

*Prayer for City Council
April Fool's Day, 2015*

**Gracious God, who sits in the heavens
and at times laughs at the pretensions of us human beings
we are thankful for the gift of humor and for the joy of laughter.**

**We are thankful that even in the midst
of the serious issues, hard work and difficult choices
which occupy our city's leaders
that we sometimes find safe harbors of comic relief
amidst the stormy seas of city business.**

**We are thankful, too, that irony and satire sometimes help us see
the absurdities in our bureaucracies.**

**Forgive us when we take ourselves too seriously,
forgive us, also, when we take others too lightly;
forgive us for our lack of humor toward ourselves,
and for times we express unkind mockery toward others.**

**Grant us the wisdom to know when it is necessary to be foolish:
those times when we must take a stance against public opinion;
or occasions when we must stand
with those who are powerless, over-against the powerful.**

**Bless us with divine insight, so that we may discern
when foolishness parades as wisdom,
and discover how much wisdom there may be
in what others regard as foolish.**

Amen.