

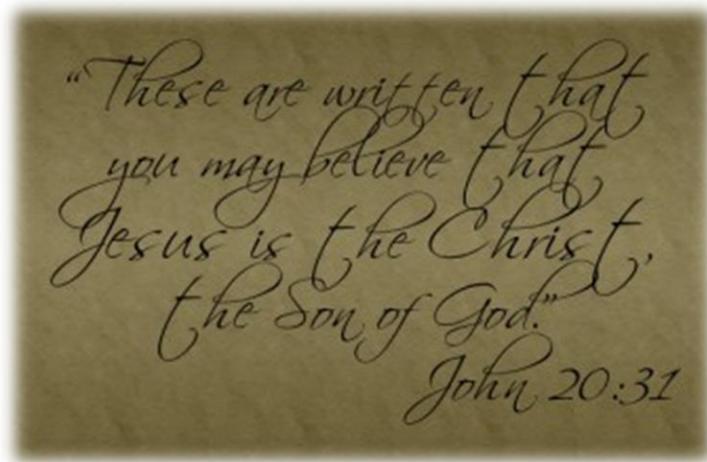
# Edgecomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

15 Cross Point Road, P.O. Box 113, Edgecomb, ME 04556 Phone: 207.882.4060

Email: [edgecomb.church@gmail.com](mailto:edgecomb.church@gmail.com)

FB/EdgecombCongochurch



Second Sunday of Easter, April 28, 2019

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Message: Fear of the truth?

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|---|----------|--|
| Sun.  | April 28 | Second Sunday of Easter – worship at 9:30 a.m.<br><b>ECC Annual Meeting</b> after worship.   |
| Weds.   | May 1    | Busy Hands meets at 1:00 p.m.<br><b>Celtic Prayer</b> Service at 5:30 p.m.   |
| Sun.  | May 5    | Third Sunday of Easter – worship at 9:30 a.m.<br>ECC is forming a group to walk the<br><b>Walk to Build Habitat for Humanity Walk</b> at 2:00 p.m.<br>The walk starts & ends at St. John the Baptist Church<br>39 Pleasant Street, Brunswick.<br>There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you'd like to make a donation. |
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| Sat.  | May 11   | Celebration of Life Service for Robert F. Hardina at 11:00 a.m.  |
| Sun.  | May 12   | Third Sunday of Easter – Worship at 9:30 a.m.  |
| Weds  | May 15   | Busy Hands meets at 1:00 p.m.<br><b>Celtic Prayer Service</b> at 5:30 p.m.   |
| Sat.  | May 18   | Edgecomb Town Meeting at Edgecomb Town Hall  |
| Sun.  | May 19   | Fifth Sunday of Easter – Worship at 9:30 a.m.  |

**\*\*\*The Edgecomb Community Lunch** is served on Tuesdays at Noon in Fellowship Hall! All are welcome. Bring a friend!

**\*\*\*Bible Study** is held on Thursdays mornings at 10:30 a.m. Come learn with us!

**\*\*\* Edgecomb Community Thrift Shop hours:** Tuesday 9 to 1 pm, Thursday 1 to 4 pm & Saturday 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

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### **Holy Humor / Laughter Sunday – Second Sunday of Easter**

The idea of setting aside one Sunday each year to celebrate God's gift of laughter and joy may be new to me, but it's got a long and rich history in many congregations around the world. *Laughter Sunday* (also known as *Holy Humor Sunday*, *Hilarity Sunday*, *God's Laughter Sunday*, *Bright Sunday* or *Holy Fools Sunday*) has its roots in a number of different Christian traditions.

Churches in 15<sup>th</sup> century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as *Risus Paschalis* ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh'). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead. The observance of *Risus Paschalis* was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Perhaps people were having too much fun.

In the Orthodox tradition, people would gather on Easter Monday to tell jokes and funny stories, and to dance and eat together. In 1988, the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches to resurrect some of these Christian traditions—to celebrate the grace and mercy of God through the gift of laughter and joy.

#### **Prayer: Source of laughter**

O holy Source of laughter, thank you for giving us the gift.

For all things harmlessly quaint, incongruous and unexpectedly absurd:

for pomposity that falls on its face,  
for children chuckling over a riddle,  
for lovers enjoying each others quirks of character,  
for cartoonists 'sending up' political arrogance,  
for explorers cracking jokes in the face of danger,  
for the terminally ill who laugh with their nurses,  
for the saints who throw laughter into the jaws of evil.

For Jesus and his quirky sayings;

the camel attempting to squeeze through the eye of a needle.  
the man with a plank in his eye  
    who tries to shift a speck from a neighbour's eye.  
the woman who bakes bread for her family 100 kilos of it!  
the man (having a 'senior's moment'?) who lights a lamp,

only to put it under a bed.  
the dead who want to bury the dead,  
the woman who on finding one lost coin, throws a party,

For the New Testament faith that can laugh because it knows  
nothing can cut us off from the love of Christ—

“neither a host of troubles nor deep distress,  
neither persecution nor starvation,  
neither nakedness, peril nor sword,  
not anything in life or in death,  
will be able to separate us  
from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

O holy Source of laughter, thank you for giving us the gift,  
and for the faith and hope that allows us to employ it to the full.

We laugh because you first laugh on our behalf.  
Thanks a million!  
Amen.

*Written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's **Prayers for Sojourners** page.  
[http://www.bruceprewer.com/b\\_sojournes.htm](http://www.bruceprewer.com/b_sojournes.htm)*

