



**St. Paul's United Church, Midland, On.  
Sun. April 28, 2024, Holy Humour Sunday**

**Minister:** The Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

**Music Director:** Victoria Warwick

**Readers:** Sandra Flint, Terry MacPherson

**Music:** St. Paul's Choir,

**Tech Team:** Glenn Erwin, Gabriela Dell

**WELCOME**

**INTRODUCTION TO HOLY HUMOUR SUNDAY**

**CALL TO THE GATHERED**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

**OPENING PRAYER** read by Sandra Flint, posted on the website of the Two Rivers Pastoral Charge, United Church of Canada

**HYMN: "Take Time to be Funny"**

Take time to be funny, rejoice in the Lord. Let laughter explode and have fun with God's Word.  
For laughter is healing, gives strength to the weak,  
God loves to see smiles, for they lift up the meek.

Take time to be silly, it's good for the soul. Too many are somber, grabbing control.  
Let go and let God's love wash over your soul, heavenly transcendence can be your life's goal.

For humour is holy, it sanctifies life. Replenishes hope and oft softens advice.  
It undercuts sorrow, deflates haughty pride. So smile and hang on, and rejoice in life's ride.

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE AND SUNG RESPONSE "Halle Halle Hallelujah"**

**THEME CONVERSATION followed SUNG LORD'S PRAYER: VU#959**

(Children are invited to stay for our Holy Humour Sunday)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Genesis 18:1-15; Ecclesiastes 3:4; Luke 6:21; Proverbs 17:22 read by Terry MacPherson

**INTERVIEWING FOR A NEW MINISTER**  
**St. Paul's United Church, Midland, ON**



**Candidate #1 – Murphy** "As in what can go wrong, will go wrong"

**Candidate #2 – Cool Minister Maude**

**Candidate #3 – Jesus**

**Candidate #4 – Sweet Grace**

**Congregational Vote on our New Minister: (not really – just for our Holy Humour candidates)**



Thank you to our actors, Alistair, Bruce, Julianna, Karen, Marina, Rebecca, Rick, Shaun, Zelda)

## **HYMN: Give to Us Laughter VU#624**

Give to us laughter, O Source of our life. Laughter can banish so much of our strife.  
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health. Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.

Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy; let us in laughing find Christian employ.  
Joining with stars and with bright northern lights, laughing and praising and sharing delights

Why do we worry that we will lose face? Why act like king for the whole human race?  
Often in family and often with friend, laughing at pride causes anguish to end.

Even in sorrow and hours of grief, laughter with tears brings most healing relief.  
God give us laughter and God give us peace. Joys of your presence among us increase.

## **GIVING OF OUR GIFTS**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM** (Words to the anthem for you to read along)

When we are tempted in our pride to dizzy heights of sin,  
beneath our feet, O Lord, provide a ripe banana skin,  
and when we yearn at someone's head to let a brickbat fly,  
give us the grace to use instead a well-aimed custard pie....

When cherished institutions stand before your throne of grace,  
with good intentions in each hand and egg on every face,  
teach us to query grand designs with laughter born of tears,  
for deep in earth's jam-buttu mines your rainbow still appears...

~ written by Elizabeth Cosnett, in her collection *Hymns for Everyday Saints*.

### **SUNG RESPONSE: MV#150 "Loving God" (v. 3)**

Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.  
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,  
we seek your guidance through friendship and care.  
Loving God, be our prayer.

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** read by Sandra Flint, posted by Sue on the [RevGalBlogPals](#) blog.

## **COMMISSIONING /BENEDICTION**

### **SUNG BENEDICTION: VU# 884** **"We Shall Go Out with Joy"**

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands!  
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands  
while you go out with joy.



## **POSTLUDE**