

Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard

February 1, 2009



M A R K 1 : 2 7

Parish House, Bay Ridge-Union Center for the Arts (BRUCA) and Office

8101 Ridge Boulevard, 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, Administrator and Playgroup Director

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 with us regularly for Christian worship, nurture, and the doing of God's work in the world—
that you may have life, and that more abundantly.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

IV 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

from Psalm 111

The works of God’s hands are faithful and just;

All the precepts of God are trustworthy.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

The praise of the LORD endures forever. Let us worship God!

+HYMN no. 276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

PRAYER OF PREPARATION *a prayer of a Nigerian Christian* (The Oxford Book of Prayer)

God in heaven, you have helped my life to grow like a tree. Now something has happened. A bird called Satan has carried in one twig at a time. Before I knew it, Satan had built a dwelling place and was living in it. Today, loving God, I am throwing out both the bird and the nest...

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

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

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

+RESPONSE (*tune is no. 369*): Hallelujah! means “Praise the Lord!” African-American spiritual

1. **Glory, glory, hallelujah! since I laid my burden down,**

(refrain) **Glory, glory, hallelujah! since I laid my burden down.**

2. **I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down,** (refrain)

3. **Feel like shouting, “Hallelujah!” since I laid my burden down,** (refrain)

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

please turn and share the Peace of Christ with your neighbors

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *Hymnal no. 322* ***Spirit of the Living God***
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me...melt me, mold me, fill me, use me...

I Samuel 3:15-4:1a

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, ‘Samuel, my son.’ He said, ‘Here I am.’ ¹⁷Eli said, ‘What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.’ ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, ‘It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.’ ¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. ²¹The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord. ^{1a}And the word of Samuel came to all Israel.

Mark 1:16-28

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, ‘What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.’ ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be silent, and come out of him!’ ²⁶And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, ‘What is this? A new teaching? With authority he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.’ ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Thomas Norstrand
in loving memory of Virginia Villano

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.

Many thanks to all worship leaders: Vince Peterson and the choir; Lynn Penney for today's refreshments; Mary Cusack (Communion 'bishop') Kristin Miller (coffee hour 'bishop') and Michele DiBartolo (Sunday school 'bishop').

February is Black History Month, with a variety of music and prayers from Africa and the African Diaspora. Watch closely, because some of these will surprise you!

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember: 2/1—Virginia Villano; 2/8—Viola Ferretti; 2/15—Susan Ulliyette; 2/22—Emma Smith; 3/1—Alice Seely; 3/8—June Aram; 3/15—Severin Norstrand; 3/22—Janet Louisa; 3/29—Helene Ogurek.

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

Continue to pray for peace; 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: the loved ones of Barbara Briggs, Maryellen Van Royen and the Douglass family; the Moore family, the Attara family, the Peterson family, the Cleary family in their new home, Art Samuel and Mary Chamberlain, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Helen and Paul, Ed, Mark and Audrey, Helen, Wendy, Sally.

The food collection box is in the vestibule. Or visit www.freerice.com and www.thehungersite.com

This Week and Ongoing

Annual Congregational Meeting today, February 1, immediately following worship.

Wednesday midweek Bible Study, 11am at Redeemer-St John's Lutheran church, 939 83rd St.

Fortnightly Tuesday Bible Study meets Tuesday, February 10, at 7pm in the Parish House.

The group is studying the letters of Paul in the New Testament.

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: Wednesday, **Feb 4** is the first anniversary of the group, so the February meeting will take place on that date instead, returning to its regular first Monday time March 2 and onwards.

Yoga continues on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 in the Sanctuary. Each class 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

Next Taizé Evensong is this Thursday, February 5 at 7pm.

Lent begins—as always—with **Ash Wednesday, February 25** at Bay Ridge United Church. This Lent, our Sunday readings focus on covenants in the Bible, our programs explore aspects of peace in the Bible, so our Lenten theme is...*Covenants of Peace*. Stay tuned for more details...

Reflective Saturday in Lent Feb 28: *Peace is Healing* with massage, yoga, healing prayer

Sunday March 1, *God's Covenant of Peace with All People*, Mystery Pal Exchange, and

Communion with guest Rev. Mieke Vandersall of Presbyterian Welcome; Mary Cusack to sing;

Mieke will present the special Communion chalice given to all Presbyterian Welcome churches.

Looking for a *positive* spiritual practice for Lent? Consider singing in the choir! Or join in just to sing in the March 15 concert: the Fauré *Requiem*. See Vince Peterson for details.