

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

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

Prelude Duet in G Major, from the *Clavier-Übung* J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from Psalm 130)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to my prayers!

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, in God's promises I hope.

***Hymn** O God, Who Gives Us Life and Breath (insert #53)

***Opening Prayer**

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus, Amen. *(Book of Common Prayer, Collect for Ministering to the Sick)*

***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 119:9-16
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:27-33

Anthem Be Thou My Vision *traditional Irish tune*

Sermon "Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones, but Words Will Change My Brain"

***Hymn** I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord) (insert #69)

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 Deep River *traditional African-American spiritual*

***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** I've Got the Joy (Down in My Heart) (insert)

***Benediction**

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in A Minor (BWV 543)
commemorating the composer's birth on March 21, 1685

J. S. Bach

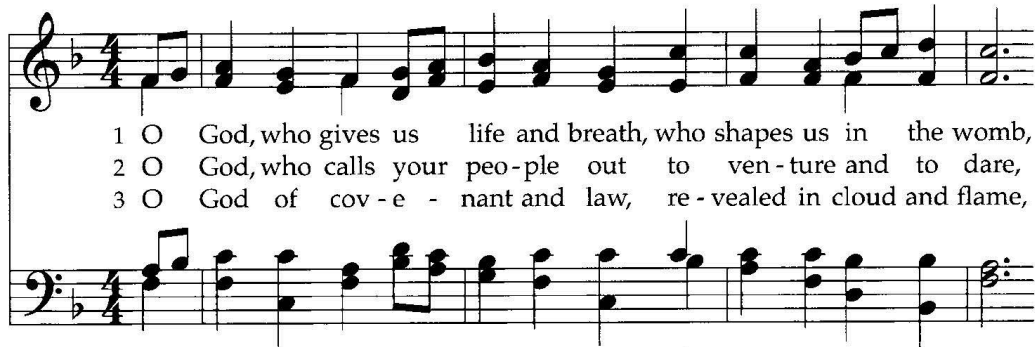
*** Congregation stands (*live-streamers, feel free to lift your hearts!*)**

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."

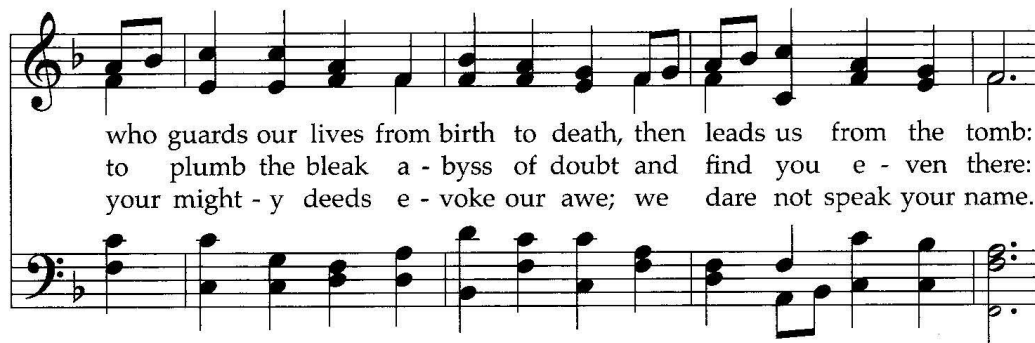
Participating Today

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
H. Donald Hinman, bass soloist
Siu-ling Wong Chaloemtiarana, piano

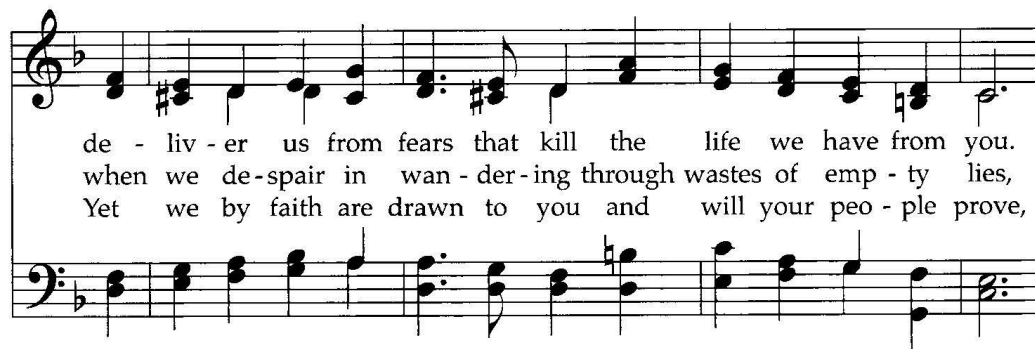
53 O God, Who Gives Us Life



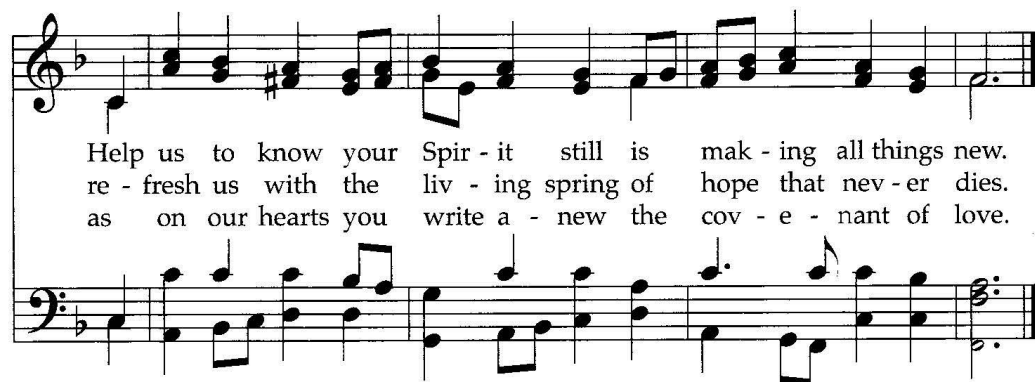
1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de-spair in wan - der-ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord



1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est



made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.

DOWN IN MY HEART

(I'VE GOT THE JOY)

GEORGE WILLIAM COOKE, 1925

1. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, (*Where?*)
2. I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart,
3. I've got the peace that passeth under - standing down in my heart,

Down in my heart, (*Where?*) down in my heart, I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart, down in my heart, I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus
Down in my heart, down in my heart, I've got the peace that passeth under - standing

down in my heart, (*Where?*) Down in my heart to stay;
down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay;
down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay;

Refrain

And I'm so hap - py, — so ve-ry hap - py, I have the love of Je - sus in my heart,
And I'm so hap - py, — so ver-ry hap - py, I have the love of Je - sus in my heart.

4. I've got the won - der - ful love of my bless - ed re - deem - er way down in the depths of my heart, (*Where?*)
Down in the depths of my heart, (*Where?*) down in the depths of my heart, I've got the
won - der - ful love of my bless - ed re - deem - er way down in the depths of my heart, (*Where?*)
Down in the depths of my heart to stay. *Repeat Refrain*