

First Congregational Church of Ithaca
First Sunday After Christmas Day (December 27, 2020)

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

Prelude Aria from the *Christmas Pastorella* J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** [after Psalm 148]

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens;

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord;

for his name alone is exalted.

***Hymn** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (insert, #104)

Opening Prayer

O God, in the sweetness of the story we tell today,

The encounter of old and young --

Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus to the elders --

We feel the movement of your Spirit making all things new.

Awake us to your presence in this moment

As we seek Christ in our midst.

Let us recognize God-with-us,

A light to the nations, your glory revealed

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. [www.ucc.org/christmas].

***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 Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3

Luke 2: 22-40

Anthem The Birthday of a King W. H. Neidlinger

Sermon "Keep the Candles Burning"

***Hymn** Love Has Come (insert, #110)

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 Gesu Bambino Pietro Alessandro Yon

***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** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (insert, #132)

***Benediction**

Postlude Fugue from the *Christmas Pastorella* J. S. Bach

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

Participating Today

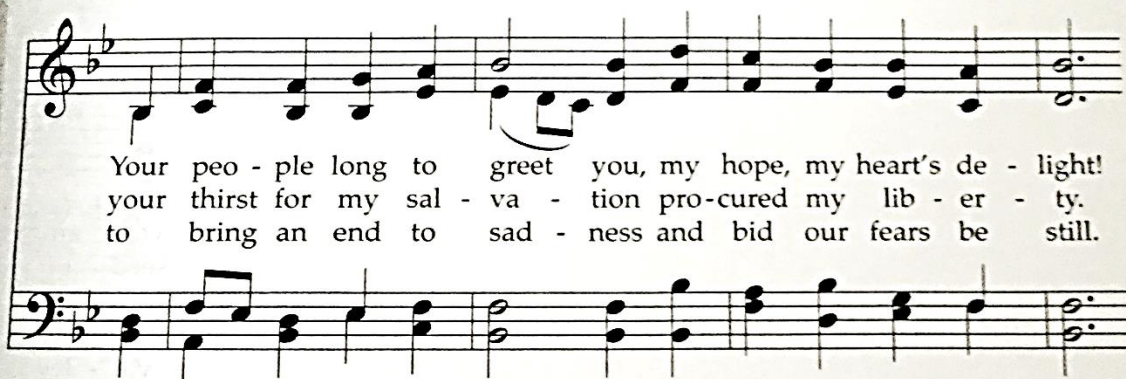
Susan Fast, Director of Caring Ministries, sustfast@yahoo.com
Dr. William Cowdery, Director of Music
John Mazzello, Tech Support
Joyce Billing, reader
Tony Pesco, baritone soloist

The flowers this morning are in celebration of the marriage of Aileen Grainger and Ian Carmichael

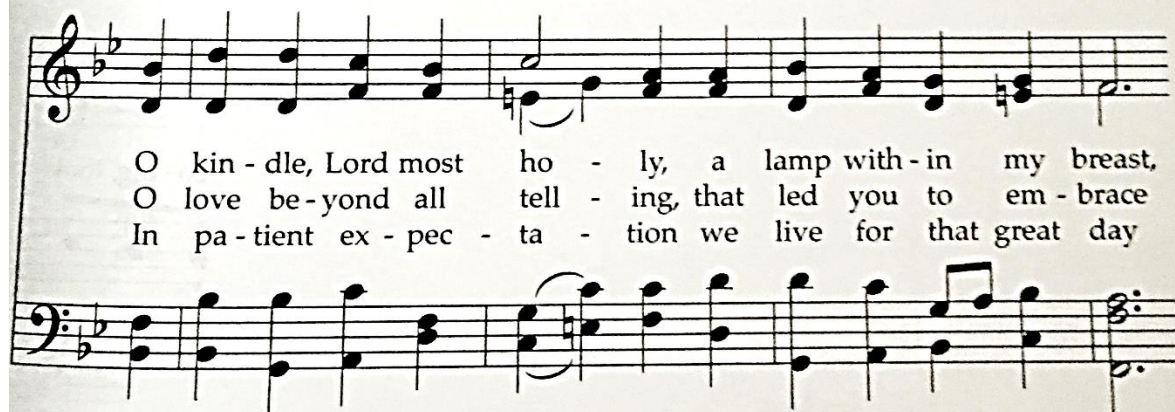
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104



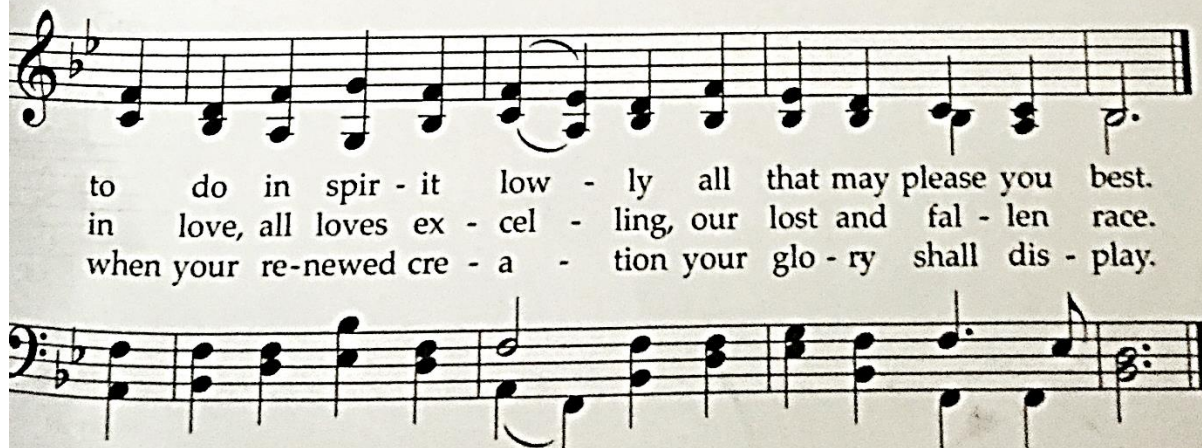
1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (Em7) Gm7 (A) C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C Bb F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 Bb C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C Bb C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

Ken Bible, 1996

French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012

1996 LNWhymns.com (admin. Music Services)

Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

BRING A TORCH

9.9.10.9.8

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.