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

CHIMES

WELCOME

PIANO PRELUDE: Largo

Craig Cowing, Cello

G. F. Handel

PIANO PRELUDE: Largo

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

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
Music: Ludwig Van Beethoven, 1824

1. Give us laughter unexpected, mirth that mothers us to health;
2. Though our grief can be so heavy, burdens break our brittle bones,
3. When we think creation’s over, when we think there’s no more,
4. Blessed are you who weep with sorrow; soon the laughter comes to save.

bubbling up from deep within us, endless source of wondrous wealth.
there exists a salve that softens hurt amid the mournful moans.
lead us to rethink our logic, help our joyous song restore.
God, our joyful source of mercy, raises you up from the grave.

May our tears flow o’er our cheek-bones, not of sorrow but of mirth;
Laughter charges not a co-pay, needs no credit to obtain.
There’s a cheerful balm that saves us from the sorrow and the sting.
Never cease to loose your chuckles, laugh out loud and let it fly!

freely flowing silly giggles, ones that mend this broken earth.
All may gather at the fountain, for a moment, heal the pain.
Laughter is the gift within us, sprouting up from joyous spring!
Hold yourself in holy humor, share God’s joy in strong supply!

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