



# **MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Order of Worship**

**Second Sunday of Easter ❖ Holy Humor Sunday**

**April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

## **Taking It to New Heights**

**Starring**

**Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt**

**&**

**Rev. Barrett Abernethy**

**Produced by**

**Matthias Young**

**Edited by**

**Matthias Young**

**Director of Photography**

**Matthias Young**

**Director of Music**

**Matthias Young**

**Director of Everything Else Not Yet Mentioned**

**Matthias Young**

— Act I —

**Welcome & Announcements**

Rev. Abernethy & Rev. Toney-Schmitt

**Prayer of Invocation**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**Call to Worship**

People of God, sing praise!  
Give thanks to God's holy name!

O God, you have turned our mourning into joyful dancing.  
You have taken away our funeral clothes, and clothed us with joy instead,  
So that we might sing praises and laugh with you!

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!  
Let us worship God!

**Morning Song**

**“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the gloom of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain,  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus  
Which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o'er us,  
Joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

## Prayer of Honesty (by Edward Hays)

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Fools, Lord of Clowns and Smiling Saints,  
we rejoice in this playful prayer that you are a God of laughter and of tears.  
Blessed are you, for you have rooted within us  
the gifts of humor, lightheartedness, and mirth,  
with jokes and comedy, you cause our hearts to sing  
as laughter is made to flow out of us.  
We are grateful that your Son, Jesus,  
who was this world's master of wit,  
daily invites us to be fools for your sake,  
to embrace the madness of your prophets, holy people, and saints.  
We delight in holy madness which becomes the very medicine  
to heal the chaos of the cosmos  
since it calls each of us out of the hum-drumness of daily life  
into joy, adventure, and, most of all, into freedom.  
We, who are so easily tempted to barter our freedom  
for tiny speckles of honor and power,  
are filled with gratitude that your Son's very life has reminded us  
to value only love, the communion with other persons and with you,  
and to balance honor with humor.  
With circus bands and organ grinders,  
with fools, clowns, court-jesters, and comics,  
with high-spirited angels and saints,  
we too join the fun and foolishness of life,  
so that your holy laughter may ring out to the edges of the universe.  
Blessed are you, Lord our God, who invites us to be holy fools. Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon

...Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

## Response

**"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"**  
ST. ANNE

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.

— Act II —

**Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**Scripture**

Luke 24:13-43

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. 18 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?” 19 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, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 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. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 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. 24 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.” 25 Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 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. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 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 scriptures to us?” 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

36 While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence.

**Sermon**

*The Unexpected*

— Act III —

**Hymn**

**“We Know that Christ Is Raised”**  
ENGELBERG

Matthias Young

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
Embraced by death, He broke its fearful hold;  
And our despair He turned to blazing joy.  
Alleluia!

We share by water in His saving death.  
Reborn, we share with Him an Easter life  
As living members of a living Christ.  
Alleluia!

A new creation comes to life and grows  
As Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.  
The universe, restored and whole, will sing:  
Alleluia!

**Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

— Act IV —

**Song**

**“Light the Fire”**

Matthias Young

I stand to praise you  
But I fall to my knees  
My spirit is willing  
But my flesh is so weak

*Refrain*

So light the fire in my soul  
Fan the flame make me whole  
Lord you know where I've been  
So light the fire in my heart again

I feel your arms around me  
As the power of your healing begins  
Your spirit runs through me  
Like a mighty rushing wind (*to refrain*)

**Benediction**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy