



Sharing in Worship Leadership this morning:

Preacher: Rev Kelly Conner
Organist: Carmella Lynch
Bell choir Director: Pam Manochio
Special Music: Olivia Noronha
Greeter: Bill White
Usher: Sylvia Illuzzi
Worship Leader: Sylvia Illuzzi

*Altar flowers are given in memory of my
dad, our grandfather and great
grandfather, Carl Jahren,
by the Illuzzi family*

Prayer Joys and Concerns:

H=Health; L=Loss; LT=Long Term; O=Other

Ken Donahoe (H); Joseph Glasgow (H); Dora Greer (H); Bill Hazel (H); Linda Lyons (H); KFK (O); Jean Andrews (H); Andrew R.(O); Bill and Doreen Jones (H); Mary Ann Box (H); Darene Hazel (H); Ramona Harlow (LT); Jane Dean (H); Holly Dorner (H); Donna McCormick (H); DeBrock Family (O); Allison (H); Kim Nally; Amy (H); Gail Kracyla (H); Dominic King (LT); Jill Brownback (LT); Nancy Walker (LT); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (LT); all peoples impacted by war (LT)

Please add prayer requests and updates to the list in the Narthex

Chester Bethel UMC

April 27, 2025 9:30 AM



2619 Foulk Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810

Service Live-Streamed on Facebook
Website: <http://www.chesterbethel.org>

Office Hours: Tues, Thurs, Fri, 9 AM – 1 PM; 302-475-3549
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Reverend Kelly Conner
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praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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*CLOSING HYMN – “Holy, Holy Holy! Lord God Almighty”
UMH # 64

*BENEDICTION – “Believe the Wonder”¹

POSTLUDE

**Standing as you are able*

Announcements

- Allison David, CEO of the Claymont Community Center will join us today to speak on the CCC programs.
- Are you organized, good with numbers, capable of faithful oversight of the Finance Committee, and willing to serve for a limited period? Please call (302.249.6157) Pastor Kelly to discuss.

Dates To Remember

May 6 – SPRC mtg at 3:30

May 11 – Missions meeting after church

May 13 – Trustees mtg at 6

May 14 – Admin Council at 6

April 27, 2025

9:30 AM

2nd Sunday of Easter

Holy Humor Sunday / Bright Sunday

The idea of setting aside one Sunday each year to celebrate God’s gift of laughter and joy may be new to me, but it’s got a long and rich history in many congregations around the world.

Laughter Sunday (also known as Holy Humor Sunday, Hilarity Sunday, Bright Sunday, or Holy Fools’ Sunday) has its roots in a number of different Christian traditions.

Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as Risus Paschalis (“God’s Joke,” or “the Easter laugh”). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.²

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP³

Leader: Sing a new song!

People: **A joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth!**

Leader: Sing praise to our Still-Laughing Easter God...

People: **...who has rolled away the bindings of yesterday.**

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

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

Leader: For God has taken ordinary things...

People: **...and made them extraordinary!**

All: **Sing a new song!**

¹ Written by Roddy Hamilton: <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>.

² <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/03/laughter-sunday.html>.

³ Adapted from original, posted on the United Church of Christ’s *Worship Ways* website: <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-a/le/eas.html>.

*OPENING HYMN – “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” vv. 1-4
UMH #139

OPENING PRAYER⁴

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.

RESPONSIVE CONFESSION OF FAITH – Holy Humor Sun.⁵

Leader: We believe in God, who made us in God’s image.

People: **We live, we love, and we laugh because we are God’s people!**

Leader: We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

People: **He had the last laugh on sin and death when He rose from the dead!**

Leader: We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.

People: **Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – the Spirit is our joy!**

Leader: Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, and when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

All: **Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, transform us by your Word and your resurrection, that we may embrace all that you have made, and live toward the justice

that you intend through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.⁶

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 25:6-9

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 24:13-49

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

*HYMN OF RESPONSE – “Oh Sons and Daughters” vv. 1,4&5
UMH # 317

THANKSGIVINGS AND INTERCESSIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Holy Humor Version)⁷

Our Father in heaven, let Your holy name be known, let Your kingdom come, and Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today the bread that we need, and forgive us our wrongs – and ok, we’ll forgive those who have done wrong to us, too. Do not lead us into trial, but save us from evil. For we want for You alone to rule in our hearts. You have power to transform, and in the light of Your smile is Your glory. Amen.

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS – Claymont Community Center

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You may place your cash or check offering into the plates we pass around at this time or mail your tithes and offerings to the church office. Thank you for working as Christ’s hands and feet in the world!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise Him, the source of all our gifts;

⁴ Posted on the website of the Two Rivers Pastoral Charge, United Church of Canada: <http://www.2riversunited.com/>

⁵ Adapted from original on Charlton UMC website. Accessed via re-worship.blogspot.com.

⁶ Adapted from original found here: <http://vicarbill.wordpress.com/category/prayers/>.

⁷ Written in an order of worship by the Oakton United Methodist Church. Accessed via re-worship.blogspot.com.