

Little Current United Church Pastoral Charge
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Minister: Rev. Whitney Bruno - lcucpc@gmail.com
Music Ministry: Judith Mosher, Ruth McDonald, & Choir
** an invitation to stand in body or spirit in the service
~ BOLD PRINT- Congregational Participation

Second of Easter – April 12, 2026

Holy Humour Sunday

10:00 am at Little Current United Church

WELCOME: a special welcome to guests worshipping with us today. Please sign the guest book as you enter the sanctuary.

Gathering & Prelude

Announcements - The Life & Work of the Church

We Approach God

Centering: *Choir: Jesus Laughed Out Loud.*

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

Long, long ago, Creator God chose land to create the first beings made in the image of God - humans. From that moment, until this very moment, we are creatures of land. We honour Creator, and the land, when we walk gently, act in ways to help not just humans but all life, and know we are stewards - temporary caretakers - of this Eden. We sin when we break the relationships among people, land, creatures, waters, skies. This truth has been known by First Nations people since that long, long ago time. This truth is being relearned by settler peoples, who forgot this truth, or chose to ignore it. We acknowledge today this land is not our own. We are guests of Creator. This place, Waebijewung, Little Current, Mnidoo Mnis, Manitoulin Island, this place has been cared for by Odawa, Ojibwe, and Pottawatomi Anishinaabeg for generations upon generations. To honour God is to honour traditional stewardship, and to join with First Nations in caring for this land from which we are all made.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Laughter is contagious! One person begins to giggle, and soon another, and another - then the whole room is laughing. Fire, too, begins as a small spark and can spread one twig to another. Faith, also, begins with a woman at a well and Mary at a tomb - and spreads and spreads and spreads. We light this candle reminding ourselves that our little deeds of love, when infused with Christ and his light, grow and grow to embrace the world with love.

Light the Christ Candle.

2.

Call to Worship

One: Joy is loose,

All: In the wiggles of the children,

One: The whispers of the youth,

All: The smiles of the adults.

One: We praise God for this glorious day,

All: Let the praise break forth

in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.

One: Joy and praise fills our hearts and in our songs

All: Let the laughter be deep,

for we are God's people. (+1)

Invocation (unison)

Chuckling, chortling God,

who lifts our hearts when we feel most down,

who strikes the light of joy in the midst of despair's gloom,

who surprises us with wonder and awe,

enter into our hearts this morning, we pray.

Open our minds to the endless possibilities

you create for growing closer to you with a giggle.

Open our eyes to your presence in all things,

allowing us to respond in joy. Amen. (+2)

****Opening Hymn:** *“Sing a Happy Hallelujah”* VU 224

Learning for All Times

Joke Break!

Listening

Hymn of Illumination (MV 115)

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)

I make all things new,

Beginning with you and starting from today.

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)

I make all things new,

My promise is true, for I am Christ the way

3.

HOLY SCRIPTURES

Psalm 16 VU 738 *(In you God, I take refuge.)*

John 20:19-31 *(Jesus appears to the disciples and to Thomas.)*

May God's spirit shape our understanding of these words.

And may they awaken in our hearts

SERMON: "Laughter is the Best Medicine"

Learning Hymn: "Never Ending Joy" MV 40

M4M – Your Generosity Matters.

Anchored in Every Season.

Tobermory United Church

Responding to the Word

Invitation to Commitment:

Let us bring our gifts of time, talent, treasure and terra with joy!
With laughter! With confidence God takes all we offer and
multiplies it like contagious laughs!

(The offerings will now be brought forward)

****Offertory Hymn:**

"These gifts we bring with grateful hearts

to reconcile, make new.

Gather us in grace, show us the way,

to live our lives in Truth -----

to share Your love in all we do."

Prayer of Commitment *(unison)*

Holy laughing God, accept these gifts and bless them with your
joy. Let the givers feel joy. Let the receivers feel joy. Let your
good natured joy be known to all the world. Amen!

The Holy Humour Laughter Showdown

Prayers of the People

O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us these
gifts.

4.

For the moments of laughter and unbridled joy you give to us:
for opportunities to laugh at ourselves,
for the belly laughs of children,
for friends and family who love us because of our quirks,
and not just in spite of them,
for artists who give us the opportunity to see the world
through the surreal,
for the courage to smile even when difficulties arise,
for those who have hope even when others think there is no hope,
for saints in the Lord who overflow with laughter and
spread your joy to all of us.

For the words of Jesus that defy our logical minds;
for teaching us that we can be born again,
for the woman who finds a lost coin and calls her
friends and neighbors to celebrate,
for the absurdity of a camel
trying to fit through the eye of a needle,
for the father of the Prodigal Son who is willing to look
like a fool as he runs to greet his son,
for the generosity of the landowner who will pay
workers a whole day's wage when they only worked one hour,
for tiny bits of faith that can move entire mountains,
for the reality that nothing can live unless it first dies.

For the great reversal of the Gospel:
that the last shall be made first,
that the rejected stone became the cornerstone,
that those who wish to become great must serve,
that the lost will be found, that the small will become great,
that though you are Wisdom, you choose to forget our sins,
that when we are weak, your strength shines through us.

O Lord, giver of joy and laughter,
Thank you for the gift you give us
that allows us to enjoy these things to the full.
We can laugh because of the most amazing thing of all –

5.

that you conquered death, that the tomb is empty,
that light shone so bright that it overcame the darkness.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Let your amazing reversal, revelations, and renewals happen in
these situations we lift to you now... (+3)

All of this we pray with joy in Jesus' holy name and pray as he
taught us, saying.....**“Our Mother/Father/God 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 trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass 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 and
ever.” AMEN**

Going Forth Into The World

***Hymn for New Week:**

VU 624

“ Give To Us Laughter”

Benediction & Carrying out the Light:

In the face of a culture of death

a world of killing fields a world of the walking dead

Christ is at the head of the resurrection parade

transforming our tears of betrayal into tears of joy

giving us dancing shoes for the resurrection party

And this glittering joker

who has danced in the dragon’s jaws of death,

now dances with a dance that is full

of nothing less than the fullness of God

this is the dance of the new creation

this is the dance of life out of death

and in this dance all that was broken, all that was estranged

all that was alienated, all that was dislocated and disconnected

is reconciled, comes home, is healed

and is made whole. (+4)

Light is extinguished, we carry the light in our hearts

6.

Choral Benediction: Isaiah 55 VU 884 You Shall Go Out

***You shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break for 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, XX
The trees of the field will clap their hands, XX
The trees of the field will clap their hands, XX
While you go out with joy!***

Go now in the peace of Christ!



Resources Sourced:

(+1) ~ posted on Trinity United Parish.

<http://www.trinityunitedparish.org/lukeswordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/April-10.pdf>

(+2) ~ posted on the website of the Two Rivers Pastoral Charge, United Church of Canada. <http://www.2riversunited.com/>

(+3) ~ Revised from April Fiet, and posted on At the Table with April

Fiet. <http://aprilfiet.com/my-thoughts/laughing-church-holy-humor-sunday-resources>

(+4) ~ excerpted from targum 2: subversive poetry in a postmodern world col 1:15-20, published in Colossians Remixed: Subverting The Empire by Sylvia C. Keesmaat and Brian J. Walsh. Posted on Jonny Baker’s Worship Tricks website.



Poor Thomas, he makes one mistake, and it blows his whole reputation.



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Little Current United Church PC

Welcome

To Worship



Amazon.ca

**“Second of Easter”
Holy Humour Sunday
April 12, 2026**

'Sometimes my friends tell me I'm too cheap. But I'm not buying it.'

Hymns for April 12, 2026 – LCUCPC

#1 “Sing a Happy Hallelujah” VU 224

1. Sing a happy hallelujah,
sing it out with heart and style,
we’re the echo of God’s laughter,
we’re the image of God’s smile.

Hallelujah, all creation, hallelujah everyone!
Hallelujah, all creation, hallelujah everyone!

2. We’re the proof of God’s good humour,
we’re the twinkle in God’s eye,
made to shine, reflect the glory,
given light and space to fly **Refrain.**

3. Sarah laughed at God’s good timing,
Mary sang and David danced,
Jesus smiled and hugged the children,
so is life for us enhanced. **Refrain.**

4. Every day sing hallelujah!
We are loved, though so absurd,
human, foolish, chosen people,
God still takes us at our word! **Refrain.**

~ ~ ~

#2. MV 40 “Never Ending Joy

**Refrain. Never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy.**

1. God of every tribe, every language,
God of every river and sea,
God of every mountain and island,
you bring joy to me. **Refrain.**

2. God of every hill, every valley,
God of every leaf, every tree,
God of every cloud, every raindrop,
you bring joy to me. **Refrain.**

3. God of every song, every story,
God of every captive set free,
God of every dance, every footstep,
you bring joy to me. **Refrain.**

~ ~ ~

#3 VU 624 “Give to us Laughter”

with the choir possibly doing a verse 5

1. 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.

2. Give to us laughter a sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and prising and sharing delights.

3. 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.

4. 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.

