

First Congregational Church of Ithaca
Ascension Sunday (May 16, 2021)

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

Prelude Prelude in E-flat Major J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from UCC *Worship Ways*, liturgy for Easter 7B)

God's throne, where she sits could be a bus stop, vaccine line, food pantry,
Maybe tucked underneath the freeway overpass with those huddled without shelter.
Maybe a border. Maybe a detention center. Maybe a solitary place in a pandemic.
Maybe a graveside. Maybe a church where just two or three or fifteen gather.
God's throne is wherever love persists,
Where love tries over and over to break through. God's throne is here!

***Hymn** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! (insert #263)

***Opening Prayer**

Life-giving God, your love and light guide us on the path of courage, compassion, generosity,
and grace. Lead us we seek to follow your transformative love that turns sorrow into joy and
despair into hope. O God, enthroned by the power of love, help us embrace your guiding love
that calls us to live as your faithful witnesses, who reflect your grace and redemptive
love. Amen. (Adapted from UCC *Worship Ways*, liturgy for Easter 7B)

***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 1
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:50-53

Anthem All Who Enter Here John Angotti

Sermon "Perspectivalism in the Ascension and in an Old Toolshed"

***Hymn** Lead On Eternal Sovereign (insert #573)

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 Andante in G Major W. A. Mozart

***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** Crown with Your Richest Crowns (insert #301)

***Benediction**

Postlude Fugue in E-flat Major J. S. Bach

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

Today is Ascension Sunday, traditionally the day that honors the ascension of the risen Christ into heaven to sit on a throne. Notice that the liturgy, prayers, and hymns contain the theme of enthronement. Notice also, however, that the way we speak of and sing about this theme closely connects enthronement with love, peace, and justice. Christ is not a militarized savior but a “king” of love.

Participating Today

Rev. Dr. David A. Kaden, Senior Minister

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

William Cowdery, Director of Music

Patricia Baxter, soprano soloist

David J. Kaden, tech support

263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Descant



4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball
 4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

This 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ has been through several expansions and contractions before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793, which was written for it.

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; alt.

1 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low in your way;
 2 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low not with fear,
 3 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,

loud rings your cry for jus - tice, your call for peace this day:
 for in each hu - man con - flict your words of strength we hear:
 and all your saints to - geth - er will sing a hymn of peace;

Through prayer-ful prep - a - ra - tion, your grace will make us strong,
 That when we serve with glad - ness, you will not let us fall,
 Then all in your do - min - ion will live with hearts set free,

to car - ry on the strug - gle to tri - umph o - ver wrong.
 our trust is in your prom - ise that love will con - quer all.
 to love and serve each oth - er for all e - ter - ni - ty.

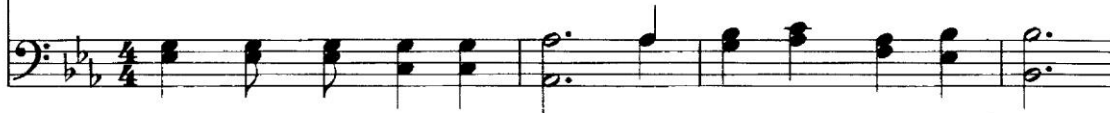
At Andover Seminary, fellow students asked Ernest W. Shurtleff to write a hymn for their graduation. This is the result. Shurtleff became a Congregational minister and in his last years established churches in Europe and did relief work during World War I.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1836

Crown with Your Richest Crowns

*John 19:16-18, 31-34; Rev. 7:9-10**Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1993*

1 Crown with your rich - est crowns the Lamb up - on the throne;
 2 Crown Christ whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side.
 3 Crown Christ the truth, the life who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 4 Crown Christ who rules in peace, whose power a scep - tre sways
 5 Crown Christ who holds the years, em - brac - ing space and time,



Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 Look past the peak of Cal - vary's road to Christ the glo - ri - fied.
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife, this fal - len world to save.
 From pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise:
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:



A - wake, my soul, and sing of Christ who died for you, And
 The sun that lights the sky is pale be - fore that sight. At
 Christ's glo - ries now we sing, Christ's name we mag - ni - fy, Who
 Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wound-ed feet a
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For you have died for me; Your



to your ris - en Sav - ior bring your thanks for life made new.
 prayer we glimpse then turn the eye from mys - ter - ies so bright.
 died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 fra - grant gar - den shall ex - tend for - ev - er green and sweet.
 praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

