

Holy Humor Sunday
August 30, 2026
10:00 AM



University Lutheran Church of Hope is a welcoming, Christian community of faith centered on God's grace and called to demonstrate God's love for the world. University Lutheran Church of Hope is a Reconciling in Christ congregation with a commitment to racial equity.

Welcome. Peace be with you.

We continue our holy experiment. We're worshiping together in-person and virtually on YouTube. Welcome!

For those worshipping in-person, please remember:

- ❖ **To support the health and wellness of all those among us**, feel welcome to use masks and hand sanitizer, stay current with your vaccinations, and stay home as needed if you are unwell.
- ❖ **We honor one another's boundaries** by asking permission to be in close proximity, and finding alternate ways to greet one another and share the peace (a deep bow, the peace sign, an air hug, etc.). Our risk levels and comfort differ.
- ❖ **In our service today, we will share Holy Communion.** Ushers will direct you.
- ❖ **If you are new to the community** and wish to speak with a Pastor or be included in our communication and activities, fill out the blue slip in the pew rack and give it to an usher. We'll follow up. It's also just fine to be anonymous. To get more involved, check out our website: <http://www.ulch.org/> To receive the weekly enews, the Thursday Epistle, contact our church administrator at ulch@ulch.org.
- ❖ **Children are welcome in worship.** Kids, grab your SPARK Story Bibles. Craft tables are available for families at the front of the sanctuary. Note: The nursery is not staffed, but is available for your use. The nursery is on the upper level of the education wing, most easily reached from the doors nearest the baptismal font.
- ❖ **After worship, enjoy the time to linger for conversation** in the lounge, courtyard and patio.

Land Acknowledgment

This Land Acknowledgment, and our response, are both a work in progress. We're actively engaged in a process to move beyond a simple acknowledgment, and toward a more active commitment. Watch for more opportunities for our community.

We gather for worship on the land of our Creator. Many of us and our church building dwell in the traditional home of the Dakota people, and a land over which the Anishinaabeg people and others also moved. They gathered and ate food, rested, died and gave birth, and prayed here, and many still do.

GATHERING

+ Indicates the assembly stand as able. Assembly parts are marked in **bold**.

ELW refers to the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. **ACS** refers to *All Creation Sings*, an *ELW* supplement.

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

Irish Traditional

Hannah Do, violin

Welcome

+ Confession and Forgiveness

Before we can truly laugh, we must first let go of what weighs us down.

Before joy can rise in us, grace must clear some space.

So let's be honest— not because God doesn't know,

but because we forget that mercy is already leaning in, smiling,

waiting for us to fess up and fall into arms wide with forgiveness.

Let us pray together.

Gracious God, we confess that sometimes we take ourselves too seriously. We walk through life stiff with worry, grim with guilt, and frowning with fear. We forget that you created laughter, and that joy is a fruit of your Spirit.

Forgive us for putting a lid on your joy, for muting your music, and for walking around like the resurrection never happened. Remind us that Easter is the world's biggest surprise party, and we're all invited.

Tickle our hearts with your grace, nudge us with your mercy, and teach us to live with eyes wide open for holy hilarity. In the name of the Risen One who laughed in the face of death, Amen.

Silence for reflection and time to remember.

Here's the good news: God doesn't hold a grudge—God holds us.

Christ didn't come to scold us—he came to save us, to shake us out of our sorrow,

and to set loose joy in our hearts like confetti in the wind. So laugh, dance, rejoice—

for in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

(from Thom-Shuman's Liturgy for Holy Humor Sunday)

+ Gathering Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

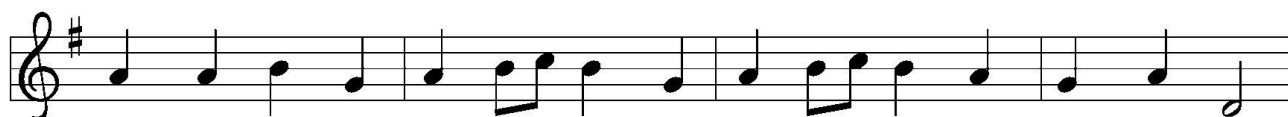
ELW 836



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

+ Greeting

The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

+ Prayer of the Day

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/>)

WORD

Children's Message

"A Time to Laugh"

Sharing of Jokes

Reading - Psalm 126 *The Lector reads the odd verses and All read the even verses*

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

²Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

¹Cuando el SEÑOR hizo volver a Sión a los cautivos,
nos parecía estar soñando.

²Entonces nuestra boca se llenó de risas;
nuestra lengua, de canciones jubilosas.
Hasta los otros pueblos decían:
«El SEÑOR ha hecho grandes cosas por ellos».

³Sí, el SEÑOR ha hecho grandes cosas por nosotros
y eso nos llena de alegría.

⁴Ahora, SEÑOR, haz volver a nuestros cautivos
como haces volver los canales de los ríos en el
Néguev.

⁵Los que con lágrimas siembran,
con regocijo cosechan.

⁶El que llorando esparce la semilla,
cantando recoge sus gavillas.

+ Gospel Acclamation *All sing in Spanish, then English* ACS Setting 11 (from Honduras)

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris'n in - deed.

+ Gospel Reading - Luke 24:13-35

The gospel according to Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the

Aquel mismo día, dos de ellos se dirigían a un pueblo llamado Emaús, a unos once kilómetros de Jerusalén. Iban conversando sobre todo lo que había acontecido. Sucedió que, mientras hablaban y discutían, Jesús mismo se acercó y comenzó a caminar con ellos; pero no lo reconocieron, pues sus ojos estaban velados. —¿Qué vienen discutiendo por el camino? —preguntó. Se detuvieron, cabizbajos. Uno de ellos, llamado Cleofas, le dijo: —¿Eres tú el único peregrino en Jerusalén que no se ha enterado de todo lo que ha pasado recientemente? —¿Qué es lo que ha pasado? —preguntó. Ellos respondieron: —Lo de Jesús de Nazaret. Era un profeta poderoso en obras y en palabras delante de Dios y de todo el pueblo. Los jefes de los sacerdotes y nuestros gobernantes lo entregaron para ser condenado a muerte y lo crucificaron; pero nosotros abrigábamos la esperanza de que era él quien redimiría a Israel. Es más, ya hace tres días que sucedió todo esto. También algunas mujeres de nuestro grupo nos dejaron asombrados. Esta mañana, muy temprano, fueron al sepulcro, pero no hallaron su cuerpo. Cuando volvieron, nos contaron que se les habían aparecido unos ángeles quienes les dijeron que él está vivo. Algunos de nuestros compañeros fueron después al sepulcro y lo encontraron tal como habían dicho las mujeres, pero a él no lo vieron. —¡Qué torpes son ustedes —les dijo—, y qué tardos de corazón para creer todo lo que han dicho los profetas! ¿Acaso no tenía que sufrir el Cristo estas cosas antes de entrar en su gloria? Entonces, comenzando por Moisés y por todos los Profetas, les explicó lo que se refería a él en todas las Escrituras. Al acercarse al pueblo adonde se dirigían, Jesús hizo como que iba más lejos. Pero ellos insistieron: —Quédate con nosotros que está atardeciendo, pronto será de noche. Así que entró para quedarse con ellos. Luego, estando con ellos a la mesa, tomó el pan, lo bendijo, lo partió y se lo dio. Entonces se les abrieron los ojos y lo reconocieron, pero él desapareció. Se decían el uno al otro: —¿No ardía nuestro corazón mientras conversaba con nosotros en el camino y nos explicaba las Escrituras? Al instante se pusieron en camino y regresaron a Jerusalén. Allí encontraron a los once y a

scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

los que estaban reunidos con ellos. «¡Es cierto! —decían—. El Señor ha resucitado y se le ha aparecido a Simón». Los dos, por su parte, contaron lo que les había sucedido en el camino y cómo habían reconocido a Jesús cuando partió el pan.

El Evangelio del Señor.

Alabanza a ti, oh Cristo!

Gospel Storyteller - Evan Peterson

+ Hymn of the Day

Give Me Oil in My Lamp

Anonymous

All sing v. 1, Cantor sings v. 2, All sing vv. 3-4

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burn - ing, give me

oil in my lamp, I pray; give me oil in my lamp, keep me

burn - ing, keep me burn - ing 'til the break of day.

Sing ho - san - na, sing ho - san - na, sing ho - san - na to the King of kings!

Sing ho - san - na, sing ho - san - na, sing ho - san - na to the King!

- 2 Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
give me joy in my heart, I pray;
give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
keep me praising till the break of day.

Refrain

- 3 Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
give me peace in my heart, I pray;
give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
keep me loving till the break of day.

Refrain

- 4 Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
give me love in my heart, I pray;
give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
keep me serving till the break of day.

Refrain

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who enjoys a good laugh, who made platypuses and penguins just for the fun of it.

We believe in a Savior who knew how to surprise people— with healing, with hope, with resurrection.

We believe in the Spirit, who gives us the gift of holy giggles and grace.

We believe that joy is a form of resistance, and laughter is a taste of the kingdom to come. Amen.

+ Prayers of the People

*Following each petition: God of Grace, **hear our prayer.***

+ Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.

And also with you.

Y también contigo.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ using these or similar words “Peace be with you” or “La paz del Señor.”

MEAL

Offertory

Pie Jesu

John Rutter (1986)

Hannah Do, soprano

As an act of gratitude and participation in God’s work among us, we offer our gifts. Thank you for supporting the ministry we share together through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Financial offerings may be made online, via the QR code at the rear of the bulletin, by mail, or in the offering plate during Communion.

+ Offertory Prayer

Generous God, you've filled our lives with laughter, our hearts with hope, and our pockets with more than enough loose change and holy possibility.

We bring these gifts not out of guilt, but out of gratitude— because you keep surprising us with love, grace, and the kind of joy that makes us snort when we laugh.

Use what we offer— our coins and our kindness, our time and our talents, our dollars and our dancing—to tickle the world with resurrection joy and to spread your love like laughter in a quiet room.

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

+The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the God of Joy!

Let us give thanks to our gracious God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy and hilarious God, how could we keep from laughing?

You flung stars into the sky like confetti, tickled the bellies of whales, and taught ostriches to run like they stole something.

You formed us in your image— not with straight lines and stiff backs, but with dancing knees and twinkling eyes.

Even when we turned from you, you came after us—not with wagging fingers, but with wide arms, ready to welcome us home.

Prophets told your jokes before they made sense— valleys of dry bones rattling to their feet, lions turned into sleepy kittens, and a highway through the sea.

And so, with all who giggle in glory, and all who still belly-laugh here on earth, we give you praise:

+ Sanctus - *spoken*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and punchlines,

Heaven and earth are full of your joy. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to surprise us with grace. Hosanna in the highest!

+Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

Holy is your Son, Jesus Christ— resurrected prankster of paradise,

who turned water into wine and death into life,

who slipped out of the tomb before the stone even hit the ground.

He walked through locked doors, broke bread with the bewildered, and whispered peace into every frightened heart.

On the night before the punchline, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

"Take, eat—this is my body, broken for you." Then he lifted the cup,

grinning through the shadows, and said: "Drink from this, all of you. This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins."

"Do this in remembrance of me." And so, we remember the story that still stuns us:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again— probably when we least expect it. Pour out your Spirit, O God, on us gathered here and on these gifts— not just so we may remember, but so we might be re-membered: reassembled, re-animated, and re-sparked as the body of Christ in the world. Make us gigglers of grace, whisperers of peace, and holy fools for the sake of your kingdom. All glory and laughter be yours, God of holy joy, now and forever. **Amen.**

+The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Creador nuestro, Madre nuestra, Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

Holy Communion

We believe that Jesus Christ is present in Holy Communion with gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. All who hunger for the presence of Christ in their life are invited to partake. By our participation in this meal and blessing, we are strengthened in faith and in life. All are welcome to commune.

If you are at home and sitting with others... When sharing the bread with someone, say to them: “This is the body of Christ, given for you.” When sharing the wine or grape juice, say, “This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.”

If you are at home on your own... Hear the voice of the pastor naming these promises of grace and life for you. If you'd prefer a blessing, hear these promises: “You are a beloved child of God. May God strengthen you with grace through Christ for all we face today.”

If you are worshiping in-person today... We invite you to come forward to receive the elements and hear the words of promise, or to receive a blessing. Following the direction of the ushers, come forward: pick up a cup, gather around the table, receive the bread (gluten free is available), receive either the red wine or white grape juice in your cup, place your used cup in the basket. Children of all ages are welcome to partake at Holy Communion.

If you seek healing prayers today... A healing minister is available during Holy Communion this morning. If you'd like prayers for healing for yourself, for those you love, or for other situations, you are invited to come to one of the healing ministers. You can ask for specific prayers or simply ask them to pray with you...and they will.

If you are so inclined during this time... You may dip into the baptismal waters and remember the promises, light candles for situations around the world and close to home or add a prayer to the prayer wall. All prayer slips remain anonymous. Periodically throughout the year, prayers are removed from the wall, blessed during worship, and burned in our courtyard fireplace as a sign of releasing our burdens and entrusting our concerns to God's care.

Reflection: During the past week, when did you experience an ordinary moment of grace? In other words, when did you experience connection to another person, community, or part of creation that allowed you to pause and remember you are grounded in God's love?

Music During Communion All Things Bright and Beautiful

WOV 767

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,
all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

Refrain



God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, alt.

Music: ROYAL OAK, English tune, 17th cent., adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875–1958

Oh, Sing to God Above

ELW 555

*Cantor sings vs. 1 and Refrain in Spanish, then **All sing vss 1-2 in English***

See next page for the music



1 Can - te - mos al Se - ñor un him - no de a - le - grí - a,
2 Can - te - mos al Se - ñor un him - no de a - la - ban - za
1 Oh, sing to God a - bove a hymn of joy - ful greet - ing,
2 Oh, sing to God a - bove a hymn of praise and bless - ing,



un cán - ti - co de a - mor al na - cer el nue - vo dí - a.
que ex - pre - se nues - tro a - mor, nues - tra fe y nues - tra es - pe - ran - za.
a song of grate - ful love in the new day's light re - peat - ing:
a song of grate - ful love, hope and faith our hearts ex - press - ing:



El hi - zo el cie - lo, el mar, el sol y las es - tre - llas
En to - da la crea - ción pre - go - na su gran - de - za,
you made the sea and sky, the sun and stars in splen - dor;
cre - a - tion lifts its voice to tell your might and glo - ry,



y vio en e - llos bon - dad, pues sus o - bras e - ran be - llas.
a - sí nues - tro can - tar va a - nun - cian - do su be - lle - za.
de - light shone in your eye— all your works were filled with won - der.
and we, too, will re - joice to pro - claim the sav - ing sto - ry.

Refrain / Estribillo



¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu - ya! Can - te - mos al Se -
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Oh, sing to God a -



ñor: ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu -
bove: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu -



ya! Can - te - mos al Se - ñor: ¡A - le - lu - ya!
ia! Oh, sing to God a - bove: Al - le - lu - ia!

Last time



Can - te - mos al Se - ñor: ¡A - le - lu - ya!
Oh, sing to God a - bove: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Carlos Rosas, b. 1939; tr. *With One Voice*
Music: ROSAS, Carlos Rosas
Spanish text and music © 1976 Resource Publications, Inc.
English text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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+ Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

+ Prayer after Communion

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

+Announcements

SENDING

+Sending Hymn

Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom

ACS 1064



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound-ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea-ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum-ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won-der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi-der, hu - man, red - wood, geck-o, mon-key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring-ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with-in a sin-gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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+Blessing

May the God of hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!

(based on Romans 15:12-14, *The Message*)

+Dismissal

Go now— we will go with pockets full of laughter, with eyes squinting from the brightness of grace, with hearts wide open to holy surprises. Be bold in your joy. Be generous with your giggles.

We will tell the good news with a grin, and live like resurrection is the punchline that changes everything.

May your steps be light, your burdens be lifted, and your spirit be as free as a kid on a swing in the sunshine.

The world needs our joy. Let us go to share it.

Postlude

Dance with the Saints

Colin Mawby (2003)

This piece comes from a British “Ultimate Fun Collection” and includes a silly variety of classical music references woven together with excerpts of the spiritual “O When the Saints Go Marching In.” Sometimes the quotes are only a few notes long, so listen carefully to find music by Bach, Handel, and Beethoven unceremoniously dumped into seemingly random places in the arrangement.

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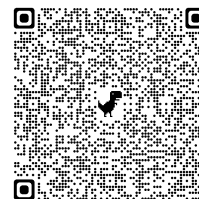
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**University Lutheran Church of Hope**

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Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437

612.331.5988 www.ulch.org

Office hours: 9am to 2pm weekdays

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor Amanda Simons (presiding minister); Julia Reimann-Perez (assisting minister); Hannah Do, Paul Stever (musicians); Deb Bordsen, Tim Hopkins, John Lauber, Wayne Lee (communion servers); Bruce Eldevik (lector); Addison Gillette (worship tech facilitator); Sharlene Hensrud (greeter); Karen Jorstad, John Robinson, Ron Sorensen (ushers); Julaine Kobiske (worship prep); Bruce Eldevik, Rosalie Eldevik (communion clean-up); Diane Greve, Ann Rolle (healing prayer)

About Hannah Do, violinist and soprano

"Hannah Do is a soprano currently pursuing a BM in Music Performance at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Having studied music since the age of four, she has participated in numerous opera and musical theatre productions and has performed with the Tanglewood Music Center, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Minnesota Chorale alongside with Minnesota Orchestra next season.

Her musical achievements include being a National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition National Semifinalist, a two-time Second Prize winner in the Minnesota NATS competition, two-time Second Prize recipient of the Thursday Musical Scholarship Competition, and First Prize Winner of Asia Arts Festival Vietnam.

Outside of music, Hannah enjoys research, writing, and reading - studying public health and political science. She is grateful for the opportunity to serve through the church's music ministry, supporting worship and the congregation."

Save the Date - Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 6 is the last Sunday at the 10am worship time

Worship at 10:30am starts September 13th

Hope Choir resumes September 9 at 7-8:30pm

The fall season of Hope Choir rehearsals and worship leadership resumes with Wednesday night rehearsals, beginning September 9 at 7-8:30pm. If you haven't sung with us recently, it can be helpful to let Paul (pauls@ulch.org) or someone in the choir know you'll be coming so that we can have music ready for you. Whether you've sung with us recently or not, all are welcome!

If you would like to participate in handbells or any other aspect of music programming, feel free to reach out at any time. We are starting to set the fall schedules now.

Courtyard Concert

Thursday, September 10 at 7pm, suggested freewill donation \$10

Orkestar Bez Ime [or-KESS-tar behz EE-meh], meaning "orchestra without a name" in Bulgarian, was formed in 2002 to recreate the sounds of the village with a presentation as festive as the music itself. Focusing on Eastern Europe and music of the Romani people, OBI's repertoire reaches from Albania to Ukraine, with plenty of stops in between. Orkestar Bez Ime is a winner of the 2011-2012 McKnight Artist Fellowships for Performing Musicians administered by MacPhail Center for Music and a recipient of a 2012 Minnesota Emerging Composers Award from the American Composers Forum. OBI is composed of Colleen Bertsch, Scott Keever, Matt Miller, Katrina Munding, Natalie Nowytski, and Eric Ray. <https://orkestarbezime.com/>

Sunday, September 13

Worship returns to the 10:30am worship time

Neighborhood Hope Celebration Sunday, September 20 after worship

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of community, connection, and hope! Enjoy delicious oven-baked pizza, live music, games for all ages, and our special Circulation Event—where donated household items find new homes. Browse, choose, and adopt items you can use while helping reduce waste and bless your neighbors. Bring your family, invite a friend, and celebrate the joy of being a neighborhood together!

Want to help make it happen? We're looking for volunteers to assist with setup, hospitality, games, and cleanup. Whether you can help for an hour or the whole event, we'd love to have you join the team and help bring hope to our neighborhood! Contact Pastor Amanda at amandas@ulch.org to volunteer.

Invitation to Worship Practice: Reflection on Ordinary Moments of Grace

Throughout the month of August, we are inviting you to notice and reflect upon ordinary moments of grace - moments in which you find yourself connected to another person, community, or part of creation and reminded that you are a part of something bigger than yourself. These moments remind us that God's love and grace holds and surrounds us, and all of creation, at all times - even when our fears or anxiety might try to convince us otherwise. Perhaps they happen while cooking and eating with others, walking your dog, joining in public action with others, etc.

During communion in our worship gatherings, you are invited to write a word, phrase, or sentence about your ordinary moment of grace on a slip of paper and put it in the basket at the prayer station. These submissions will remain anonymous. Then, during announcements one or two people who would like to share their ordinary moment of grace aloud will be invited to briefly share so that we are able to hear from one another. For those of you joining us online, you are welcome to submit your reflections to share with others via office@ulch.org.

In these intense times in the life of this nation, where we are encouraged to break ourselves into factions or seek our own gain above anyone else's, taking the opportunity to notice how connected we are and to hear from one another grounds us in God's promise of presence in all times and places. Together, we are the Hope we proclaim and the Hope the world needs.