Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church
Worship for Sunday, April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Humor Sunday

"The Risen Christ by the Sea" was painted by a Massachusetts seascape artist, the late Jack Jewell, at the suggestion of a friend who was then a chaplain to the New York Fire Department
We Gather in God’s Name
* Please stand if you are able

A TIME OF CENTERING

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” (John 15:11)
“Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)
The One whose throne is in heaven, sits laughing. (Psalm 2:4)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP: Lynda Wheat

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!
Let us rejoice!
Let us celebrate with holy humor.
Let us laugh,
let us dance,
let us sing praises of joy!

OPENING PRAYER Lynda Wheat

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/
HYMN: #234  Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

St Kevin

(Please hum or sing very softly while looking down at your bulletin)

1. Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
2. 'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison,
3. Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
4. Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,

God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen.
with the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;
nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal:

loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
but today, among your own, you appear, bestowing

led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.
from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying,
welcomes in weared strains Jesus' resurrection!
your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.
PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

Let us come before our Risen Christ with our prayers of confession and reconciliation. Let us pray:

God of joy, we know that you have blessed us richly, yet so often, we are down in the dumps over silly little disappointments. You have given us Jesus Christ, and raised him from the dead, and promised us eternal life. But we act like we don’t know it!
Forgive us, God!
Keep us mindful that you always have the last laugh, and that your promise is for true joy in every circumstance, and life forever.

Silent Prayer

[Please take this time in silence to offer your own prayers of confession—confessing your need for God and naming those barriers that keep you from knowing life as God’s beloved child.]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Christ is raised from the dead! Love wins!
Hallelujah!
Christ lives and reigns for us!
Hallelujah!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE: I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy
I'VE GOT THE JOY, JOY, JOY

1. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
2. I've got the peace that passeth understanding,
3. I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
4. For there is therefore now no condemnation,

Down in my heart, Down in my heart, Down in my heart;

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
I've got the peace that passeth understanding,
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
For there is therefore now no condemnation,

Down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay.

Text: George W. Cooke
Tune: I'VE GOT THE JOY, Irregular; George W. Cooke
~Joke Break~

*PASSING THE PEACE*

Since God has made peace with us, let us make peace with each other.
The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you. (please stay by your seat and just nod to one another.)

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

Children will join their parents.

*We Share and Proclaim God's Word*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lynda Wheat

Let us pray: Lord, grant us a joyful heart and a holy sense of humor. Please
give us to live this moment only, looking neither to the past with regret, nor
to the future with apprehension. Let love be our guide, and our lives a
prayer.

SCRIPTURES:

1 John 1: 1-5

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what
we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our
hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have
seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

~Joke Break~

John 20:19-31  
New Revised Standard Version

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, Jesus showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told Thomas, “We have seen the Lord.” But Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.
God’s words for us
Thanks be to God!

SERMON
Joy, Joy, Joy!

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

*HYMN #233
“The Day of Resurrection!”
Lancashire

(Please hum or sing very softly while looking down at your bulletin)

1 The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin’s dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

2 Let hearts be purified of evil that we may see aright,
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own “All hail!” and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.
We Give Thanks to God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERING

*Doxology:

Deck the halls with Easter lilies,
    Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!
Dance a jig and sing the sillies,
    Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!
At the devil, mean, old bloke,
    Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!
On whom God has played a joke,
    Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

(Paul Lintern is a humorist and motivational speaker available for special events in churches and schools. He may be contacted at Isaac’s World, P.O. Box 2801, Mansfield, OH 44906, or at [419] 524-7923.)

*Prayer of Dedication

We Go in God’s Name

JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 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, who taught us to pray together saying...

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.
*HYMN: #157  "I Danced in the Morning"  Lord of the Dance

(Please hum or sing very softly while looking down at your bulletin)

1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
they would not dance and they would not fol-low me. I
ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame. They
I am the life that will nev-er, nev-er die. I’ll

2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth. At
danced for the fish - er-men, for James and John. They
whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
bur-ied my bod- y and they thought I’d gone, but
live in you if you’ll live in me,

3 I danced on the Sab - bath and I cured the lame. The
came with me and the dance went on.
I am the dance and I still go on.
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It’s
left me there on a cross to die.
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

5 They cut me down and I leapt up high.
Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be; I am the Lord of the
Dance, said he, and I’ll lead you all, wher-ev-er you may be,

Refrain

and I’ll lead you all in the dance, said he.
Christ Came Juggling

Christ came juggling from the tomb,
flipping and bouncing death’s stone pages,
tossing those narrow letters high
against the roots of dawn spread in cloud.
This Jesus, clown, came dancing
in the dust of Judea, each slapping step
a new blossom spiked with joy.

Hey! Listen - that chuckle in the dark,
that clean blast of laughter behind -
Christ comes juggling our tombs,
tossing them high and higher yet,
until they hit the sun and break open
and we fall out, dancing and juggling
our griefs like sizzling balls of light.

— "Christographia 31" by Eugene Warren in A Widening Light, Luci Shaw, editor,

POSTLUDE

Thank you to today’s ministry assistants:
Lynda Wheat, Liturgist; Linda Schellinger and Janine Bernard, Ushers

** Flowers for this morning’s service were graciously donated by Deedee Elleman.