

First Congregational Church of Ithaca
Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 14, 2021)

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

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

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from Psalm 121)

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

The LORD will not let our foot be moved; the LORD is our keeper.

The LORD is our shade.

The LORD will keep your life.

The LORD will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore.

***Hymn** Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries (insert #653, vv 1-3)

***Opening Prayer**

Come, O Creator, O Immensity of love, O Eternity of mercy. Come, and be with us and in us and beside us and over us. Be as hands upon us, and fashion us for shining. Be as warmth within us, and fire us for caring. Be as strength beside us, and shape our lives for healing. Abide in our prayers, the spoken and the unspoken; and make your Word come true today. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

***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 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:4-10

John 3:16-21

Anthem My Song Is Love Unknown John Ireland

Sermon "Eternal Life in a COVID Year"

***Hymn** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (insert #377)

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 Be still for the presence of the Lord Aled Jones

***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	Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries	(insert #653, vv 4-6)
*Benediction		
Postlude	Courante <i>from</i> Suite No. 1 in G Major for unaccompanied cello	J. S. Bach

*** 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
Patricia Baxter, soprano soloist
Joni Woods, cello (Postlude)

Today's anthem and offertory are songs from the Celtic tradition,
sung in commemoration of the Feast of Saint Patrick, March 17.

Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries

(Psalm 107)

1 Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in
 2 If you have ev - er wan - dered where no hu - man
 3 If you have ev - er lived in - side the pris - on
 4 If you drew near the gates of death, too sick to

trou - bled days with won - drous works to hu - man - kind that
 help was near, and in your trou - ble cried to God, who
 of your gloom and cried to God, who broke your bonds and
 eat or dress, and cried to God, who heard your voice and

call for high - est praise. Let all who know God's
 res - cued you from fear, then thank the God of
 raised you from your tomb, then praise the One who
 healed all your dis - tress, then sing with sounds of

sav - ing love sing grate - ful songs al - ways.
 stead - fast love who dries your ev - ery tear.
 sets you free, who makes dry plac - es bloom.
 ho - ly joy; God's won - drous works pro - fess.

5 If you have felt your courage fail
 before a violent sea
 and cried to God, who stilled the storm,
 and made the wild wind flee,
 then in the congregation praise
 the One who heard your plea.

6 So praise the One whose love is great,
 whose kindness is well-known.
 Consider well the healing hand
 and help you have been shown,
 and tell the world what God has done.
 Praise God and God alone!

377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ. I want to be with



Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain



star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.



all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the



light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.