

First Congregational Church of Ithaca
Palm/Passion Sunday (March 28, 2021)

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

Prelude Fantasia on *All Glory, Laud and Honor* J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from Psalm 118)

Out of my distress I called on the LORD;

The LORD answered me and set me in a broad place!

O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;

God's love and mercy cannot fail!

***Hymn** All Glory, Laud and Honor (see insert, #196)

***Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, grant us grace to love what you love and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

***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 31:9-16

Mark 14-15 (selections)

Anthem The Palms Jean-Baptiste Faure

Sermon "Patches of Grace in the Midst of Passion"

***Hymn** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (see insert, #197)

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 The Holy City Stephen Adams, Frederic Weatherly

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

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

***Benediction**

Postlude Prelude on *All Glory, Laud and Honor* 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
John Zollweg, tenor soloist
Tony Pesco, baritone soloist

Easter Spring Flowers

Bonnie Edwin

In memory of Raymond Edwin.

In memory of parents & grandparents.

Mary Grainger

In memory of Jean Maxon Carpenter and Mary Grainger's sister.

Mary & Bill Heffner

In memory of Rev. Robert E. and Joan W. Heffner.

In memory of Dr. Richard M. Clark.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

to Refrain

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil-dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant-ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.

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.