

 First Congregational Church of Ithaca
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (August 22, 2021)
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Prelude Adagio in C Major W. A. Mozart

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from "Simplicity," by Sharlande Sledge)

Loving God, do we make your message too hard?

You know that we need plain and simple messages:

"Love God with all your heart; love one another."

Simple gifts: Sabbath rest, hands to hold, comforting music.

May your simple words be the most profound ones we hear:

"God is love." "God is love." "God is love."

***Hymn** Jesus Loves Me **# 188**

***Opening Prayer**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

(Peace Prayer of Saint Francis)

***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 27: 1, 4-5
Isaiah 54: 7-10
John 2: 13-17
John 14: 27

Anthem You Will Be Found, *from* Dear Evan Hansen Benj Pasek, Justin Paul

Sermon "The Power of a Simple Ritual"

***Hymn** Make Me a Channel of Your Peace **# 753**

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 Simple Song, *from* Mass Leonard Bernstein

***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** Jesus Shall Reign **# 265**

***Benediction**

Postlude Sinfonia in D Major J. S. Bach

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

One theme in today's service is simplicity: a simple song, a simple gesture, a simple message: "Jesus loves me." Or simply being alone. A second theme is complexity: of social interactions, remembering how to behave civilly post-isolation. Even God's covenant of peace in the Isaiah scripture is complex.

Participating Today

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

Dr. William Cowdery, Director of Music

Andrea Dietrich, soprano soloist

Joyce Billing, Liturgist

John Zollweg, tech support

Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,

Lit - tle ones to him be-long. They are weak, but he is strong.
tak - ing chil-dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Few songs of faith have supported people from cradle to grave like this one. The great theologian Karl Barth said that its opening two lines were a summary of all that he had learned. The composer formed the refrain from those lines when creating this universally used tune.

753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis



1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where
there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned, in



there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, and
there is dark-ness, on-ly light, and
giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.
where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.
dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.



3 O, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek so



much to be con-soled as to con-sole, to be



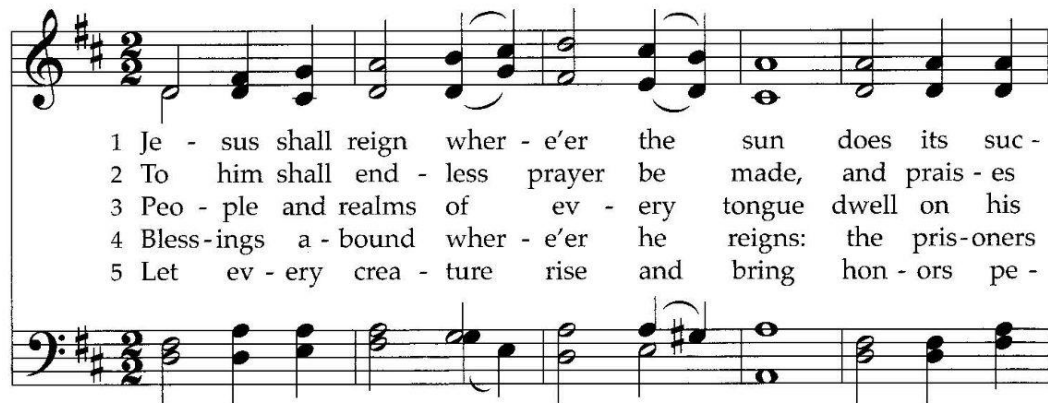
un-der-stood as to un-der-stand, to be



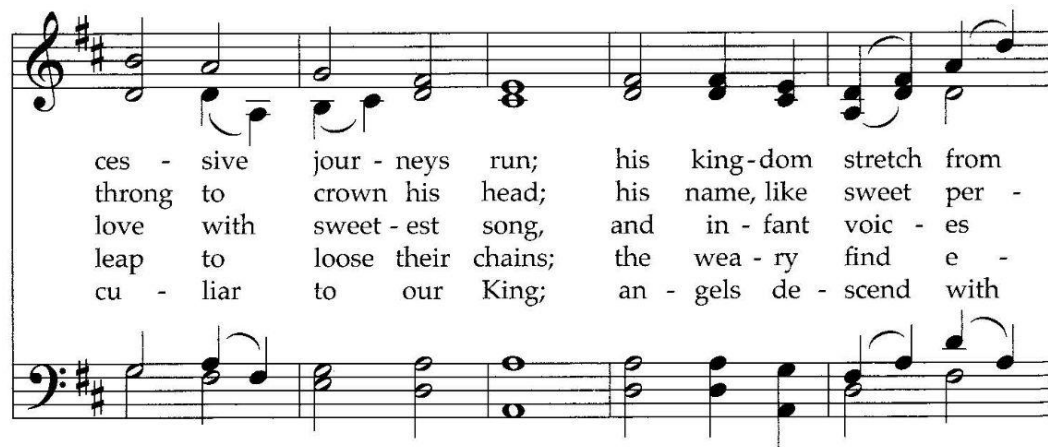
loved as to love with all my soul.

to Stanza 4

265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5–19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.