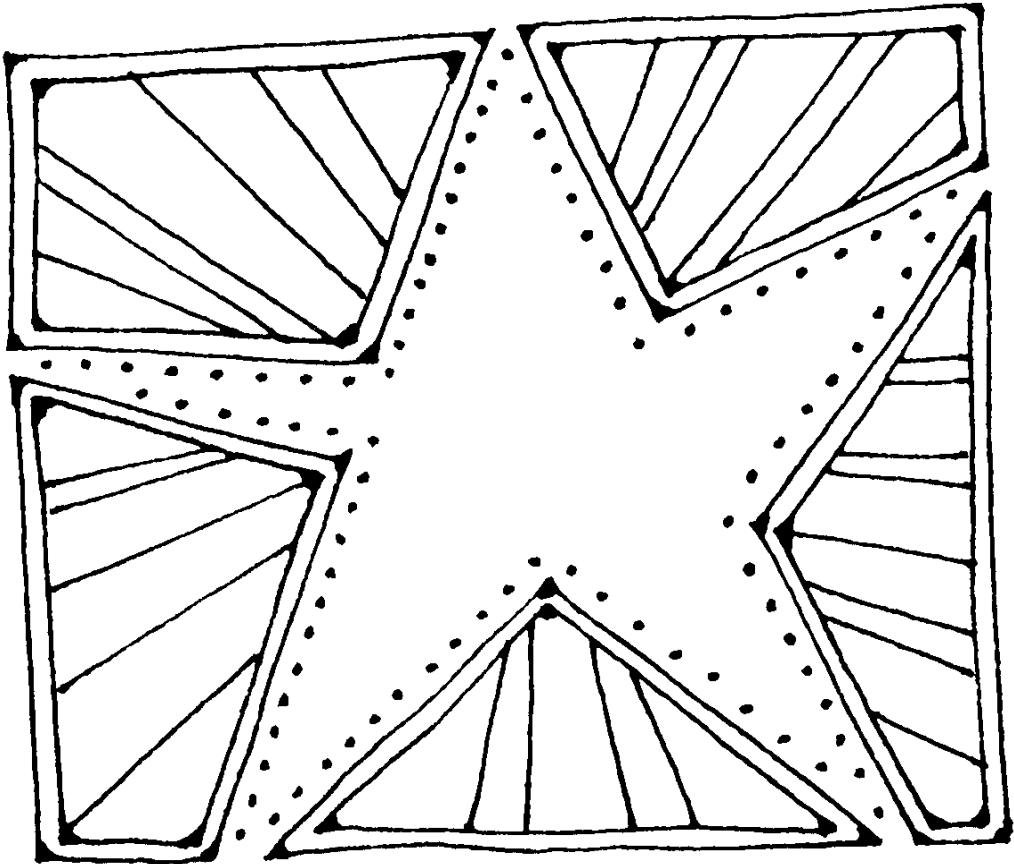


Welcome to your spirit's home...

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard

January 3, 2010



Union Church Chapel, Parish House and Office
8101 Ridge Boulevard at Eighty-First Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209
www.ucbr.org ❖ 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 SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY

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

Isaiah 60:1,3

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising!

+HYMN no. 64

De Tierra Lejana/From a Distant Home

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, you sent a star to guide the world to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed its light. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted your news to be good. We have failed to remember the birth of Jesus, and have refused his peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our dullness, and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait, rise up and follow the star, and hear anew each day the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord...

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

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

+**GLORIA: *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*** (Glory to God in the Highest!) chorus from Hymnal no. 23

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

please exchange the Peace of Christ with your neighbors

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION from WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET 8.8.7 *Hymnal* no. 69 v. 2

Sung as a prayer, the first 6 measures only:

*Thou heavenly brightness, Light divine! O deep within my heart now shine,
And make Thee there an altar!*

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:7-14

ANTHEM *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning* lyrics: Reginald Heber; music: John Gardner

SECOND LESSON: John 1:1-18

SERMON: Celestial Navigation Rev. Speers

✚ **HYMN** no. 506 *Deck Yourself, My Soul, with Gladness*

OFFERTORY *Behold That Star* Traditional Spiritual, arr. H.T. Burleigh

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

Jesus our Light, with the wise men of old we offer our treasure to you. May this Christmas be more than opening presents: this Christmas, may we open our hearts and minds to your Presence. Be born in us today: guide our faith from infancy to maturity; lead us beyond the concerns of the moment to those of eternity. Renew our spirits, and strengthen us to be your body in your world, through the indwelling power of your Holy Spirit. AMEN.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER *God's Offering to God's People*

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING and INTERCESSION

Hymnal p. 13

THE LORD'S PRAYER "debts"

Hymnal p. 16

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please come to the table and dip the bread in the cup

THANKSGIVING AFTER THE COMMUNION no. 597

sung and spoken

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

And forget not all God's benefits.

Let us pray:

God our help: we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your holy child Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Christ, and pledge ourselves to serve you and the world you so love, even as in Christ you have served us. AMEN.

✚ **HYMN IN RECESSIO** no. 63

As with Gladness Men of Old

✚ **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 music to the glory of God.*

Jeremiah 31:7-14 NRSV

Thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
‘Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.’

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labour, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

John 1:1-14 NRSV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Announcements

Visitors, welcome! Please join us after worship for refreshments and conversation, and please sign the guest book in the back of the Sanctuary so that we may get to know you better.

Today is the third anniversary of Vince Peterson's first worship service with us!

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

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember: 1/3—Olive Buerk; 1/10—Emma Kirk Beck; 1/17—Edward Norstrand; 1/24—Leinda Mouacdie; 1/31—Virginia Villano.

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: New York City Presbytery, Rob Meadows-Rogers, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also the family and friends of Nellie; Donna, Janet, Geraldine, John and the Vandermarcq family, Mary, Jane, Helen, Sally.

January Food Bank: People are still hungry, and the food banks still need food! The food collection box is on the table in the Sanctuary vestibule.

This Week and Ongoing

Support group for parents of children with special needs first Mondays, 11-1: call Isabel Morales 800.405.8818 if you or a friend would be interested: tomorrow, January 4, is the next.

The next Taizé evensong service is this Tuesday, January 5.

Plain Living and High Thinking Next Saturday, January 9: Budget process meeting 8-11:30am in the Parish House, and the inevitable Dismantling of the Greens, until next year, beginning at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. All hands are appreciated for these unlovely, necessary tasks.

Memorial Service for Arabella Meadows-Rogers Saturday, January 9 at 1pm at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, Madison Avenue at 73rd St in the city. Rev Speers is going and has room in her car for three other people. Please see her if you would like to join her in representing Union Church at this service honoring our former Executive Presbyter, who battled pancreatic cancer for two years and whose stalwart faith and service in this adversity are an example and an inspiration for us all.

Fortnightly Tuesday Bible Study meets January 13 at 7pm in the Parish House.

Wednesday midweek, midday Bible Study resumes January 14

Yoga continues on Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 in the Sanctuary. No experience or advance registration is needed for this gentle, restorative rasa yoga class. Each evening is \$15, pay as you go; wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel and a yoga mat if you have one.

Looking to the Future

Newsletter deadline (for Feb-March including most of Lent) January 18

Celebrate the 20th anniversary of Rev Speers's ordination, Sunday, January 24 in 11am worship with special coffee hour to follow (the actual anniversary is January 20).

Session meets January 25 at 7pm in the Parish House

Annual Congregational Meeting with election of officers Sunday, February 7

Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday, which is February 17 this year

Sunday February 21: First Sunday in Lent

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