

MCCC Sanctuary Worship Order 2025
May 4, 2025
Eastertide ~ Holy Humor & Senior Sunday
Signs, Signs, Everywhere Signs!

Message for Online Folks: Greetings to all joining us online today! Welcome to MCCC! We're so glad you're here for our special Holy Humor and Graduating Senior Sunday. Today we continue in the season of Easter when we celebrate the joy of the Resurrected Christ. We remember that laughter is sacred and joy is a sign of God's presence with us. Whether you're tuning in from near or far, we hope you find joy, wonder, and a little bit of holy laughter today. We also want to welcome our graduating seniors and their families...each have so much to be proud of.

If you are so inclined, we'd love for you to tell us where you are tuning in from. Be in touch by making a comment or connecting with our pastor. You are welcome here!

Intro **"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"** **Sarah Park**

Let's Get the Fun Started **Rev. Chad Delaney**

Welcome to the Mantua Center Christian Church! We are a community seeking to have Open Minds, Open Hearts, and Open arms to live and love and laugh in the Name of the Risen Christ! Welcome to all online and in the house!

Today is a special day...we're celebrating Holy Humor Sunday and our graduating seniors!

Holy Humor Sunday is part of an old tradition where Christians, right after Easter, would gather for silliness to celebrate the surprise and joy of the Resurrection--what some called "God's joke on the power of death."

And I was trying to get a resurrection joke ready....but it needs some time to rise....

We are also welcoming our Graduating Seniors and their families. Today, we'll celebrate them and hear a little of their stories.

- **Graduates -**
 - Andrea Knight
 - Oscar Russo
 - Ayden Long
 - Faith Brewer
 - Kevin Vechery
- **College Grads**
 - Bryce Pruszyński
 - Emma Magyarics

- Sarah Park

Greet with your neighbor....

INVITATION FOR MISSION UPDATES:

Ministry Leaders and congregants are welcome to come forward to the mic, to give a mission update or share ways for people to get involved in missions and ministries.

Mission ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Ancient Holy Words

Genesis 9:12-13

12 And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: 13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth

***We're Glad You're Here Song For the Beauty of the Earth #56**

For the worship just begun, for the joy and lots of fun,
For the dreams our grads will chase, guided always by your grace,
Lord of laughter, Lord of light,
Bless us all with love so bright!

***Let's Light this Candle Oscar Russo**

ONE: STOP! Let's pause for a moment and remember God loves you.

ALL: That's a sign of grace and God's great goodness!

ONE: YIELD to the Spirit. Let the spirit drive you and guide you.

ALL: That's a sign pointing us toward love, laughter and faithfulness!

ONE: GO! Ready, set, let's worship the Lord!

ALL: That's a sign to let our worship begin! Full speed ahead!

***Joyful Noise! Morning Has Broken #53**

1 Morning has broken, coffee is calling,
Pews may be padded, but sleep's in my eyes.
Pastor is preaching, I'm kinda listening,
Still half-asleep, but at least we arrived!

2 Kids lost their shoes and breakfast was nuts,
 One sock is missing, we're late once again.
 Jesus still loves us, even a mess,
 We made it here, can I get an Amen?

3 Our voices are warming, Pastor's is cracking,
 Who dropped a hymnal--gave us a fright!
 Still, we keep singing, still we keep laughing,
 God's got us covered--no wrong notes in sight!

Let Us Emptyeth our Pocketeths

The "Please? Please? Please?" Talk
 Giving Time

Oscar Russo

Giving Music

"When We Walk with the Lord "

Sarah Park

[by W. H. Doane]

Giving Thanks

"Give Thanks"

#528

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
 Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give Thanks!*

The "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" Prayer

Oscar Russo

Share the Joy (Children's Moment)

Rev. Chad Delaney

- Homework Canceled - Only Recess!
- All you can eat Ice Cream!
 - Go into school and saw these signs, what would you think?
 - Jesus always said that the Kingdom of God is in our midst. It's all around us already.
- When someone shares their lunch with a friend — that's a sign of kindness.
- When you see a rainbow after a storm — that's a sign of hope.
- When your family gives you a hug or tucks you in — that's a sign of love.
- When church is full of laughter — that's a sign of joy in God's family!

These signs are great...but these are so much better!

Talkin' to God (Pastoral Prayer)

Rev. Chad Delaney

Gracious and Loving God,

We come before you today with hearts full of joy and laughter, knowing that signs of your loving mercy are all around us in the world! From the rainbow that

promises your faithfulness, to the burning bush that called Moses to lead the people, when Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding, when he fed the 5,000 with just a few loaves and fish, in his resurrection. Through all these signs you show hope over the power of death and the promise of new life. Help us to see these signs today in nature, in one another, even within ourselves.

Today, Lord, we also lift up our graduating seniors. We celebrate the hard work, the growth, and the journeys that have led them to this moment. Bless them and their families as they step into new beginnings, and remind them that no matter where they go, you are with them.

This day we all bring our joys and struggles in our hearts. Those in our congregation who are in need of your loving and healing presence. People in our lives who are struggling. People in our community looking for jobs and who have food insecurity. We celebrate the quiet joys of families connecting and love growing. We give all our joys and concerns to you today in the name of the One who brings new life to us all—Jesus Christ—who taught us to pray...

The Great Thanksgiving

Table Talk

Table Hymn

Cheryl Delaney

#400, vs. 1-2

When you do this, Remember Me

1 See the stone is rolled away,
And the tomb is empty now!
Christ has risen—love has won,
Let us feast and celebrate!

"When you do this, remember me."

2 Bread is broken, cup is shared,
Grace is poured out deep and wide.
All are welcome at this feast,
Where God's joy and hope abide!

"When you do this, remember me."

3 Raise your voices, shout with glee,
Death indeed has lost its sting!
Christ is risen—Allelu!

Let the church bells ring-a-ling!

"When you do this, remember me."

Table Prayer

Table Words

Table Music

“I Hear Thy Welcome Voice”

[by L. Hartsought]

Sandi Kossick

Sandi Kossick

Sarah Park

Super Senior Stories

Top 10 Signs for Graduates:

10. Sign: “No Judgment Zone – Be You!”

Leave High School behind and start fresh. Be real. God made you original—don’t live like a copy.

9. Sign: “Merge – New Ideas Ahead”

Lots of opportunity to meet new people and explore new views—do so with curiosity and grace.

8. Sign: “Event Today → Free Pizza!”

Take courage! Say yes to something random. Show up. Meet people. And yes there will probably be food

7. Sign: “Low Signal – Stay Connected”

Call home. Text someone who loves you. Stay connected with God.

6. Sign: “Yield – Balance Required”

Learn when to go, when to pause. When to rest. When to put your nose to the grindstone.

5. Sign: “Caution: Wet Paint – Still Learning”

Be patient with yourself. God isn’t through with you yet. You’re not finished product...always in process.

4. Sign: “Construction Zone – Habits Forming”

Small routines build your future. Get off your phone. Touch grass. Brush your teeth. Workout. Pray regularly.

3. Sign: “Detour → Fun Ahead!”

Joy hides in the unplanned. Don’t be afraid to go off-road once in a while. God often shows up off-route.

2. Sign: “Objects in Mirror Are Smaller Than They Seem”

Today’s problems shrink with time. Take the balcony view. Gain perspective and don’t sweat the small stuff.

1. Sign: “God’s Love – Always Open”

As you step into the unknown, remember this: God's love is not locked behind a church door or reserved for perfect moments. It is wide open—steady, present, and deeply personal. You are never outside its reach. And even when you doubt, wander, or forget, love waits patiently, right where you are.

We hope you’ll keep looking for the signs of that love—sometimes bold, sometimes quiet—woven into everyday life. And know this: wherever you go, God is already there. And so are we, holding you in our prayers and cheering you on with open hearts.

Let us pray,

Gracious and Loving God,

We give thanks today for these graduates...for all they’ve learned, all they’ve overcome, and all they are becoming. As they step into new beginnings, may they carry your wisdom in their hearts, your courage in their steps, and your love in all they do.

Bless their families, too. These who have raised them, guided, supported, and cheered them on. Give them peace in moments of letting go, and joy in watching their children grow in new ways.

May these graduates always know that they are never alone...you go before them, behind them, and beside them. And may the signs of your presence guide them always. In the name of the Risen Christ, our companion on the journey, we pray, Amen.

***Grand Finale**

Give to us Laughter (*Tune of Be Thou My Vision*)

#595, vs. 1-3

1 Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.

Laughter can banish so much of our strife!

Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.

Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.

2 Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,

joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.

3 Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings us healing relief!
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joy of your promise among us increase.
(Hymn Text copyright © 1974 Walter Farquharson)

Y'all Come Back Now

Rev. Chad Delaney

- God is good
- Blessed with music from ...
- Stay for fellowship and Sunday Chat
- Wednesday Dwelling and Time to Grow Study

Signs, signs, everywhere signs!
Pointing toward grace and a love that's divine.
Slow down, look up, Peace is always close behind...
Can't you read the signs?

As we go,
May our eyes be open to beauty,
our hearts alert to kindness,
And our spirit ready to follow the signs—
Of hope, of joy, of Christ risen and on the move.
May it be so, Amen.

Outro

“Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus”
[by W. J. Kirkpatrick]

Sarah Park