

THE FLOWERS this week are given by Rich and Sharon Laverdure in memory of loved ones.

THE GREETER today is Amanda Denny.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS this week are Mano Miller, Albert Menio, Sharon Laverdure, Kyle Kintz, Barbara Braithwaite, Anna Mae West and Bill Ellis.

**THIS WEEK AT E.S.P.C.**

- Today ~ Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- ~ Fellowship Hour, following worship
- Wednesday ~ Walk & Talk, 1:00 pm – Pinebrook Park

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**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**

By Jeff and Bill Keane



“The sermon was good, but I think you could’ve used a couple jokes to jazz it up a bit.”

from *JogfulNoisemaker.com*  
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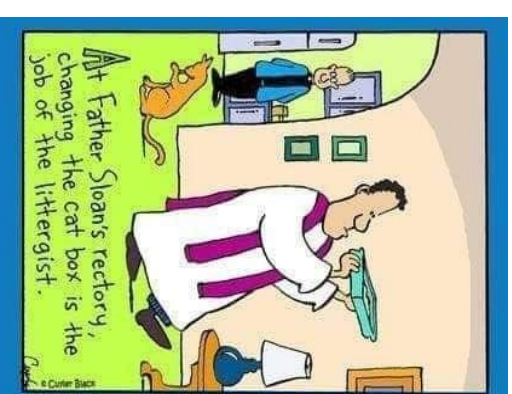
**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania**

55 Smith Street East Stroudsburg, PA 18301  
570-421-5821

(\*Indicates to stand, in body or spirit)

**July 16, 2023**

**Holy Humor Sunday!**  
All Services are Live-Streamed



WELCOME . . . SERIOUSLY

EXPLANATION OF HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

SITTIN’ DOWN MUSIC (PRELUDE) “Jesus Loves the Little Children”

ARR. MARK HAYES

## COMING TOGETHER

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: O praise to the God of laughter whose humor sends ripples through even the river of death, who turns a mustard seed into a tree, who conceals the meaning of life in a loaf of bread.

**P: Like a trickster, you turn my world topsy-turvy. When I think I am lovely, you hold up a mirror that shows me as thin as a pencil or as squat as a toad.**

L: Here in the Fun House the popular routes lead me in circles but, the dead-ends have doors.

**ALL: O for a thousand tongues to sing the praise of One who is All, who is as invisible as the wind, yet as firm as a rock.**

\*HYMN OF JOY “The Herald Angel Said” Paul Lintern (v. 1) & Jonathan Hauze (vv. 2-3)

Hark! the Herald Angel said why seek Jesus with the dead? He’s not here, as you can see, Grave cloths lie where he would be. On your way not tell the others, Jesus will be with his brothers. Sisters, too, he wants to see on the hills of Galilee. Hark! the Herald Angel said He is risen from the dead.

Two disciples walking down to Emmaus with a frown: Jesus walked and talked with them whose hearts were low and eyes were dim. To the stranger they both said: Stay with us, for night’s ahead. Jesus blessed and broke the bread, and their hearts within them sped: Now our eyes have seen the Lord! Now our hope has been restored!

When the doors were locked in fear, Christ the Lord again came near. Peace be with you! twice he said, Now I send you in my stead. Take the Spirit and forgive, Show the world that I do live. Let my love cast out all fear, Trust that I am always near! Witness to the Risen One, Share my peace with everyone!

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**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.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of joy and salvation, forgive us for thinking of You as a grouchy judge out to get us. You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we must 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, 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 Savior. Amen**

∞ Shhhhhhhh (Silent Prayers of Confession) ∞

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

(sung to Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)

**God of resurrection glory, Spirit bringing joy and peace, We will witness to the story voices sing your mighty deeds. Use our gifts and let them serve You, let them grace and mercy bring. ‘Til our world of pain and sorrow knows Christ’s love, begins to sing!**

#### \*THE PEACE

L: May the joy and fun of God be with you!

**P: And also with you!**

HOLY HUMOR HYMN “Go tell it on the Smartphone” Paul Lintern (v. 1-2) & Jonathan Hauze (v. 3)

#### CHORUS:

**Go tell it on the smartphone,**

**FaceTime and Skype and way too many Zooms,**

**Go tell it on the smartphone**

**that Jesus is alive.**

While soldiers watched the gravesite  
that quiet Sunday dawn  
there came a big commotion  
and then the storm was gone.

CHORUS

The women found no body  
their spices to anoint;  
instead they found an angel,  
God's message to appoint.

CHORUS

When Jesus spoke to Mary,  
He said, "Don't hold me tight,  
I'm going to the Father,  
so-that-you'll always have my light.

CHORUS

BE ATTENTIVE

OLD TESTAMENT

*Genesis 18:1-15 (Pg. 14)*

NEW TESTAMENT

*Luke 15:21-24 (Pg. 78)*

L: Word of God for the people of God  
P: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

"Laughing with God"

Tom Long and Rick Sanker

HYMN OF FUN

"This Little Light of Mine"

\*Please take out and light your glow sticks. Feel free to have fun with them as we sing!\*

This little light of mine  
I'm going to let it shine  
Oh, this little light of mine  
I'm going to let it shine

This little light of mine  
I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

All around the neighborhood  
I'm going to let it shine

All around the neighborhood  
I'm going to let it shine  
All around the neighborhood

I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel? No!  
I'm going to let it shine

Hide it under a bushel? No!  
I'm going to let it shine  
Hide it under a bushel? No!  
I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

Don't let Satan [blow] it out!  
I'm going to let it shine  
Don't let Satan [blow] it out!  
I'm going to let it shine  
Don't let Satan [blow] it out!  
I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

HEADING OUT

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord's Prayer- (Lord's Prayer from The Message)

**Our Father in heaven, reveal who you are. Set the world right; Do what's best—  
as above, so below. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with  
you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil. You're in  
charge! All true power belongs to you, now and forever! You're ablaze in glory!  
Amen. Amen...and Amen!**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SENDING MUSICAL SELECTION-

"I Will Follow Him"

ARR. FRANK POURCEL-WORDS BY NORMAN GIMBAL  
(You are invited to join in singing along with the video)

