

Welcome to your spirit's home...

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York

October 18, 2009



Chapel, Parish House and Office

8101 Ridge Boulevard at Eighty-First Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209

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The Reverend Mary Barrett Speers, Pastor ❖ Vince Peterson, Minister of Music  
Ed Huml, BRUCA Program Director ❖ Jody Levine, Playgroup Director and Administrator

*You will always be welcome here. This is God's house and a happy church home.  
Let us be your church family, for we are all beloved children of God.  
Join us regularly for Christian worship, nurture, and the doing of God's work in the world—  
that you might have life, and that more abundantly.*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### GATHERING MUSIC

*We use this time to make the transition between “getting here” and “being here”. Take these few minutes to find the still, deep places within you, where God's Spirit dwells. Relax the body; quiet the mind. Focus on breathing, feeling, being. Be receptive to your center—your reservoir of inner peace, strength, love. Be aware of being together in silence with others.*

*Feel the spirit of the community.*

**CHORAL INTROIT** (*introit is Latin for entrance*)      *The Lone, Wild Bird*      Hymnal no. 320

### +CALL TO WORSHIP

**Psalm 107: 2, 43b**

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

**In Wisdom you have made them all: the earth is full of your creatures.**

These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

**When you open your hand, they are filled with good things.**

When you hide your face, they are dismayed:

**When you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

When you send forth your Spirit—your breath—they are created;

**And you renew the face of the ground.**

### +HYMN no. 486

*When the Morning Stars Together*

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Almighty and yes, even inscrutable God, we confess how hard we find it to be your people. You call us to be your body, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet even as we bear your name, we acknowledge that we do not live up to it: we are more apathetic than active, more isolated than involved, more callous than compassionate, more obstinate than obedient, more litigious than loving. Gracious God, have mercy upon us and forgive us our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your lifeblood for a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your Spirit dwelling within and among us, for we pray in the name of your most precious Child, our savior and our brother, Jesus...**

### SILENT PRAYER

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**SUNG RESPONSE** no. **595** *Heleluyan means Hallelujah/Alleluia, which means Praise the Lord. This is a round from the Muscogee tribe of North America; the round parts start on the stars. Let's sing it twice in unison, then twice in a round*

*\*Heleluyan, \*Heleluyan; \*Hele, Hele-lu-yan: Heleluyan, Heleluyan; Hele, Hele-lu-yan!*

**✚THE PEACE OF CHRIST** *please exchange the Peace of Christ with your neighbors.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** *Hymnal #322 Spirit of the Living God Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me...melt me, mold me, fill me, use me...*

**FIRST LESSON:** Job 38:1-7, 16-21, 34-41

**PSALM/ANTHEM** nos. **595** and **320 together** (congregation and choir in a duet)  
*Heleluyan* and *The Lone, Wild Bird*

**SECOND LESSON:** Matthew 10:26-31

**SERMON** His Eye Is on the Turtle Rev. Speers

**✚HYMN** no. 272 *God of the Sparrow*

**OFFERTORY** *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* Scott Morwitz, tenor Civilla D. Martin & Charles H. Gabriel

**✚DOXOLOGY** no. 592 and **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**You call to us to seek you, O Christ, and to find new ways to share our joy with people everywhere. We offer our selves and our substance to do your work in the world, asking that you follow our offerings with your blessing, and keep us always in the guidance of your Holy Spirit. AMEN.**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord...**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*blue hymnal p. 16: "debts"*

**✚HYMN IN RECESSION** no. 263

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

**✚CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

...and let the whole church say, **Alleluia! Amen.**

**CLOSING MUSIC** *please keep silence out of kindness to those who wish to listen or pray. Some of us like to applaud but this is not required; the artists offer their work to the glory of God.*

## **Job 38:1-7, 16-21, 36-41 NRSV**

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Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

<sup>2</sup>Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

<sup>3</sup>Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

<sup>4</sup>Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

<sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

<sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

<sup>16</sup>Have you entered into the springs of the sea,

or walked in the recesses of the deep?

<sup>17</sup>Have the gates of death been revealed to you,

or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

<sup>18</sup>Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?

Declare, if you know all this.

<sup>19</sup>Where is the way to the dwelling of light,

and where is the place of darkness,

<sup>20</sup>that you may take it to its territory

and that you may discern the paths to its home?

<sup>21</sup>Surely you know, for you were born then,

and the number of your days is great!

<sup>34</sup>Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,

so that a flood of waters may cover you?

<sup>35</sup>Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go

and say to you, “Here we are”?

<sup>36</sup>Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,

or given understanding to the mind? *(the reading continues on the next page)*

<sup>37</sup>Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?  
Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,  
<sup>38</sup>when the dust runs into a mass  
and the clods cling together?

<sup>39</sup>Can you hunt the prey for the lion,  
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,  
<sup>40</sup>when they crouch in their dens,  
or lie in wait in their covert?

<sup>41</sup>Who provides for the raven its prey,  
when its young ones cry to God,  
and wander about for lack of food?

## **Matthew 10:26-31 NRSV**

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‘So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

### Announcements

**Visitors, welcome!** Please join us after worship for refreshments and conversation, and please sign the Union Church guest book (at the back) so that we may get to know you better.

**Many thanks to all worship leaders:** Vince Peterson and the choir, the Van Royen family for today's refreshments; Maryellen Van Royen (Communion bishop) and Kristin Miller (coffee hour bishop).

**All of us enjoy the Coffee Hour** at the close of worship. Most of us do a lot for the church (we're a small church). No matter how much else you are doing, **you too can sign up for at least one coffee hour per season**, and make the Program and Mission committee really happy.

**Thanks to Jennifer Segna** for assuming the role of Sunday School bishop for the next month or so, until Jack's sister is born! We also thank her for the **new, revitalized food collection box**, and its great monthly themes! **October** is the month of **Columbus Day**—is that the reason it's **National Pasta Month?** and the theme is....(*gracie, Signora Segna!*)

**The Book of Remembrance** is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, 10/18—Thomas J. Ferretti; 10/25—May Crawford; 11/1—William Reppke; 11/8—Rev. William Gray Tolley; 11/15—Ernest Skoldberg, Jr.; 11/22—Dorothy May and Frances Freeman; 11/29—Beatrice Goddard.

**Prayer List** requests should come to the church office by telephone **718.745.0438**.

**Continue to pray for the restoration of creation;** for all living in the midst of war, poverty, natural and economic disaster; for prisoners and all who watch and pray for them, especially the Church of Gethsemane. Continue to pray for/stay in touch with: Vince on the anniversary of the death of his father, Bud Peterson; Elizan and Areliz Morales as they begin their married life together; Edmundo and Edith Quinones; Ruby Moy and her family; Arabella Meadows-Rogers, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Donna, Janet, Geraldine, John and the Vandermarcq family, Mary, Jane, Helen, Sally.

### This Week and Ongoing

**Program and Mission Committee** meets tomorrow 10/19 at 6:30 pm in the Parish House. Come find out how to make friends and do service, we'll be planning Advent and Christmas!

**Bible Study** meets 7-8pm every other Tuesday in the Parish House. This week 10/20 continues *Esther*.

**Yoga classes meet Monday and Wednesday evenings 6:45-8:15pm in the Parish House Chapel.** No experience necessary! Please speak to Kristin Miller.

**Don't know much about the Bible?** Teaching Sunday School is the best way we know to learn more *and* make new friends at Union Church. See Jennifer Segna today!

**Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs** meets first Mondays at 11am in the Sanctuary, except for holidays: next meeting Monday, November 2.

**Taizé Evensong moves back to the first Tuesday of every month**, beginning 7pm **October 6**.

This year Taizé moves to our new renovated Parish House Chapel, 8101 Ridge Boulevard.

**Next Session meeting Monday, October 26, at 7pm** in the Parish House.

**Sunday, Nov 1: "Marathon of Prayer and Praise"** Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4<sup>th</sup> Ave/Ovington Bay Ridge Protestant churches again "bring worship to the Marathon," welcoming the world's runners to Brooklyn, City of Churches, with a Caribbean steel band and wonderful gospel music indoors afterwards in our ecumenical communion with Vince Peterson, the Union Church choir, and anyone who wants to join in just for the day's fun. Michele DiBartolo is Marathon 'bishop.'