



God is still speaking,

First Congregational Church, UCC

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

Rev. Dr. Daniel Ling

Our Mission: Feeding the hungry in body, mind, and spirit

*“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome at First Congregational Church.”*

Welcome

It is a joy to connect with you today. You are here in spirit. God is Spirit. Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Statement of Oneness (*unison*)

We were made in the image of God; thus, as we grow in faith and mature in spirit, that image shall shine all the more clearly. Like Jesus, we are children of God; thus, as our birthright, we shall live all our days surrounded by unconditional love. Humanity, the Image of God, is beautiful in God’s sight, part of a magnificent creation; therefore, we are beautiful in God’s eyes.

The Scriptures declare that the entire Kingdom of God is within us. Also, we live our lives immersed in Divinity. We gather to celebrate that sacred and wondrous Truth.

Many hurtful and unjust things happen in our world, motivated by hatred or fear. Yet also there is love in our hearts. Let us declare that love, acknowledge it is of God, and promise to grow in love day by day. Amen.

Call to Worship

1 Peter 2:19-25

One: When you are treated badly for no good reason,

All: What counts is that you put up with it for God’s sake.

One: This is the kind of life you have been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived.

All: Christ suffered everything that came his way so you would know that it could be done.

One: And also know how to do it step by step.

All: Jesus never did one thing wrong. Yet the people called him every name in the book. For God’s sake, he said nothing back. He suffered in silence, content to let God set things right.

*Hymn #204

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

(2 verses, see page 3)

Scripture**John 10: 1-10** (Jesus the Good Shepherd)

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers. Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

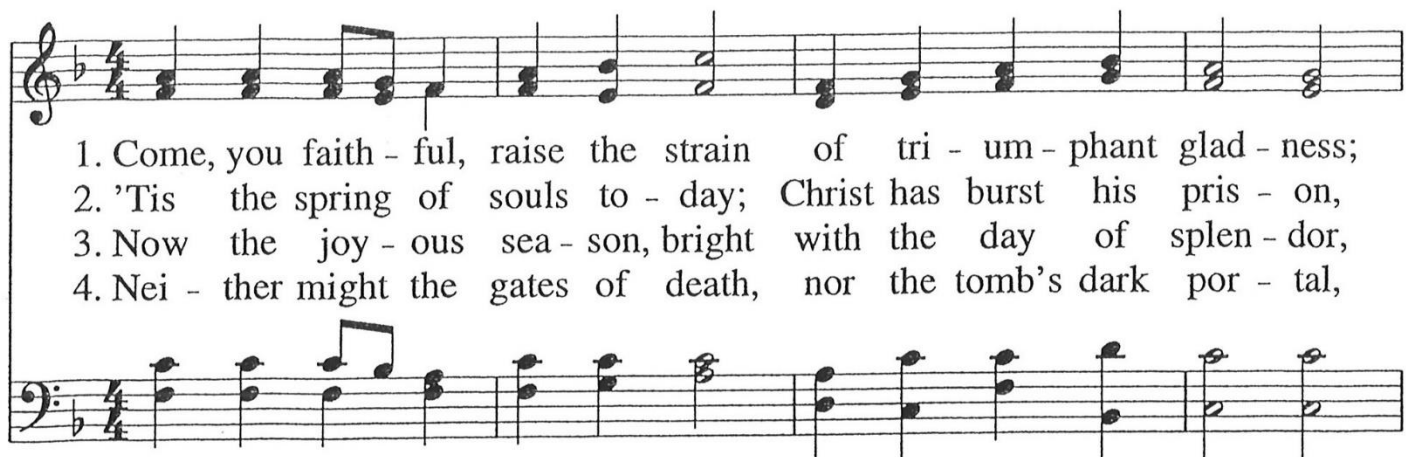
Sermon**Less Response, More Peace****Prayer Request and Offertory Reminder*****Hymn #216****The Day of Resurrection**

(2 verses, see page 4)

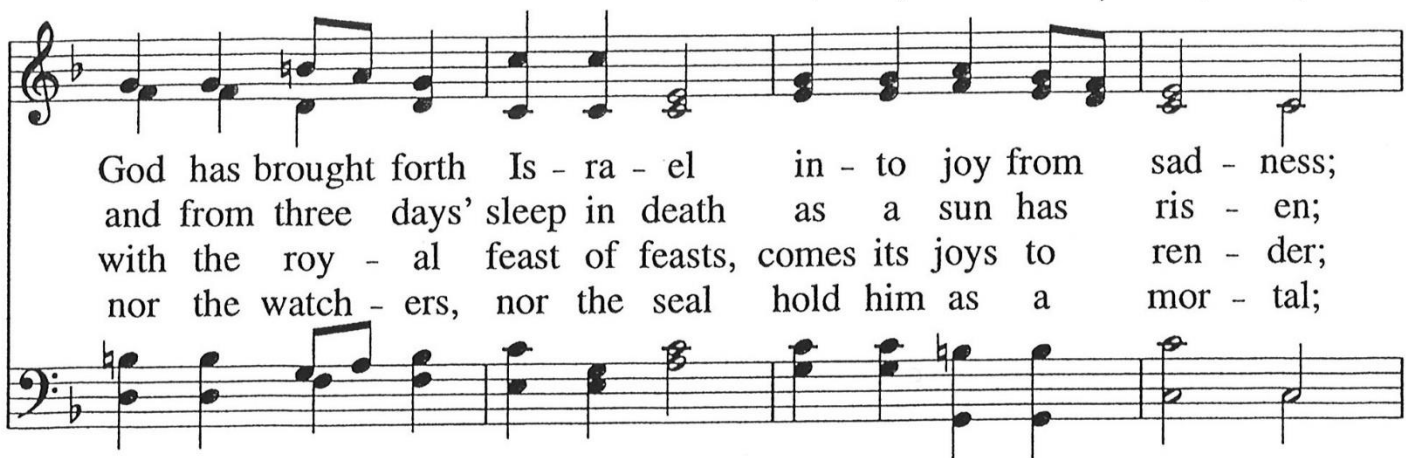
Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, the comfort, guidance and challenge of the Holy Spirit, be with each one of you, now and always. Go in peace and the God of peace go with you. Amen

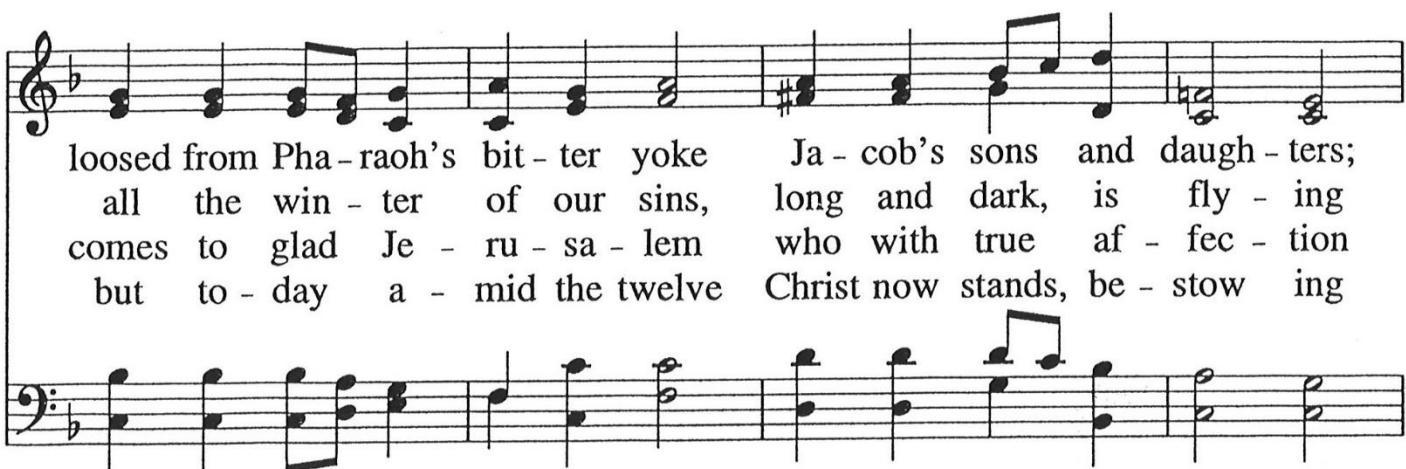
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



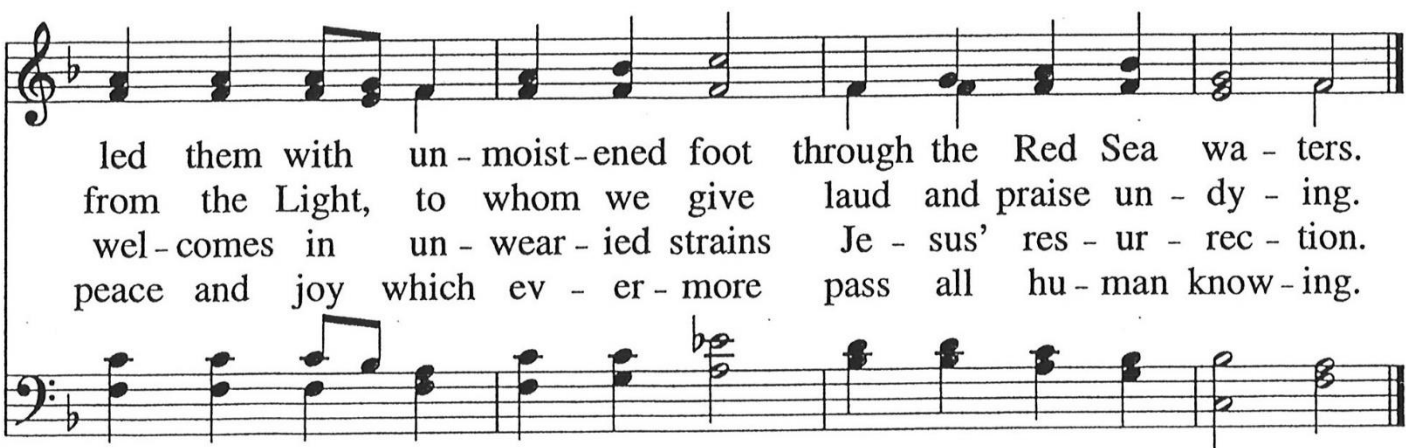
1. Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
 2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3. Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4. Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,



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 joys to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold him 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 - mid the twelve Christ now stands, 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 - wear - ied strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
 peace and joy which ev - er - more pass all hu - man know - ing.

The Day of Resurrection!

1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
 2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
 3. Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 our Christ in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;
 the world re - sound in tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 And, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear so calm and plain
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail," and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ the Lord is ris - en, our joy that has no end.