

Knox Presbyterian Church of LA

Holy Humor Sunday

**Gathering Music** “Somebody’s Praying for Me”

**Music Ministry**

**Words of Welcome** | +Passing the Peace

**Rev. Ann Hayman**

**Call to Worship**

**Elder Dennis Dozier**

Sing a new song!

**A joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth**

Sing praise to our Still-Laughing Easter God

**Who has rolled away the bindings of yesterday**

Immerse your anxiety and despair in the fountain of new birth.

**We place our visions and hopes on the table of wine and wheat.**

For God has taken ordinary things.

**And made them extraordinary. We will sing a new song!**

**Opening Hymn** “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Chorus:

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is alive.

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

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

Now go from where He isn't  
to where He said He'd be.  
An Easter-time reunion:  
the hills of Galilee. (Chorus)

**Call to Confession**

**Elder Dennis Dozier**

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**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, Heart of Joy,  
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.**

### **Words of Assurance**

**Elder Dennis Dozier**

The Gospels tell us repeatedly of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this joy is now given to us.

**Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy.  
We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bring healing to the broken,  
to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness.  
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

### **The Children's Message**

**"It's a Test!"**

**Rev. Ann Hayman**

### **A Baptism and Reception of New Members**

#### **The Anthem**

**Somebody's Calling My Name**

**Michael/Hansonia**

### **A Responsive Litany** (in response to 1 John 1:1 – 2:2)

**Elder Dennis Dozier**

For those times when we move in the shadow,  
unaware or unwilling to be aware  
of how our actions affect others,  
**we come together, in the light,  
to find our joy in God.**

For those times when we deceive ourselves –  
not revealing to ourselves or others  
the true nature of our vulnerabilities and fears,  
**we come together in the truth,  
to find forgiveness in fellowship.**

For those times when life has been revealed,  
and we have ignored or denied it,  
**we come together to touch grace  
in the presence of the Spirit of Christ.**

~ author unknown.

**Sermon**

**“Knock, Knock!”  
John 20: 19-23**

**Rev. Ann Hayman**

**Affirmation of Faith for Holy Humor Sunday**

**We believe in God, who made us in a divine image.  
We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like God.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.  
He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Creator and  
the Christ. Our counselor, our guide, our motivator –and our joy!**

~ posted on the website of the First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ) of Conroe, Texas.  
<http://www.firstchristianchurchconroe.org/>

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Rev. Ann Hayman**

**The Offering**

**The Call to Giving**

**Elder Dennis Dozier**

**The Offertory “What Shall I Render?”**

**Music Ministry**

**+The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures  
here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son  
and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**+The Prayer of Dedication**

**Elder Dennis Dozier**

**Announcements**

**Elder Dennis Dozier**

**+Closing Hymn**

**“We Lack the Gift of Laughter”  
(The Church’s One Foundation)**

**We lack the gift of laughter;  
Faith sits all pale and glum,  
Hope dozes on a rafter,  
and Love is stricken dumb  
Come, Christ, into our drabness,  
tell us that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection,  
your sweetest and your best.**

**We know the trick of tumbling,  
red nose and redder face;  
by virtues of our bumblng**

**ours is the jester's case.  
Come, Christ, come down immortal,  
teach us that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection,  
your sweetest and your best.**

**You joined our sad profession,  
made good our foolishness,  
brought clowning into fashion,  
put on our joker's dress.  
Come, Christ, come holy laughter,  
to share that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection,  
your sweetest and your best.**

**Upon a foolish cross, Lord,  
you hung to make us mirth;  
but there you conquered loss, Lord,  
old death became new birth.  
Come everlasting joy; Christ,  
confirm that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection,  
your sweetest and your best.**

— Colin Gibson, Words © Hope Publishing Company, from  
his collection of songs, Reading the Signature.

**+Benediction**

**Rev. Ann Hayman**

May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.

**May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.**

Go forth rejoicing, for the good work has just begun!

**Amen.**

**+Postlude**

**Richard Smallwood “Soulful Halleluia” (video)**

**Postlude Post Funnies!**