

**First Congregational Church of Ithaca  
Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 9, 2021)**

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

**Prelude** Adagio from Concerto in C Major A. Vivaldi

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (Adapted from UCC *Worship Ways*, liturgy for Easter 6B)

God speaks to the heart,  
**Offering compassion and hope.**  
God enlivens the mind,  
**Inviting curiosity and wonder.**  
God awakens all spirits,  
**Fostering sacred connection.**  
God nurtures our strength,  
**Creating unimagined possibilities.**  
God calls the whole world,  
**Inspiring extravagant love.**

**\*Hymn** Joy to the World (insert #134)

**\*Opening Prayer**

**Creating Spirit, we join with the chorus of all of creation to celebrate your wondrous deeds. Fill us with your joy and train our ears for harmony, so that we may contribute to the world you are already creating. All this we pray in the name of Jesus, who revealed what is possible through love. Amen.**

(Adapted from UCC *Worship Ways*, liturgy for Easter 6B)

**\*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 98  
Acts 10:44-48  
1 John 5:1-5  
John 15:9-17

**Anthem** In the Garden C. Austin Miles, 1913

**Sermon** "Participating in Providence"

**\*Hymn** Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather (insert #311)

**Morning Prayers and Lord's Prayer**

**Litany Prayer for Mother's Day**  
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** Blessed Assurance Phoebe Knapp, Fanny Crosby, 1873

**\*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	We Will Go Out with Joy	(insert #539)
*Benediction		
Postlude	Allegro from Concerto in C Major	A. Vivaldi

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

*Joy is a theme that unifies today's prayers, readings, and hymns. Psalm 98 speaks of making joyful noises. In the gospel reading Jesus offers joy to the disciples. The Opening Prayer asks God to fill us with joy. And the first and last hymns sing of joy. Together they invite us to meditate on what brings us joy in life.*

### **Participating Today**

Rev. Dr. David A. Kaden, Senior Minister

Susan Fast, Director of Caring Ministries, [sustfast@yahoo.com](mailto:sustfast@yahoo.com)

William Cowdery, Director of Music

H. Donald Hinman, bass soloist

Siu-ling Wong Chaloemtiarana, piano accompanist

David J. Kaden, tech support

# 134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

# 311 Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather



1 Here, O Lord, your ser - vants gath - er, hand we link with hand;  
 2 Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat - tered are the lands;  
 3 Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang - es nev - er cease;  
 4 Grant, O God, an age re - newed, filled with death - less love;



look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, joined in love we stand.  
 yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's de - mands.  
 where, O where, can wea - ry souls find the source of peace?  
 help us as we work and pray; send us from a - bove



As we seek the realm of God, we u - nite to pray:  
 While in dark - ness hope ap - pears, call - ing age and youth:  
 Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, torn by end - less strife:  
 truth and cour - age, faith and power need - ed in our strife:



Je - sus, Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.  
 Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.  
 Je - sus, heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.  
 Je - sus, Sav - ior, be our Way; be our Truth, our Life.

*\*Optional finger cymbals*

This gentle hymn was created for a 1958 international convention of Christian educators in Japan. The tune's use of the *gagaku* mode, originally from China but later limited to use in the Japanese court, serves as a subtle but significant affirmation of Christ's sovereignty.

# We Will Go Out with Joy 539

*C*  
*Leader* *F/C C* *G7* *C*

- 1 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.  
 2 Now an - y - one who's born of the Spir-it, sing a new song of joy.  
 3 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

*C*  
*All* *F/C C C/G* *G7* *C*  
*Fine*

We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.  
 Now an - y - one who's born of the Spir-it, sing a new song of joy.  
 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

*Refrain* *Fsus2* *C* *F* *G* *C*

Al - le - lu - ia! We will go out with joy.

*Fsus2* *C* *E<sup>b</sup>sus2 Dm7* *Gsus G*  
*to Stanzas*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Drawing on the phrasing of Isaiah 55:12, this joyful sending hymn was created by a musical Canadian father and daughter, beginning with the tune that emerged from a four-hand piano improvisation. The completed hymn later served as the recessional music for her wedding.