



Welcome

Prelude

“Magic to Do”
(Stephen Schwartz)

Michaela Gifford

Call to Worship

Kathleen Remund, Ellen Ochs

Leader 1: We come into the presence of a God we can neither see nor touch—

All: What kind of fools are we?

Leader 2: We come in the name of Jesus, whose beauty we cannot explain or capture—

All: What kind of fools are we?

Leader 1: We come to hear from a book of ancient words and strange stories—

All: What kind of fools are we?

Leader 2: We live in a world where we’re encouraged to buy and have, but here we’re invited to give ourselves away—

All: What kind of fools are we?

Leader 1: We come here, leaving behind all the business of our lives, to worship a God who turns our world upside-down—

All: What kind of fools are we?

Leader 2: What kind of fools *are* we?

All: We are fools for God! Fools for Christ! Fools for the good of the world!

Opening Prayer (in unison)

O God, whose foolishness is wiser than any human wisdom, we come before you today recognizing our own foolishness. However wise we may try to be...we know that we’re just whistling in the dark mystery of the cosmos. We come to you in our imperfection, our silliness, our smallness. Join us this morning in laughing at our foolishness, celebrating our human imperfections, and rejoicing in your love. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“When We Are Tempted”
(Tune: FORESTGREEN/“O Little Town of Bethlehem”)

(words attached)

Readings

Ellen Ochs

1 Corinthians 1:20-21, 25-29

from *Grace (Eventually) Thoughts on Faith* by Anne Lamott

***Sung Benediction**

God, be with you till we meet again;
By their counsels guide, uphold you;
With their sheep securely fold you;
God, be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

“Doc Brown’s Cake Walk”
(Charles L. Johnson)

Michaela Gifford

*The flowers today are in celebration of Fool’s Sunday from Deb and John Wesolek.
Our Streamer Dancers and Bubble Blessers are Annie and Eve Rubenzer*

- The Call to Worship and Benediction were adapted from one posted on the United Church of Canada’s **Bay of Quinte Conference** website, <http://www.bayofquinteconference.ca/> and re-posted at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>
- The Prayers of the People were adapted from one written by Edward Hays in *Pray All Ways: A Book for Daily Worship Using All Your Senses*, <http://www.amazon.ca/Pray-All-Ways-Worship-Senses/dp/0939516810>
- *No Time At All* used by permission from Jobete Music Co., Inc. & EMI Mills Music, Inc. (words and music)

When We Are Tempted

When we are tempted in our pride
to dizzy heights of sin,
beneath our feet, O Lord, provide
a ripe banana skin,
and when we yearn at someone’s head
to let a brickbat fly,
give us the grace to use instead
a well-aimed custard pie....

When cherished institutions stand
before your throne of grace,
with good intentions in each hand
and egg on every face,
teach us to query grand designs
with laughter born of tears,
for deep in earth’s plain-colored mines
your rainbow still appears...

Words written by Elizabeth Cosnett, in her collection *Hymns for Everyday Saints*. <http://www.amazon.com/Hymns-Everyday-Saints-Elizabeth-Cosnett/dp/B003VSZLAM> Posted on the website of **Greenfield Church (Baptist and Congregational)** in Urmston, England. <http://www.greenfieldchurch.co.uk/documents/GR010511.pdf>

Give to us Laughter

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.

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.

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.