

**First Congregational Church of Ithaca**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 22, 2020)**

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

(adapted from Psalm 46)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.**

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**“Be still, and know that I am God.”**

**\*Hymn**

O God, in a Mysterious Way

(see insert)

**\*Opening Prayer**

**Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, AMEN.**

*(Book of Common Prayer, Collect for Peace)*

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**\*Sung Response**

*Gloria Patri*

**Scripture Lessons**

Psalm 23

John 9:1-17, 26-38

Revelation 21:5a

**Special Music**

**Sermon** “What can we see now that we may not have seen before?”

**\*Hymn**

When Peace like a River

(see insert)

**Morning Prayers and Lord's Prayer**

**Litany of Intercession**

Leader: We pray to God

People: **Hear us, O God**

**Prayer Response**

**Sharing our Gifts**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn**

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

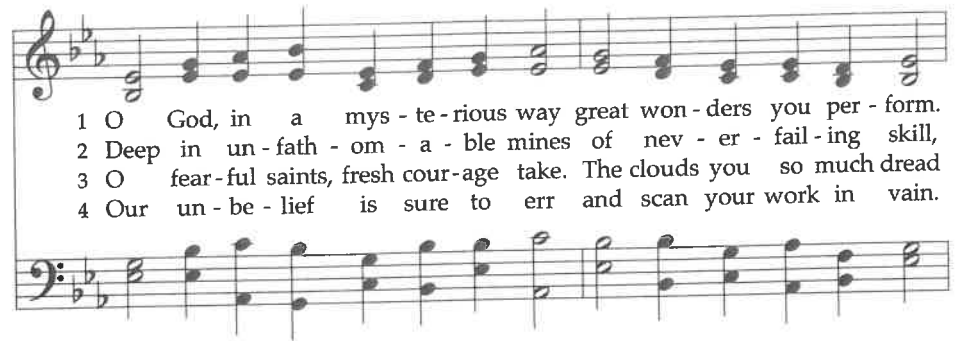
(see insert)

**\*Benediction**

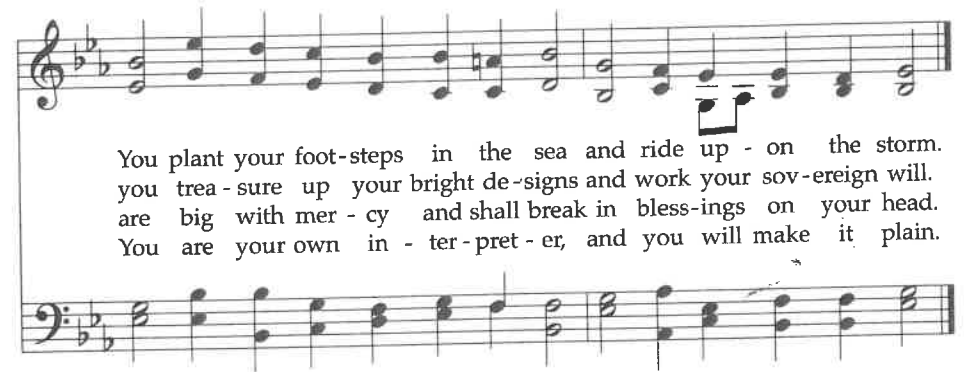
**Postlude**

**\*Congregation stands (*live streamers, feel free to lift your hearts!*)**

## 30 O God, in a Mysterious Way



1 O God, in a mys - te - rious way great won - ders you per - form.  
 2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill,  
 3 O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take. The clouds you so much dread  
 4 Our un - be - lief is sure to err and scan your work in vain.



You plant your foot - steps in the sea and ride up - on the storm.  
 you trea - sure up your bright de - signs and work your sov - ereign will.  
 are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.  
 You are your own in - ter - pret - er, and you will make it plain.

This classic text gains renewed energy and focus from its recasting here: despite our fear and confusion, we can trust that God's providential purposes will eventually be revealed. In its original source the tune printed here is one of twelve not assigned to a specific hymn.

TEXT: William Cowper, 1773, alt.  
 MUSIC: Scottish Psalter, 1615

DUNDEE  
 CM  
 (alternate harmonization, 45)

# 840 When Peace like a River

## It Is Well with My Soul



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
 3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My  
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I  
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



### Refrain



It is well with my soul;  
 It is well with my soul;



This text is a remarkable expression of faith born of grief. The author, an active Presbyterian layman who had just lost four daughters in a tragic shipwreck, wrote it while sailing to Paris to meet his wife, who had survived. The tune was named for the ship that sank.

TEXT: Horatio G. Spafford, 1876; alt.

VILLE DU HAVRE



it is well; it is well with my soul.



## 546 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's  
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us, from our strug - gling



joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
 joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion  
 pil - grim way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,  
 in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,  
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
 ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
 may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.



This hymn of corporate benediction is one of several using the same first line. It was written by a Baptist pastor who dedicated his entire ministry to a small church in rural Yorkshire. The tune used here was first transcribed from Sicilian sailors in the late 18th century.

TEXT: Attr. John Fawcett, 1773, alt.; stanza 3, alt. Geoffrey Thring, 1880, alt.  
 MUSIC: Sicilian melody, 18th cent.

SICILIAN MARINERS  
 8.7.8.7.8.7