

First Congregational Church of Ithaca
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (November 15, 2020)

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

Prelude Invention in B-Flat Major J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from Psalm 90, JPS trans.)

O Lord, you have been our refuge in every generation.

**Before the mountains came into being, before you brought forth the earth
and the world, from eternity to eternity you are God!**

May the favor of the Lord, our god, be upon us; let the work of our hands prosper!

O God, prosper the work of our hands!

***Hymn** Holy God, We Praise Your Name (insert, #4)

***Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, your name is love. So fill us with your love that it might cascade into the ordinariness of our working lives; that others might experience the warmth of its flow, spreading from hearts and words and deeds; an unbroken stream bringing refreshment to all that it touches. Through Christ, the incarnation of Love, we pray, Amen.

(Adapted from *Faith & Worship*, Prayers for Mission and Service)

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Sung Response** *Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 90:1-12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5, 9-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Anthem I Believe Éric Levisalles

Sermon "Minimalism, Maximalism, Faith"

***Hymn** Compassion Prayer (insert)

Morning Prayers and Lord's Prayer

Litany Prayer

Leader: We pray to God

People: Hear us, O God

Sung Response *Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me (twice).
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

Sharing our Gifts Prelude in C Major Frédéric Chopin

***Doxology** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn** Our God, Our Help in Ages Past (insert, #687)

***Benediction**

Postlude Triple Fugue on *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* (St. Anne Fugue) J. S. Bach

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

Participating Today

The Rev. Dr. David A. Kaden, Senior Minister

Susan Fast, Director of Caring Ministries

Dr. William Cowdery, Director of Music

David J. Kaden, Tech Support

Patricia Baxter, soprano soloist

4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:

bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
 bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;

all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Based on an 18th-century German metrical version of a celebrated 5th-century Latin hymn, *Te Deum laudamus*, this abbreviated 19th-century English paraphrase is sung by both Protestants and Roman Catholics. It is set here to the tune composed and named for the German version.

COMPASSION PRAYER

from COMPASSION CAMP

AMANDA MEISENHEIMER

Swing waltz

F Dm Gm7 C

May we be filled _____ with com - pas - sion, _____
May we be shown _____ com - pas - sion, _____

F Dm Gm7 C

May we be filled _____ up to the top of our _____ hearts.
May we be found _____ in the _____ cen - ter of _____ peace.

F/A Dm Gm7 C

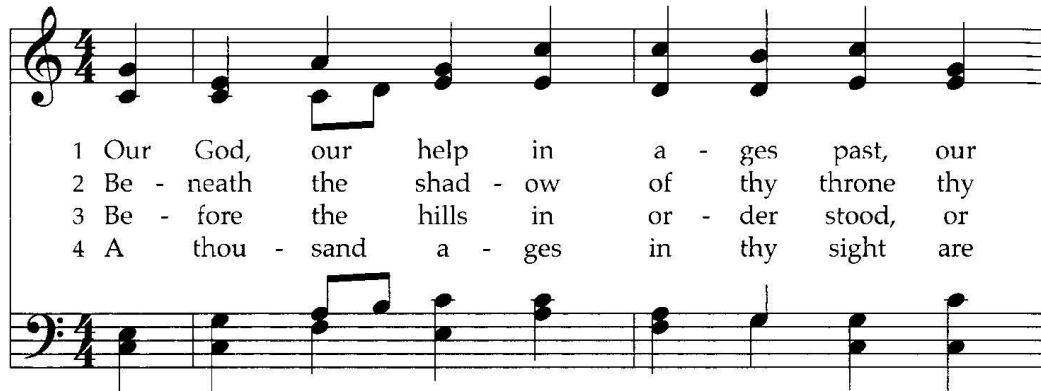
When we have _____ the power _____ to make some - thing right,
When we have _____ a need _____ that oth - ers can meet,

Bb C7 F

May we show God's love. _____
May we find God's love. _____

687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
 bears all our years away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guard while life shall last,
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.