



APRIL 8, 2018



**COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

6533 Circle Blvd, New Port Richey, FL 34652

Website: www.ccnpr.com Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CCCNPRFL>

Email: cccuccnpr@gmail.com Telephone: (727) 849-1943

***“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”***

Pastor: Rev. Victoria Snow (508-277-3973)

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Richard K. Wiggins

***We welcome children to our services, please inquire about nursery and/or
children’s church.***

Second Sunday of Easter

THE YEAR OF ABUNDANT GRATITUDE

ORDER OF WORSHIP

REMINDER: *Once the music has begun, we ask that all refrain from speaking in order that everyone may meditate and ready themselves to hear God’s still small voice.*

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

GATHERING TIME - “Alleluia”

CHIMES OF PREPARATION / PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please sign the registration pad.)*

GATHERING US TOGETHER: (Based on A. Gafke work) Joyce Bashista

One: Blow the trumpets;

All: Play the lute and harp;

One: Shake the tambourine; hear the strings and the pipe: dance!

All: We praise God!

One: Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places

All: and in silly ways

One: Let the laughter be deep

All: Let the joy be genuine!

One: Come, let us rejoice for God has done a miraculous thing!

All: Jesus lives! Death could not be contained! Let us laugh and sing, for the death has lost its sting! Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Amen!

***GATHERING HYMN Joy to the World (Easter Version)**

*Joy to the World, the Lord's alive, Awake, rejoice and sing!
It's just as He had said, He's risen from the dead.
Salvation now He brings, Salvation now He brings,
Salvation, salvation now He brings.*

*Joy to the World, the empty tomb, Proclaims the victory.
Of light compelling, a great dispelling
Of darkness in the world, of darkness in the world,
Of darkness, of darkness in the world.*

*Joy to the World, Our Savior reigns,
Let Heaven and earth proclaim
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.*

GATHERING PRAYER: (In unison)

Joyce Bashista

O Great Laughing God, we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised. We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and delight. These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us and for all the earth. May we find that in giving up to laughter there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing. Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit to renew our worship and our living. Amen.

***THE RESPONSE - "The Gloria Patri" (Page 805 in Hymnal)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

BLESSINGS OF THE CHURCH / PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer (using "debts")

Choral Response (in Unison)

**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;
incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.**

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS AND BLESSINGS:

**With joy in our heart and smiles on our faces, let us bring our
gifts to our living, laughing God.**

***DOXOLOGY**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures
here below; praise Him above ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son
and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

ANTHEM:

BLESSING OF OUR GIFTS: (in unison)

**Joy-filled God remind us that laughter and joy are your gifts to us.
Help us to seek opportunities to share your love, compassion and
delight with those in our lives. Bless these gifts and those who
give them. May we sing your praises and grow abundantly in your
name. Amen.**

HEARING THE WORD:

Genesis 18: 1-15

Old Testament page 14 of the pew Bible

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4

Old Testament page 616 of the pew Bible

HYMN Take Time to be Funny (Take Time to be Holy Tune)

***Take time to be funny, rejoice in the Lord, Let laughter explode and
have fun with God's Word, For laughter is healing, gives strength to the
weak, God loves to see smiles, for they lift up the meek.***

Take time to be silly, it's good for the soul, Too many are somber, grabbing control.

Let go and let God's love wash over your soul, Heavenly transcendence can be your life's goal.

Old Sarah and Abram—a child they lacked, But God's angels promised and she birthed Isaac, In Hebrew that's "laughter", go check if you want Genesis Seven-teen is where it is found.

For humor is holy, it sanctifies life, Replenishes hope and oft softens advice, It undercuts sorrow, deflates haughty pride, So smile and hang on, and rejoice in life's ride.

MESSAGE:

CLOSING HYMN: "Go Tell It On the Mountain" (Easter Words)

While soldiers watched the gravesite that quiet Sunday dawn there came a big commotion and then the storm was gone.

CHORUS: *Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere, Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus is alive.*

The women found no body their spices to anoint; instead they found an angel, God's message to appoint.

CHORUS

Go from where He isn't to where He said He'd be. An Easter-time reunion: the hills of Galilee.

CHORUS

CLOSING BLESSING:

BLESSING RESPONSE: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow; to take each moment

and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

POSTLUDE

***Please stand as you are able.**

USHERS & GREETERS: Ben Smith, Liz Blackburn, Faye Hartman, Gloria Hess

DEACON at the back door: Joyce Bashista