



June 7, 2020. The 1st Sunday after Pentecost. Part one of “Unraveled” series.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Prelude

Greeting

Call to Worship

One: Gracious God, we bring you the broken parts of ourselves.

All: Hem us in before and behind.

One: Creator God, we bring you the joyful parts of ourselves.

All: Weave us together in hope and praise.

One: God of new life, we bring you doubt and faith knotted up in our hearts.

All: Unravel our doubt. Weave faith into our hearts. Draw us together and point us toward you.

One: In hope and faith we pray. In hope and faith we worship.

All: Amen.

Prayer of Confession

God of unexpected joy and answered prayers, We confess that sometimes things feel too good to be true, While at other times we wonder if you hear us at all. When life unravels for the worst—we blame you. But when life unravels for the best, filling our days with holy surprise— We tend to praise ourselves, thinking we’ve earned this unexpected joy. Forgive us. Help us to see you in our midst. And with every breath that turns into a laugh, draw us closer to you.

(Pause for Silent Confession)

Words of Assurance and Passing of the Peace

Hymn #144 “This is My Father’s World”

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Offering and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn “Give Us Laughter Unexpected”
- See Attached

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent in the day’s heat. He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply. He said, “Sirs, if you would be so kind, don’t just pass by

your servant. Let a little water be brought so you may wash your feet and refresh yourselves under the tree. Let me offer you a little bread so you will feel stronger, and after that you may leave your servant and go on your way—since you have visited your servant.”

They responded, “Fine. Do just as you have said.”

So Abraham hurried to Sarah at his tent and said, “Hurry! Knead three seahs of the finest flour and make some baked goods!” Abraham ran to the cattle, took a healthy young calf, and gave it to a young servant, who prepared it quickly. Then Abraham took butter, milk, and the calf that had been prepared, put the food in front of them, and stood under the tree near them as they ate.

They said to him, “Where’s your wife Sarah?”

And he said, “Right here in the tent.”

Then one of the men said, “I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!”

Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating. So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, I’m no longer able to have children and my husband’s old.

The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Me give birth? At my age?’ Is anything too difficult for the Lord? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son.”

Sarah lied and said, “I didn’t laugh,” because she was frightened. But he said, “No, you laughed.”

21:1 The Lord was attentive to Sarah just as he had said, and the Lord carried out just what he had promised her. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son for Abraham when he was old, at the very time God had told him. Abraham named his son—the one Sarah bore him—Isaac. Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old just as God had commanded him. Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born. Sarah said, “God has given me laughter. Everyone who hears about it will laugh with me.” She said, “Who could have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse sons? But now I’ve given birth to a son when he was old!”

Sermon

“Sarah Laughs”

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Musical Offering

“Amazing Grace”

Gail Novak, piano Mesa, AZ

Blessing

Postlude

Give Us Laughter Unexpected

A Hymn of Thanks for Laughter

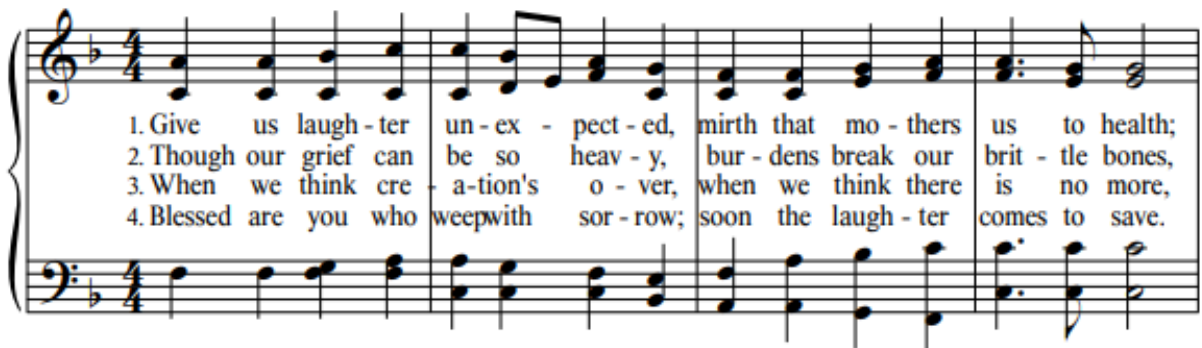
Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2019

Meter: 8.7.8.7. D

Tune: HYMN TO JOY

Music: Ludwig Van Beethoven, 1824

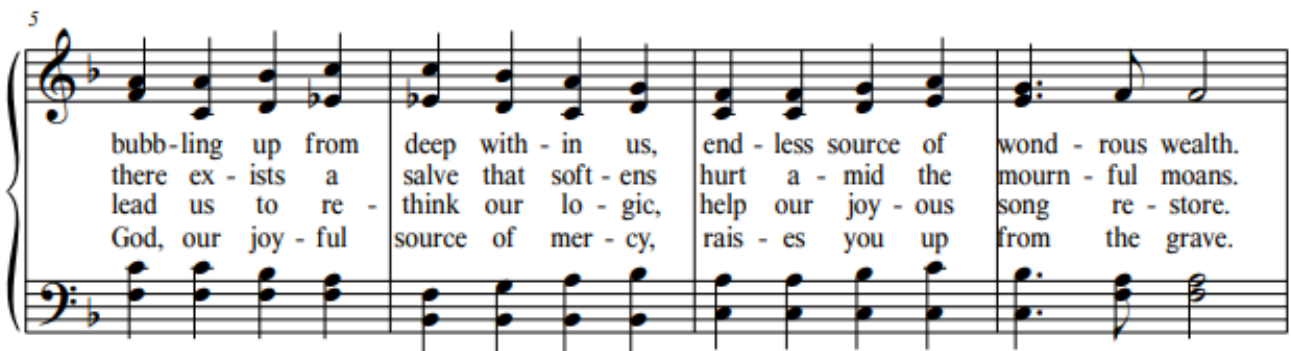
Piano



1. Give us laugh - ter un - ex - pect - ed, mirth that mo - thers us to health;
2. Though our grief can be so heav - y, bur - dens break our brit - tle bones,
3. When we think cre - a - tion's o - ver, when we think there is no more,
4. Blessed are you who weep with sor - row; soon the laugh - ter comes to save.

5

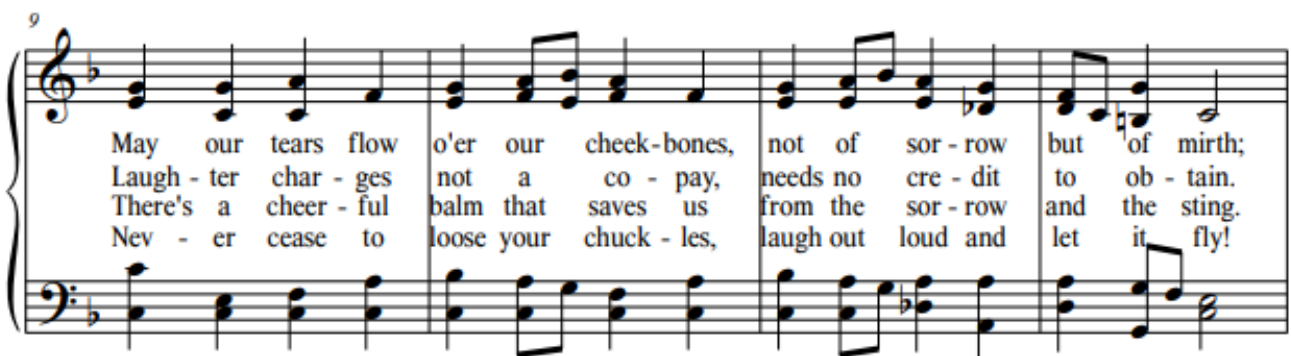
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bubb - ling up from deep with - in us, end - less source of wond - rous wealth.
there ex - ists a salve that soft - ens hurt a - mid the mourn - ful moans.
lead us to re - think our lo - gic, help our joy - ous song re - store.
God, our joy - ful source of mer - cy, rais - es you up from the grave.

9

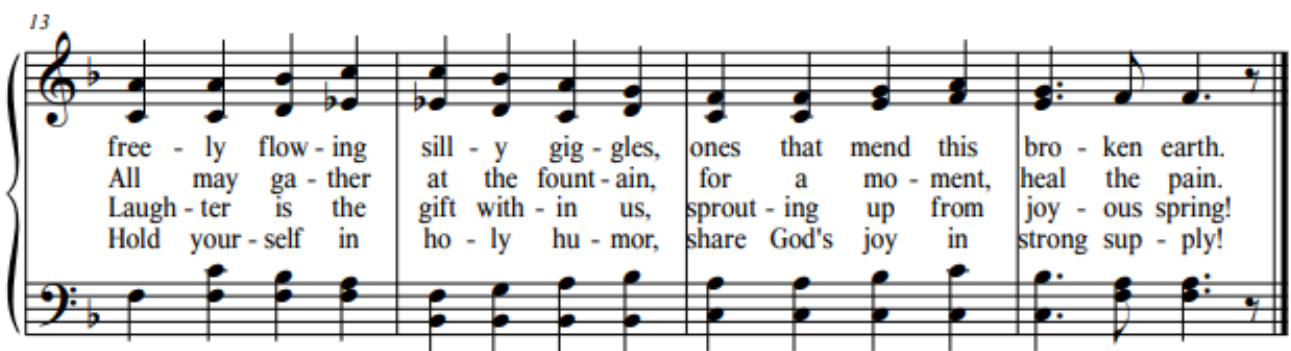
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May our tears flow o'er our cheek - bones, not of sor - row but of mirth;
Laugh - ter char - ges not a co - pay, needs no cre - dit to ob - tain.
There's a cheer - ful balm that saves us from the sor - row and the sting.
Nev - er cease to loose your chuck - les, laugh out loud and let it fly!

13

Pno.



free - ly flow - ing sill - y gig - gles, ones that mend this bro - ken earth.
All may ga - ther at the fount - ain, for a mo - ment, heal the pain.
Laugh - ter is the gift with - in us, sprout - ing up from joy - ous spring!
Hold your - self in ho - ly hu - mor, share God's joy in strong sup - ply!



Pastor

Robb McCoy, mccoy@tworiversumc.org

Lay Leader
Susan Lorenzen

Church Custodian
Ellen Martin

Program Staff

Director of Music
Mark Swessinger, mswess@mchsi.com

Support Staff

Church Office Manager
Brianna Pollock, office@tworiversumc.org

Camp Milan Caretaker
Kent Hessman

Organist
Michael Smith

Volunteer Financial Secretary
Charlotte Peterson

Organist Emeritus
Judith Litherland

Ministers

All of us

Nursery Attendants
Divera Mpawenayo
Autumn Glass

Two Rivers United Methodist Church
1820 5th Ave. Rock Island, IL 61201

Office Phone: (309)788-9384

Email: office@tworiversumc.org



WEEKLY GPS

GROW

PRAY

STUDY

Coming Next:

"Unraveled"

June 14	Peter Sinks in the Water	Matt. 14:22-33
June 21	Rizpah Mourns Her Sons	2 Samuel 3:7; 21:1-14
June 28	Zacchaeus invited	Luke 19:1-10

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Genesis 18:14a

Is anything too difficult for the Lord?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Genesis 21:8-21
Tuesday	Matthew 4:18-22
Wednesday	Matthew 13:44-52
Thursday	Matthew 13:53-58
Friday	Matthew 14:1-12
Saturday	Matthew 14:13-21

CARING CONVERSATIONS or REFLECTIONS

- ◇ **Thinking about this week's story:** Sarah and Abraham had a promise, but it took 25 years for it to be fulfilled. In that time there was great hardship and pain. What has been something promised to you that took a very long time? Did the waiting make the fulfillment feel sweeter or more bitter?
- ◇ **Thinking About Next Week's Story:** Jesus calls Peter to walk on the water with him. Peter stepped out onto the sea, but quickly sank. When have you taken a risk for God? Did you sink or walk? What did you learn from the experience?
- ◇ **The Connecting Thread:** What is the connection between promises and risk?

Two Rivers Connections

**Subscribe to the Two Rivers e-newsletter by going to
<http://tworiversumc.org/subscribe>**

This week's Connections Schedule:

Sunday 10:30-11:30—Adult Sunday School

Monday 12:00-1:00 — Bible Study

Wednesday 12:00-12:30—Devotion and Prayer

Wednesday 5:00-6:00 — Youth Zoom*

Thursday 7:00-8:00—Pub Theology*

Zoom Room ID: 961-006-728

Zoom Password: 029397

Phone Number: 312-626-6799

***Youth Zoom and Pub Theology have different Zoom codes.**