

First Congregational Church of Ithaca
Third Sunday of Easter (April 18, 2021)

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

Prelude Fugue in D Major J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from UCC *Worship Ways*, liturgy for Easter)

Travelers on the Way, what shall we do?

Look to God, who listens, draws close, and brings life out of death!

Dear ones, how shall we live?

With the confidence of God's beloved children, saved by grace!

Friends old and new, what is God's promise?

New life! Forgiveness! Acceptance!

Beloved siblings, how shall we praise?

With uplifted voices and with hearts open to give and receive love!

***Hymn** Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain (insert #234)

***Opening Prayer**

God of new life, nothing is beyond your power to transform. In a gray dawn, you coax songs of Alleluia. From the tombs of despair we take refuge in, you call us to wake up and live in hope. Come, Risen Christ, in newness and hope on this Eastertide morning. Amen.

(Adapted from UCC *Worship Ways*, liturgy for Easter)

***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 4
1 John 3: 1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Anthem Precious Lord, Take My Hand Thomas A. Dorsey

Sermon "Risen Christ and Cancel Culture"

***Hymn** Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers (insert#231)

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 Just a Closer Walk with Thee *traditional gospel song*

***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** Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! (insert #248)

***Benediction**

Postlude Toccata in C Major Johann Pachelbel

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

Participating Today

Rev. Dr. David A. Kaden, Senior Minister

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

William Cowdery, Director of Music

H. Donald Hinman, bass soloist

Siu-ling Wong Chaloemtiarana, piano accompanist

David J. Kaden, tech support

Easter Spring Flowers

Roger & Sue Eslinger

Given by Roger and Sue Eslinger in memory of our parents.

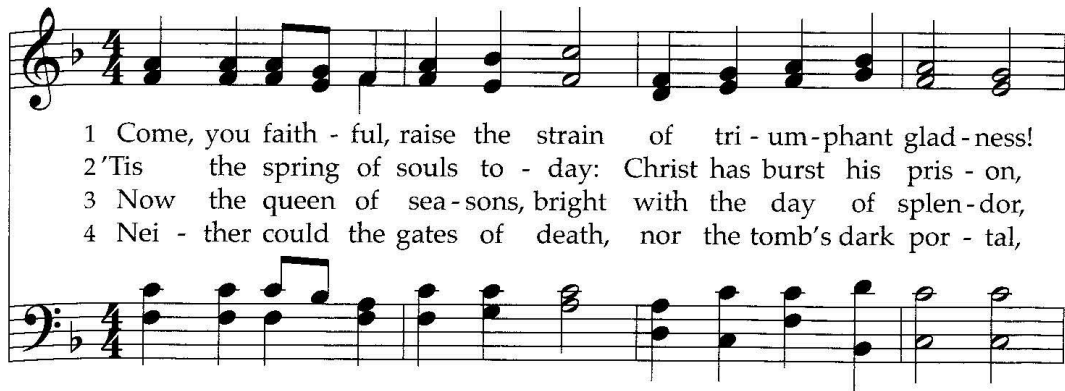
Given by Roger and Sue Eslinger in honor of all the musical talent that has been shared during our services this past year.

Joyce Billing

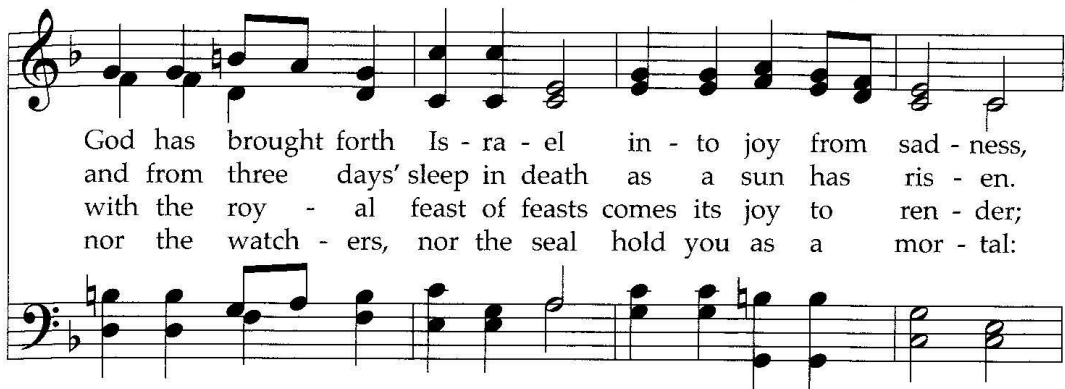
In appreciation of the church staff.

Last week's flowers were provided by the Caring Committee in memory of our members waiting for memorials services.

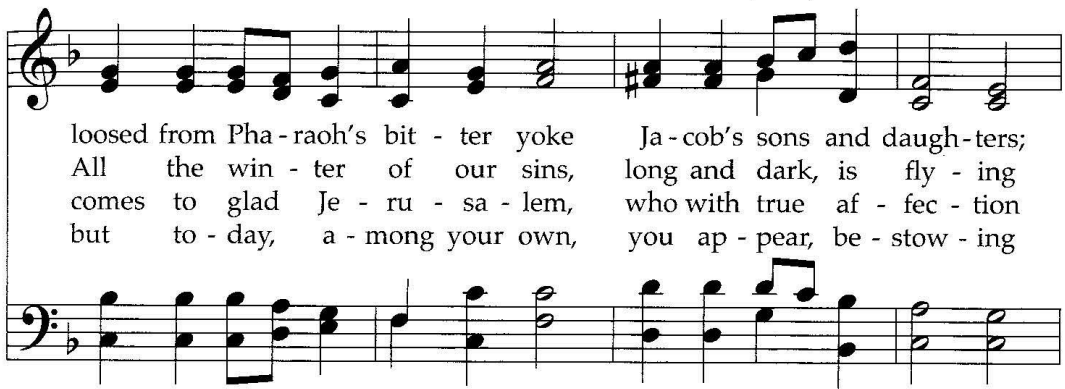
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain 234



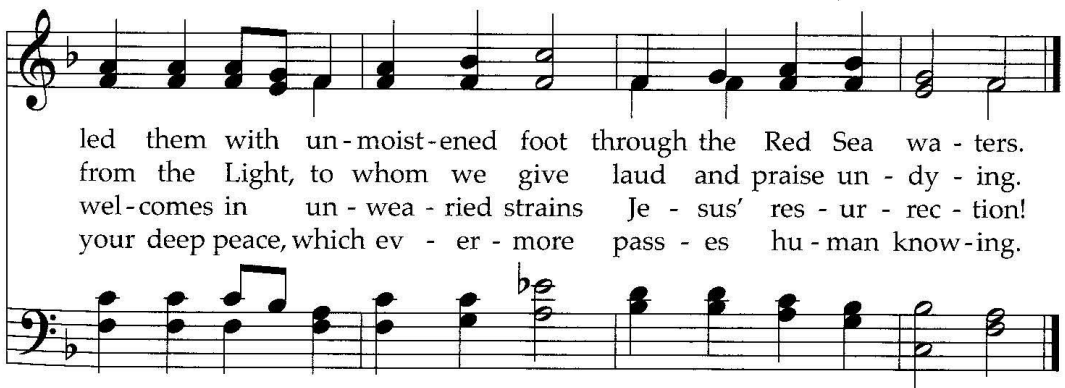
1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal:



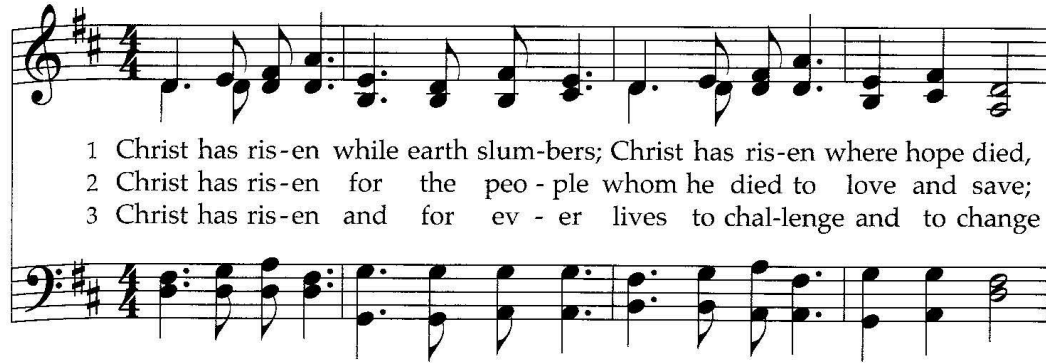
loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing



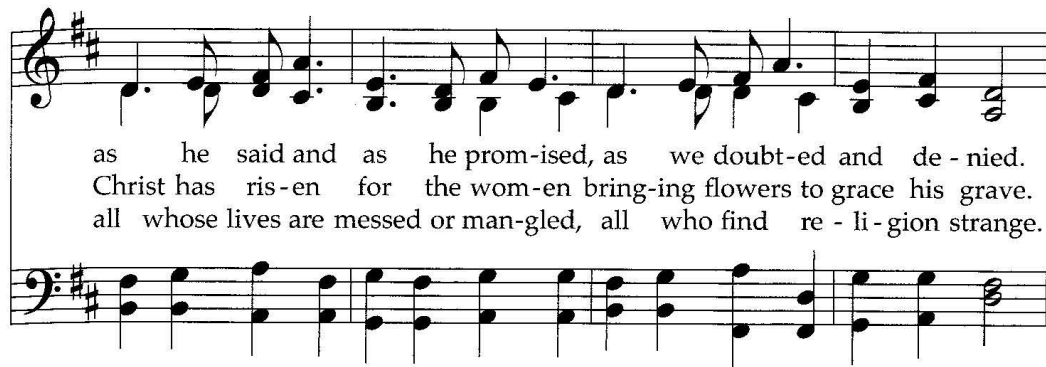
led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

One of the many ancient hymns translated into English in the 19th century, this 8th-century Eastertide hymn was originally part of a longer Greek liturgical text. This tune was created for this text by a church organist who later rose to fame as a composer of operettas.

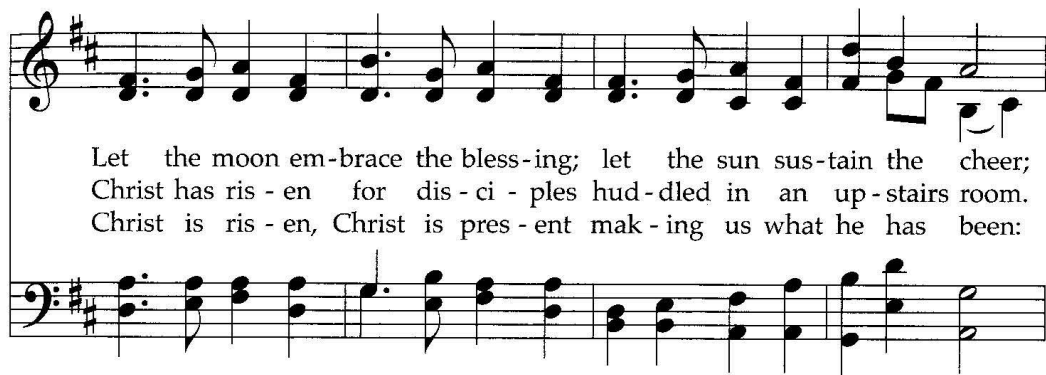
Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers 231



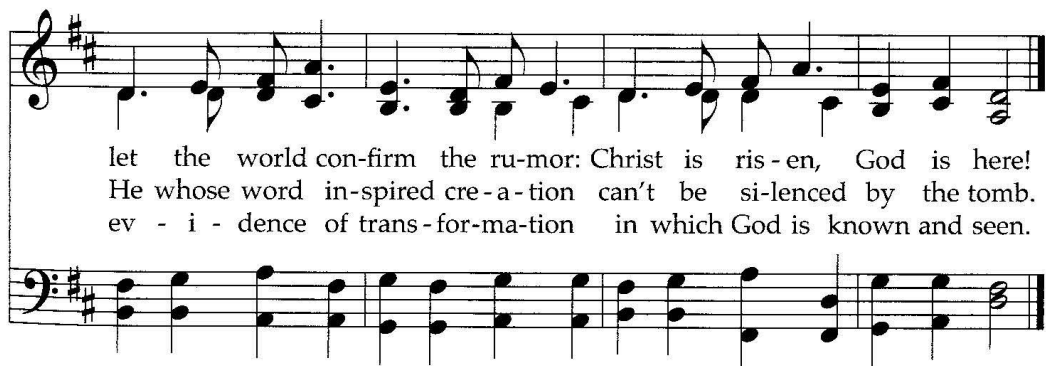
1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,
 2 Christ has ris-en for the peo - ple whom he died to love and save;
 3 Christ has ris-en and for ev - er lives to chal-lenge and to change



as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de - nied.
 Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.
 all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.



Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus-tain the cheer;
 Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples hud-dled in an up - stairs room.
 Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he has been:



let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris-en, God is here!
 He whose word in-spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.
 ev - i - dence of trans-for-ma-tion in which God is known and seen.

Beginning with rather conventional Easter imagery, this text moves into unexpected territory by declaring that Christ's Resurrection is for "all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange." The name of this traditional Welsh melody simply means "lullaby."

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 248

1 Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho-san-na! Cel-e-brate this day of days!
 2 Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir-its from the cav-erns of de-spair.
 3 Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev-er-more shall be the same.

Christ is ris-en! Hush in won-der: all cre-a-tion is a-mazed.
 Walk with glad-ness in the morn-ing. See what love can do and dare.
 Break the bread of new cre-a-tion where the world is still in pain.

In the des-ert all-sur-round-ing, see, a spread-ing tree has grown.
 Drink the wine of res-ur-rec-tion, not a ser-vant, but a friend.
 Tell its grim, de-mon-ic cho-rus: "Christ is ris-en! Get you gone!"

Heal-ing leaves of grace a-bound-ing bring a taste of love un-known.
 Je-sus is our strong com-pan-ion. Joy and peace shall nev-er end.
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho-san-na ev-ery-one!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."