

First Congregational Church of Ithaca
First Sunday of Lent Sunday (February 21, 2021)

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

Prelude Duet in A Minor, from the *Clavier-Übung* J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** Adapted from the UCC *Book of Worship*)

We gather in God our creator, who sustains us in life and death.

We gather beside Christ our sibling, who calls us to follow.

We gather with the Spirit, who flows through us in times of trial and joy.

In our living and in our dying, in our trials and in our joys we are embraced by God!

***Hymn** Lift High the Cross (insert, #826)

***Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, come quickly to help us when we are beset by trials and temptations; and, as you know our frailty, because you experienced them in Christ, let each one of us find you mighty to save and love. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

(Adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer*, Collect for Lent 1)

***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 25:1-10

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15

Anthem

What a Wonderful World

George David Weiss, Robert Thiele

Sermon

"Scanning for Theological Malware"

***Hymn** O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go (insert, #833)

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

I Believe

Ervin Drake, Irvin Graham,
Jimmy Shirl, Al Stillman

***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** Forty Days and Forty Nights (insert, #167)

***Benediction**

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in D Minor

Johann Ludwig Krebs

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

The sculpture (on our communion table) is entitled "Nest of Thorns."
It was created by artist and member June Szabo, who hand-carved every piece. June describes the piece this way. "While a nest is considered a safe place, where we might raise a family or return to rest, the safety of the nest can be an illusion. Even in safe places, troubles, trials and hard times emerge. And some birds nest in thorns for protection. There is a paradox as that which protects us can also cause us harm."

Participating Today

Rev. Dr. David A. Kaden, Senior Minister

Susan Fast, Director of Caring Ministries, sustfast@yahoo.com

Dr. William Cowdery, Director of Music

David J. Kaden, Tech Support

H. Donald Hinman, bass soloist

Siu-ling Wong Chaloemtiarana, piano

Lift High the Cross

826

Refrain

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

TEXT: George William Kitchin, 1887; rev. Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.

MUSIC: Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916; desc. Richard Proulx, 1985

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Music Desc. © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

CRUCIFER

10.10 with refrain

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
 2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not

wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 flick-ering torch to thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain-bow through the rain, and
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

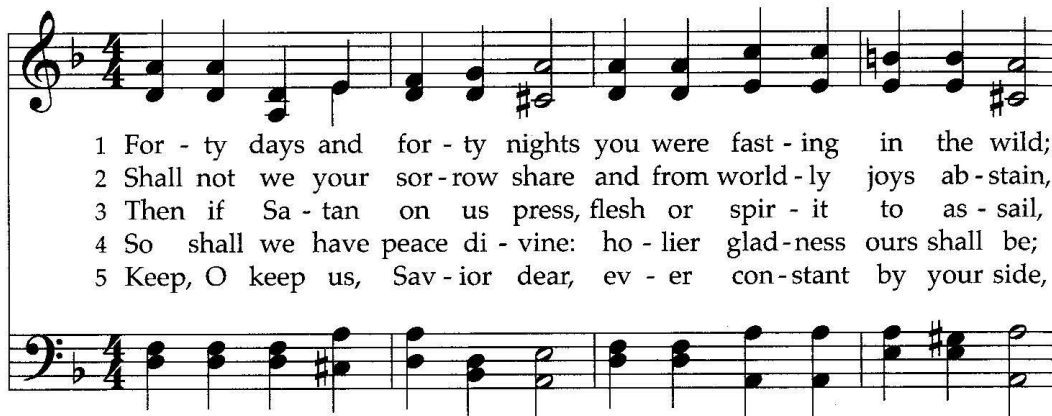
in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos-soms red life that shall end - less be.

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

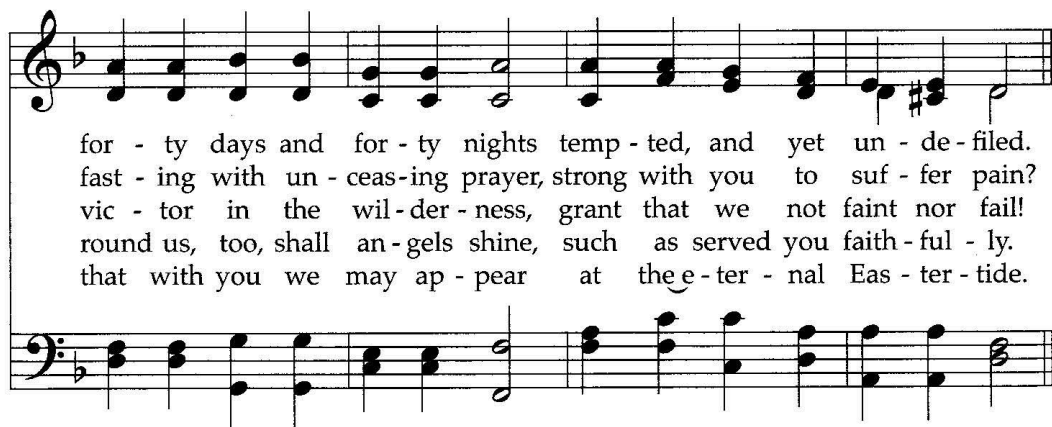
TEXT: George Matheson, 1881, alt.
 MUSIC: Albert Lister Peace, 1884, alt.

ST. MARGARET
 8.8.8.8.6

167 Forty Days and Forty Nights



1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
 2 Shall not we your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side,



for - ty days and for - ty nights temp - ted, and yet un - de - filed.
 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
 vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
 that with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

This text, given sharper focus by being reduced from nine stanzas to five, reflects both on Christ's temptation in the wilderness and on the purpose and goal of Lent as preparation for Easter. It pairs well with a 17th-century German chorale setting for Psalm 130.