

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

## November 8, 2009

THE LORD SAYS THERE WILL ALWAYS BE  
PLENTY OF FLOUR  
AND OIL IN  
YOUR JARS.  
1 KINGS 17:14



Chapel, Parish House and Office

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

[www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org) ❖ [unionchurch@earthlink.net](mailto:unionchurch@earthlink.net) ❖ 718.745.0438

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: SUMMARY OF GOD’S LAW      **Matthew 22:37-40**

*(in early Reformed churches, this “benchmark” always opened worship)*

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.**

### ✚HYMN no. 457      *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION (*please be seated*)

**Eternal God, creator of the world and giver of all good, we thank you for this our home; for the earth, home to all your children; and for the gift of life. Keep us mindful of your Spirit in everyone, and show us where we have failed to see the face of Jesus, where we have seen only our own unloveliness, in the faces of others. In your great mercy, draw us back near to you, forgiving us, loving us, removing all fear and shame, and freeing us to be all you created us to be, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose strong name we pray...**

### 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: I Kings 17:8-16**

**ANTHEM**

**SECOND LESSON: Mark 12:38-44**

**SERMON The Power of Naught**

Rev. Speers

**✚HYMN no. 422**

***God Whose Giving Knows No Ending***

**OFFERTORY**

**✚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 RECEPTION no. 425**

***Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining***

**✚CHARGE AND BLESSING**

...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.*

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Olive and Dan Reich,  
in loving memory of the Rev. William Gray Tolley,  
pastor of this church 1968-1992**

## **I Kings 17:1-16 NRSV**

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**N**ow Elijah the Tishbite, of Tish-be in Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the Lord the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.’<sup>2</sup>The word of the Lord came to him, saying, <sup>3</sup>‘Go from here and turn eastwards, and hide yourself by the Wadi Che-rith, which is east of the Jordan. <sup>4</sup>You shall drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.’ <sup>5</sup>So he went and did according to the word of the Lord; he went and lived by the Wadi Che-rith, which is east of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup>The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the wadi. <sup>7</sup>But after a while the wadi dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

<sup>8</sup>Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, <sup>9</sup>‘Go now to Za-re-phath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.’ <sup>10</sup>So he set out and went to Za-re-phath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.’ <sup>11</sup>As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.’ <sup>12</sup>But she said, ‘As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.’ <sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, ‘Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.’ <sup>15</sup>She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

## **Mark 12:38-44 NRSV**

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**A**s he taught, Jesus said, ‘Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, <sup>39</sup>and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! <sup>40</sup>They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.’

<sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup>A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup>Then he called his disciples and said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup>For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.’

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### **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, Bruce MacIntyre 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, 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, especially the people of San Juan, Puerto Rico; 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, 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**

**The Marathon of Prayer and Praise** was a great success last Sunday, thanks to Vince and the choir!

**Next Sunday, November 15, is Restoration Sunday**, the opening of stewardship season, a month of reflection on how we use and care for all the resources God gives us in preparation for making our pledges on **GIFTS SUNDAY, December 13**.

**Advent is almost upon us!** Highlights: Sunday, Nov 29 (Thanksgiving Sunday) is the first Sunday in Advent. Saturday, Dec 5 is Wreath-making. Sunday afternoon at 4pm, Dec 6, is the second string quartet concert. Sunday December 13 at 3pm, we are invited to a community Lessons and Carols service at St Andrew's Roman Catholic Church; and our Manger Service with animal blessing, our Union Church Sing-It-Yourself *Messiah* (sing along with the choir), and Manse Christmas party are all at various times on Sunday, December 20. Watch for details!

**Bible Study** meets 7-8pm every other Tuesday in the Parish House. Next date: November 17.

**Yoga classes meet M & W 6:45-8:15pm in the Parish House Chapel.**

**Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs** meets first Mondays at 11am in the Sanctuary, except for holidays: next meeting Monday, December 7.

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

**Taizé Evensong first Tuesdays**, next at 7pm **Dec 8** in our Parish House Chapel, 8101 Ridge Blvd.

**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).