



Humour Sunday!

NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

April 27th, 2025

10:30 am

Humour Sunday

Rev Bryan Ransom MDiv

Donna Barber ARCT

Welcome!

*“As followers of Christ, we are called to be a
worshipping and learning, receiving and
giving community of faith, hope and love.”*

Newcastle United Church Mission Statement

As we gather as a faith community, we acknowledge that we are on sacred land rich in the legacy, culture, and spirituality of the Indigenous people. It is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people. We acknowledge that we live and work on land that is under the Williams Treaty, which has been the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee Nations, as well as many other Indigenous nations. These lands today are under the care of the Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nations people.

We acknowledge this land, out of respect for the many Indigenous nations who have cared for the lands and waterways from the beginning of time and continue to do so. Today we are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and to worship on their traditional lands.

We are committed to learn and understand the truth of our shared history, confronting our past and present so that we can strive to build a future together upon true reconciliation, living out what the original ancestors of Turtle Island envisioned: sharing the resources of the land and waterways, and to live in harmony with one another as one people.

Many churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom that was begun by the early Greek Christians called “Bright Sunday” or “Holy Humour Sunday”. Bright Sunday was celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. For centuries in all Christian faith it was a Sunday of joy and laughter that signified that God ultimately had the last laugh. Satan believed he had conquered God through the death of Jesus but was made a fool through the resurrection of Christ.

Approaching God With Praise

Welcome

Announcements

***Please stand as you are able.**

**Prelude (A centering time)
“Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah”**

Sung Twice

Lighting The Christ Candle

Let the Light of Christ pierce the shadows of Good Friday. May its light shine on us this most holy of days and its light become a beacon for us, renewing all that is good within us, all that is good within our community. For Christ has risen. Hallelujah! (by Jim McKean)

The entire plan for the future has its key in the resurrection. (Billy Graham)

***Opening Hymn VU 958
“Halle, Halle, Halle”**

sung twice

Halle, halle, halle – lu – jah!
Halle, halle, halle – lu - jah!
Halle, halle, halle – lu -jah!
Halle - lu - jah!
Halle - lu - jah!

***Call To Worship** (inspired by Psalm 126)

L: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**A: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

L: When the Lord raised Jesus from the dead, we were
like those who dream.

**A: Now our mouths are filled with laughter, and our
tongues with shouts of joy.**

L: The Lord has done great things for us, and we
rejoice.

**May all those who have sowed in tears reap with
shouts of happy hilarity. Hip hip hooray!**

~ posted on the website of the Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church,
Wichita, Kansas. <http://www.lorraineavenue.ks.us.mennonite.net>

***Opening Hymn VU 412**

vv. 1-4

“This Is The Day”

**1 This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.**

Announcements

Sunday April 27th, 2025

Welcome! **We enjoy open seating**, so please, sit where you feel comfortable, and meet a new friend.

Today's Greeters are Sallie Martin and Wanda Herrington.

Scripture Reader is Heather Snoxall .

Bible Study is cancelled this week.



Coffee Time

Please join us in the church hall for fellowship after the service. Today's treats brought to you by the UCW.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting, **today**, immediately after the service. Please plan to attend, if you are able.

Meredith Cutting Concert

Last night's concert was a resounding success! Fun was had by all. Thank you to Donna Barber and the Stewards for all their help. Thank you to those who made treats and brought them along.

Food Bank

This week is Foodbank week. Please place items on the pew on the north wall. Monetary donations also gratefully accepted and can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity.

Dates to Take Note of....

| | |
|---|--|
| TODAY!!!!!! | Congregational Meeting |
| May 4 th , after the Service | Congregational Meeting |
| May 11 th | Baptism |
| June 8 th , Pentecost | Communion, 100 th Anniversary United Church |

From the Stewards.....

The Stewards have a few spring fundraisers planned:

*Sunday May 4, after the service and congregational meeting, we will have our "Baked Potato Bonanza" fundraiser.

*May 5 and 12 at 5pm, we'll be hosting two Community Salad Suppers. Please sign up in the hall to contribute to the dinners.

*And don't forget our Yard, Plant and Bake Sale on Sat. June 14. Clean out, dig out, bake up, bring it all over for our annual sale!

We couldn't do all our work without you

Congregational Meeting

We will be having another congregational meeting on May 4th. Please plan to attend. Please share the date with others, as well.



A Place at the Table

As the UCC marks our centennial, we reimagine Da Vinci's Last Supper as a representation of our faith community: one committed to welcoming people of all backgrounds, identities and experiences. Whoever you are, there is always a place for you here at the table.

<https://united-church.ca/a-place-at-the-table>

Lakeridge Presbyterial UCW Meeting

The Lakeridge Presbyterial UCW Meeting will be held on May 7th, 2025 at Maple Grove United Church at 7 pm. Refreshments at 6:30 pm. Brenda Metcalf will be speaking.



CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

celebrating faith and freedom since 1867

Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto, will play host to the Christian Music Festival on June 14th, 2025. Events will start at noon and run until 9 pm. Performances by local bands as well as local vendors with food and merchandise. <https://christianmusicfestival.org/>

Stewardship Second...

April 27: Second Sunday of Easter

Whatever it takes to share the amazing news of Jesus' resurrection, let us offer those things.



We appreciate all donations and can accept PAR, envelope givings, and e-transfer at nucetransfer@gmail.com using the answer "Newcastle". You can also send via Canadahelps.org **You can scan our QR code to the left to donate.** If

you have any questions please contact our treasurer, Susan at 289-927-6297 or

office@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Thank you for your donations which make our continued ministry possible.

Contacting Rev. Bryan Ransom directly

905-922-8394

minister@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Contact the Church

905-987-4515

newcastleunitedchurch@bellnet.ca

Contact Lynne in the Office

905-987-4515

office@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Book the Hall

property@newcastleunitedchurch.org

- 2 Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
we will go in, we will go in,
to your holy place, to your holy place.
Open to us your gates, O God,
we will go in to your holy place.
Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God.**
- 3 You are our God, you are our God,
We will praise your name, we will praise your name
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise your name,
we will give thanks for your faithfulness.
You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name.**
- 4 This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.**

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Holy One,

**you have taken what we call absurdity and turned it
into possibility ...You have coaxed us to sing
springtime alleluias where once there was a gray
dawn. You call us now to come out of the tombs we**

inhabit into undreamed tomorrows. We praise you for this day with our joy, our song and our faith. We come dancing and proclaiming that You have risen, bringing hope and new life like the warm wind on a spring day. Hallelujah, hallelujah, Christ has risen. Amen

***Listening For The Spirit Of God
Through The Word***

Scripture Reading

New Testament: Gospel of John 20:19-31

Response

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

A: We give praise for the presence of God through the Word.

Hymn VU 624 “Give To Us Laughter” vs.1-3

- 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 as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising 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.**

Conversation Time

Hymn VU 624 “Give To Us Laughter” vs.4

**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.**

Reflection: Risus Paschalis - The Easter Laugh!

Ministry of Music “Ode to the Choir” Lyrics by Donna Barber

Our Response

Invitation to The Offering

***The Offertory Hymn VU 544**

“In Gratitude And Humble Trust”

**In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.**

**O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.**

Dedication Of The Offering

Prayers Of The People

***Closing Hymn**

vv. 1-4

“For the Humour of this Day”

Sung to 226 –(For The Beauty Of The Earth)

1 For the humor of this day,

**for the joy this season brings,
For the joke that Easter plays
on all dour and deadly things.**

**(refrain) Lord of all, to you we raise,
Joyful hymns of heart-felt praise.**

**2 For the freedom of release
from the bonds of vanity
Won by Christ who brings our peace
and restores our sanity. (refrain)**

**3 Though our faults are numerous,
in pretension we excel;
You must find us humorous;
help us share that view as well. (refrain)**

**4 If, O Lord, we learn to laugh
at our pride when it is bruised;
At each silly goof and gaffe,
we shall always be amused. (refrain)**

****Commissioning & Benediction***

***Sung Blessing - "Go Now In Peace"**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.**

**Postlude Medley When You're Smiling, April Showers, Put on
a Happy Face**