

Welcome! This is God's house, a place of peace; a place where we befriend one another in the name of Christ. We enter as strangers and leave as friends. We are honored to have you in our midst and pray you will know God's presence in this place. You are invited to share your joys and concerns by filling out a prayer request form (back of the sanctuary) and place it in the prayer basket. For online worshippers, please use Zoom Chat or Facebook Comments. Prayer requests will be included in the Sunday prayer email. Please indicate if a request is not public (i.e. for the Pastor alone). Financial offerings can be placed in the offering box at the back of the Sanctuary. Restrooms are found near the kitchen, to the left as you exit the Sanctuary. Where you see "please rise" - do so in whatever manner is most comfortable for you, in body &/or spirit.



## Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church

Pastor – Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo

*The mission of Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church is to be in partnership with God to transform ourselves, our communities, and our world.*

**Service for the Lord's Day ~ April 12, 2026**

**Second Sunday in Eastertide ~ Celebrating Holy Humor**

**Welcome** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle & A Time of Silence**

*We invite you to a time of silent meditation and companionship with God.*

### **Call to Worship** *(responsive)*

Spirit of God, flickering over our heads, illuminating our faces,  
inspiring our thoughts, come among us now, we pray, giving us

**Words of joy and praise.**

Risen Christ, filling our hearts with hope, steadying our nerves with peace,  
comforting our lives with love, you are with us now and we pray for

**Words of joy and praise.**

Eternal God, come to us now – surging through the darkness of our lives,  
sweeping over our weariness – so that, in this time of Eastertide,  
the sparkling light of faith, the rushing wind of hope and the joyful sound of praise  
may echo round the world, may echo in the church, and echo within us now,  
God of glory, give us now, we pray,

**Words of joy and praise. Amen**

### **Prelude**

**Hymn 267** *(please rise)* **Come, Christians, Join to Sing!**

### **Call to Reconciliation and Confession for Holy Humor Sunday**

*None of us likes to look foolish, but which is sillier? Chasing after the world and all its gaudy trinkets which flatter our souls, or being a 'fool for Christ', imitating him in service to others, offering ourselves in love and joy to the world? Let us admit to God the foolish choices we make each and every day as we pray:*

**You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious all the time, we miss out on the joy of your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair, we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart.**

*Silence is kept.*

**Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the startling, and upside-down, ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter's laughter; fill us with your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, amen.**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy.

The good news is that this joy is now given to us. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel,

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

### **Prayer for Illumination** (*unison*)

**Holy God, you have always been one who disrupts. You interrupt suffering to bring peace. You interrupt isolation to create community. You interrupt silence with the sound of alleluias. So today we ask that you would interrupt us, so that we can hear your word anew until the sound of alleluias ring out everywhere. Amen.**

### **Scripture Lessons**     *Ecclesiastes 31:1-8 (KJV), 9-13 (TheVoice); and John 20:19-31*

*Come Holy Spirit (silence is kept for reflection)*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

***Ha! Ha! Hallelujah!***

### **Hymn 254** (*please rise*)

***That Easter Day with Joy was Bright***

### **Affirmation of Faith** (*Read Responsively*)

***Psalms 16***

*(the Voice Translation)*

Protect me, God, for the only safety I know is found in the moments I seek You.

**I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord, for the only good I know in this world is found in You alone.”**

The beauty of faith-filled people encompasses me. They are true, and my heart is thrilled beyond measure.

***All the while the despair of many, who abandoned Your goodness for the empty promises of false gods, increases day by day.***

I refuse to pour out blood offerings, to utter their names from my lips.

**You, Lord, are my sustenance and my life-giving cup.**

*In that cup, You hold my future and my eternal riches. My home is surrounded in beauty;*

***You have gifted me with abundance and a rich legacy.***

I will bless the Eternal, whose wise teaching orchestrates my days and centers my mind at night.

**The Lord is ever present with me; at all times He goes before me.**

I will not live in fear or abandon my calling because He stands at my right hand.

***This is a good life—my heart is glad, my soul is full of joy, and my body is at rest.***

*Who could want for more?*

**You will not abandon me to experience death and the grave or leave me to rot alone.**

*Instead, You direct me on the path that leads to a beautiful life.*

**As I walk with You, the pleasures are never-ending, and I know true joy and contentment. Amen.**

## Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

*We resolve to pray for each other, our community and our world at 10:10 am or pm –  
10:10 being the time we worship on the Lord's Day. Join in whenever you can remember to do so.*

## Prayers of the People

**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.**

## Invitation to a Time of Offering and Dedication *(unison)*

*Today's offering plates are being passed for you to take a butterfly of joy to share with someone else this week.*

**Living God, you have given us joy, grace, and hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Above all, you have given us life! What can we give in return? We will not bring offerings that cost us nothing; therefore, we bring our offerings and ourselves, with love and gratitude. Transform all that we bring into a source of life for many, so that your kingdom may grow in the hearts of all. Amen.**

**Hymn 254** *(please rise)*

**Give Us Laughter Unexpected**

*by Stephen M. Fearing, 2019*

*Please see the back of this page*

**God is Good-All the Time    All the Time- God is Good**

## Charge & Benediction

**Postlude**

*Stay for coffee and let us get to know one another.*

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*We are an Earth-care church so, after the service, unless you plan on taking your bulletin home or to share with others, please be so kind as to recycle your bulletin in the basket at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!*

*Pastor Diane will be away for the next two weeks (April ~13-26)*

*Please contact your Shepherd, Deacon or a Session member for assistance as needed.*



This morning's Call to Worship is an adaptation of *A Prayer for Pentecost* by John Harvey, from *Fire and Bread*, compiled and edited by Ruth Burgess, First published 2006 by Wild Goose Publications, the publishing division of the Iona Community; *Confession for Holy Humor Sunday* written by Thom Schuman (see <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>); the hymn *Give Us Laughter Unexpected* granted permission for use in congregational worship. Please give the following credit: "Copyright 2019 Stephen M. Fearing | [www.stephenmfearing.com](http://www.stephenmfearing.com)"