

First Congregational Church of Ithaca
Second Sunday of Easter (April 11, 2021)

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

Prelude	Prelude in E Major	G. F. Handel
Welcome and Announcements		
*Call to Worship	[after Sharlande Sledge, <i>Prayers and Litanies</i>]	
	We celebrate good news:	
	Jesus Christ is risen!	
	When believing does not come easily and we are more skeptical than faithful, Christ's presence comes to us with words of assurance...	
	Words that remind us of new life all around us -- even within us.	
*Hymn	Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!	(Insert #245)
*Opening Prayer	[after Maren Tirabassi, <i>Touch Holiness</i>]	
	Giver of new life, we come to worship in beauty and truth because we have faith and hope, that the resurrection will enter into each of our lives and transform them, and because, through Christ's Spirit, we have come to love one another, accept our worship, gracious God; and be with us as the tender hands of grace. Amen.	
*Sharing the Peace of Christ		
*Sung Response	<i>Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost</i> <i>As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.</i>	
Scripture Lessons	Psalm 133: 1-3 Acts 4: 32-35 1 John 1: 1-10 John 20: 19-31	
Anthem	Allemande in G Major	J. S. Bach
Sermon	"The Appearance, Taste, Texture, Scent and Sound of Faith"	
*Hymn	We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight	(Insert #817)
Morning Prayers and Lord's Prayer		
Litany Prayer	Leader: We pray to God People: Hear us, O God	
Sung Response	<i>Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me (twice).</i> <i>Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.</i>	
Sharing our Gifts	Gigue in G Major	J. S. Bach
*Doxology	<i>Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.</i> <i>Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.</i>	
*Prayer of Dedication		
*Hymn	Now the Green Blade Rises	(insert #247)
*Benediction		
Postlude	Variations in E Major	G. F. Handel

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

Participating Today

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

William Cowdery, Director of Music

Joyce Billing, liturgist

245 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
 2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
 4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

All cre - a - tion, join to say:
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise to you by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Je - sus died, our souls to save,
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Originally printed as eleven four-line stanzas without alleluias, this Easter text was written during the first year following the author's life-changing conversion experience, yet it already shows his enduring emphasis on the theme of love. This lively Welsh tune sets it well.

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 And when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found.
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The opening line here is essentially a quotation of 2 Corinthians 5:7, but that affirmation is fleshed out by references to the appearance of the risen Christ to Thomas (John 20:19–29). The shape note tune, named for a stream in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, adds resolution to the words.

247 Now the Green Blade Rises

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain;

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Although there were some traditional Easter carols, this hybrid one has been created by grafting a 20th-century English text onto a late 15th-century French tune. The allegory of the dying and rising grain as a parallel for Christ's Resurrection is probably based on John 12:24.