



**Order of Worship for
July 12, 2020, 10:00am**

***Welcome to Online Worship at Center Church!
We are delighted that you are here today.***



Abraham and Three Angels, Rembrandt

CHIMES

WELCOME

PIANO PRELUDE: Largo

G. F. Handel

Craig Cowing, Cello

GATHERING WORDS

HYMN: This Little Light of Mine

1. This Little Light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
2. Everywhere I go.....
3. All through the night....

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sarah Are

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 have 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. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 (NRSV)

Reader: Larry Roeming

MEDITATION: Yeah, Right

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

SOLO: Jesus, the Very Thought to Me

Kathryn Lewis, Soloist

WEAVING PRAYERS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER ("debts")

HYMN: Give Us Laughter Unexpected

(see next page)

BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE (video): Halle, Halle, Halleluja

Caribbean trad.



Our thanks to the everyone who created today's service.

Go in peace!

Give Us Laughter Unexpected

A Hymn of Thanks for Laughter

Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2019

Tune: HYMN TO JOY

Meter: 8.7.8.7. D

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.

Pno.

5
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.

Pno.

9
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!

Pno.

13
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!