.

Risen Christ, transform our hearts through our shared humanity, grinning at our toddling toward the fullness of who we are becoming. Loving God, enfold us with your arms of grace, imbuing us with smirks of kindly understanding for each person's foibles, giggling at our own fumbblings when trying to love each soul. Bless us as we laugh, giggle, and groan together alongside the worry and grief held in many of our hearts. Amen.

Hymn: **VU 415 “God, We Praise You For the Morning”**

(Words: Jim Strathdee and Jean Strathdee 1984

Music: Jim Strathdee 1984

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- 1 God, we praise you for the morning;
hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer, and promise,
joy in work and in play.
- 2 God, we praise you for creation,
mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing
in your bountiful hand.
- 3 God, we praise you for compassion,
all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears, and laughter,
help your children to grow.
- 4 God, we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher,
strength and courage you send.
- 5 God, we praise you for the Saviour,
come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.
- 6 Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Christ is Lord of our days!

Faith Focus: Cartoons and Memes and Faith

Scripture: Acts 4:32-35 *The believers shared everything in common*
John 20:19-31 *Jesus appears to the disciples, but Thomas is not there.*

ONE: *These are ancient descriptions of Spirit's movements for the church today*

ALL: Let us give thanks!

Reflection: Fellowship, FOMO and the Work of the Church

VU 187 "The Spring has Come"

(Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1990, Music: Colin Gibson 1990

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- 1 **The spring has come, let all the church be part of it!
The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!
New light, new day, new colour after winter grey.
New light, new day,
the spring has come, let all the church be part of it!**

- 2 **The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
The world expands, let's spread the Gospel way in it!
New leaf, new thrust, new greening for the love of Christ.
New leaf, new thrust,
the sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!**

- 3 **The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it.
Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it.
New bud, new shoot, new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.
New bud, new shoot,
the spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!**

Offering

Offering Hymn: MV 191 “What Can I Do?”

*(Words & music: Paul Rumbolt & Michele McCarthy; arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005
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www.paulrumbolt.com for information. UBP., Arrangement © 2005 Alan C. Whitmore
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**What can I do?
What can I bring?
What can I say?
What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy.
I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love.
I'll do my share. (2X)**

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of Acknowledgement and Reconciliation

Passing of the Peace

We greeted one another as we arrived today, and as we prepare for communion let us greet one another again, newly aware of the peace of Christ flowing in each of us and the joy of sharing it with others. You are invited to share the peace by saying ‘peace be with you’ to those around you, in these moments before our communion hymn.

Hymn:

MV 198 “When We Gather at the Table”

(Words: Walter Farquharson, 1995; French translation: David Fines, 2006

Music: Ron Klusmeier, 2006, Words © 1995 by Walter Farquharson. UBP.

Music © 2006 by Ron Klusmeier, www.musiklus.com. UBP

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**When we gather at the table
wine is poured and bread is broken.
Then love claims us, offering healing,
we hear welcome, gently spoken.**

**Jesus offers our thanksgiving
blessing God for life we're given.
From the earth comes grain to feed us
watered by the rains of heaven.**

**Word of promise claims attention
earth renewed by God's designing.
All the creatures join in praises—
God's intended wholeness finding.**

**Come, invited, now draw nearer,
join this holy celebration.
Here be strengthened, called to justice,
living now God's new creation.**

**Christ, your coming and your hosting
gives us place at widening table
now embracing world and neighbour
Spirit strong, by love enabled.**

Communion:

Welcome

In the sacrament of communion, the ordinary things of life —water, bread, wine—point beyond themselves to God and God's love, teaching us to be alert to the sacred in the midst of life.

This is not the table of Brechin, or the United Church of Canada, or the worldwide church. It is Christ's table, and all are welcome at this table. Welcome, friends and relations.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God who speaks in many ways, your creation proclaims your glory. Our voices of praise join singing birds, crashing waves, and the whispering of the wind through the trees. From your word made manifest in nature to the prophets you sent when we turned away, we give thanks that you still speak to us today.

Jesus who wept for us, your grace is not bound by the limits of our understanding. In love you told us parables that we might learn who you are. You performed miracles that showed us who you are. All of this that we might open ourselves to you, and follow in your way of Peace. For your radical love, we give you thanks.

Spirit who lives and moves within us, you continue to make yourself known. You reveal yourself when truth is spoken to power. You lay bare the half-truths and intentional misunderstanding that we use to shield ourselves from the challenges of discipleship. At the same time, you nurture hope within us that we might be Christ's love in the world. How thankful we are for your careful tending of our hearts.

As we gather here in the name of the Triune God, we humbly ask that you would be the Spirit of Grace among us. Surround us with your presence and bring us into communion. Make the loaf and cup more than symbols of grace as we are joined as the Body of Christ.

As a practice of our faith, we share in the prayer Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, Our Mother in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive
 those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen.**

Communion

As we gather at this table, we are not recreating the Passover meal or even the Last Supper. Our communion is more than a memorial of ancient times. Just as God is the God of the living for to God all are alive, we gather here to be in the presence of our Living God.

It's not that we don't remember. For we recall how Jesus multiplied five loaves of bread so that over 5,000 hungry and tired people could be fed, with leftovers in abundance. And we recall a wedding in Cana when Jesus made six stone jars of water become a wine most excellent, shielding the new couple from the embarrassment of a party running dry.

In his life, death, and resurrection, in his every teaching and miracle, Jesus made the fullness of his being available. When we come to this table, it is this generous flow of life we rejoin.

And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, broke it and gave it to the disciples saying: When you eat this bread, remember me.

*And in like manner, after supper, Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks gave it to them saying,
When you drink of this cup, remember me.
Life's greatest feast is before us. Beloved community, we remember here today:*

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

God, you transform. You transform all that is before you with mysterious grace. You illumine all that is before you with mysterious hope. You season all that is before you with mysterious love. These ordinary gifts of bread and juice, cracker and grape bring nourishment beyond understanding. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

God of bread and cup, for the renewal we find in this simple meal, we give you thanks. For all the elements of Creation that come together to create what sustains us--to create each of us! We give you thanks. Amen.

Sending Forth/Benediction

Response: VU 424 "May the God of Hope Go with Us"

*(Words: v. 1 Alvin Schutmaat 1984; v. 2 Fred Kaan 1993; music: Argentine folk melody
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1 **May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

Refrain: **Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

2 **May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R**

(Gathering Words and Opening Prayer written by Gord Dunbar, Kincardine, Ont. Gathering Lent/Easter 2023, Page 52 Used with permission. Communion from Enfleshed.com. Prayer of thanksgiving and approach adapted from Michelle Henrichs:lifeintehlabrynth.com)