

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 25, 2009

Reformation Day

Bible Sunday



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

REFORMATION DAY AND BIBLE SUNDAY

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.*

✚CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 119:97,103,105

How I love your teachings, God; I think upon them all the day.

**How sweet are your words to my taste, O LORD,
Sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

Your word is a lamp to my feet

And a light to my path.

✚HYMN IN PROCESSION no. 361

How Firm a Foundation

(an elder bearing the Word, rather than the minister bearing a cross, is an old Reformed tradition)

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Evan Lynch and Andrew Abdenour

JOY OF THE LAW: PRAYER IN RESPONSE TO THE GIFT OF THE WORD

**God of grace, you have given us minds to know you,
Hearts to love you, hands to serve you, and voices to sing your praise.
God of mercy, grant that the Word we receive this day
May open our minds, take root in our hearts, work through our lives,
And bear fruit to your honor and glory,
Through Jesus Christ, our brother, our friend, and our Savior. AMEN.**

✚SONG AND DANCE *(insert)* ***Open Your Ears, O Faithful People (Yisrael V’oraita)***

The choir leads us as we sing and dance for joy with this Hasidic song, remembering the Jewish autumn festival of Simchat Torah, “Joy of the Law,” when the people celebrate the gift of the Scriptures by dancing the Torah scrolls around the synagogue in worship.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW *(in Reformed churches, this always opened worship)* **Matthew 22:37-40**

Jesus said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Measuring our lives this week against these words of Jesus, let us now “clean house” in our hearts, trusting in the grace of God who loves us.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. AMEN.

SUNG RESPONSE no. **576** *a Gloria ordinarily follows the Assurance. This one is from Taizé:*
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest...Alleluia, Alleluia.

✦THE PEACE OF CHRIST *please turn and exchange the Peace of Christ with your neighbors:*
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 119:89-90,97-99,103,105-107

SECOND LESSON: Mark 10:46-52

SERMON The Book that Changed the World

Rev. Speers

✦HYMN *(insert)*

I Love to Tell the Story

OFFERTORY Thy Word

Amy Grant

✦DOXOLOGY no. **592** *(an old Reformed chorale)* and **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O God, we have all received from your bounty. We now bring before you our gifts, our selves, and our treasure, and ask that you transform them, and us, into a blessing to our neighbors and your world. May our offerings, our studies, our prayers, and our lives, all work together for abundant life everywhere, through Jesus, the Christ, in whose name we pray. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal p. 16: "debts"

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord...

✦HYMN IN RECESSION *(insert)*

We Limit Not the Truth of God

✦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.*

✦all who would like to may stand; Unison prayers are in bold.

Psalm 119:89-90,97-99,103,105-107 NRSV

The Lord exists for ever;
your word is firmly fixed in heaven.
⁹⁰Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

⁹⁷Oh, how I love your law!
It is my meditation all day long.
⁹⁸Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is always with me.
⁹⁹I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your decrees are my meditation.
¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
¹⁰⁶I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.
¹⁰⁷I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O Lord, according to your word.
¹⁰⁸Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,
and teach me your ordinances.

Mark 10:46-52 NRSV

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher,* let me see again.' ⁵²Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Sing-It-Yourself *Messiah*

Christmas portion, Sunday, December 20 at 4pm
(childcare provided)

Tickets available now!

(If each one of us took four tickets
and got 3 friends to come,
we'd be all set for December 20!)

See Kristin Miller Lynch

Or call Jody in the office for tickets!

718.745.0438

*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.*

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, Lorrie Green 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....

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, 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 Peterson on the anniversary of the death of his father; New York City Presbytery, 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

It's time to (re-)register your cellphone (and any other phones) on the National Do Not Call list. Call 888-382-1222 *from the phone* (it won't work if you call in from another phone).

Bible Study meets 7-8pm every other Tuesday in the Parish House. Next date: November 3.

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, next at 7pm **November 3**. This year Taizé moves to our new renovated Parish House Chapel, 8101 Ridge Boulevard.

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

Sunday, Nov 1: "Marathon of Prayer and Praise" Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fourth Avenue at Ovington: Bay Ridge Protestant churches "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. See Michele DiBartolo.