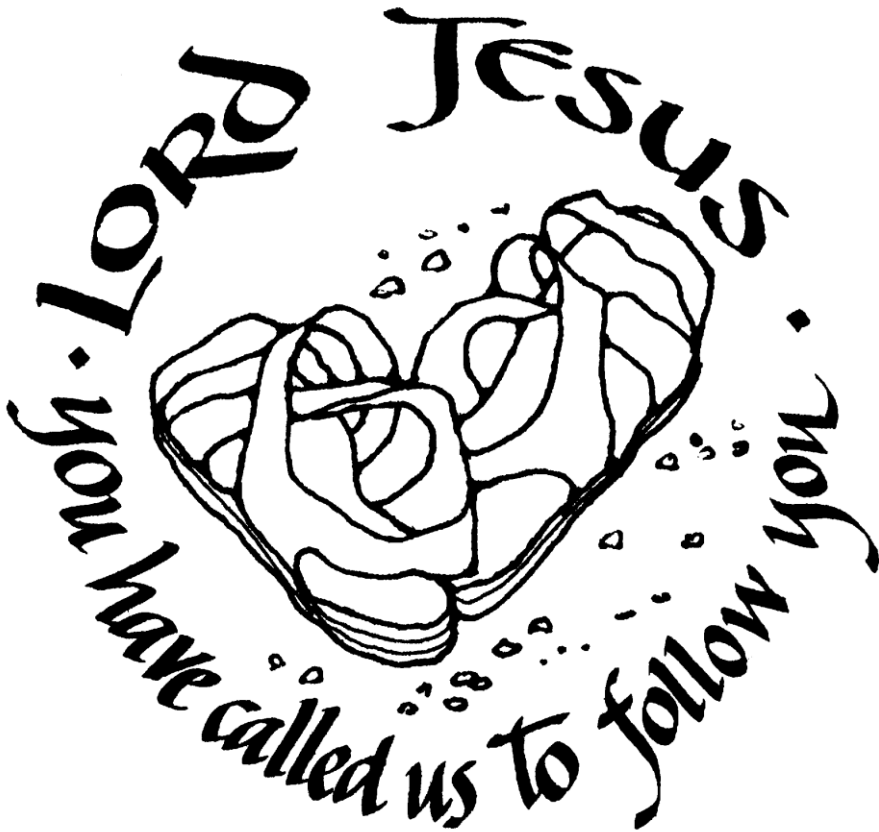


Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York

VI Epiphany
February 8, 2009



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

8101 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11209

718.745.0438 www.ucbr.org www.bruca.org unionchurch@earthlink.net

The Reverend Mary Barrett Speers, Pastor ❖ Vince Peterson, Minister of Music

Ed Huml, BRUCA Program Director ❖ Jody Levine, Administrator and Playgroup Director

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *new 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 Samuel 4:1b-11**

ANTHEM *Sing 'til the Power of the Lord Comes Down* Traditional

SECOND LESSON: **Mark 1:29-39**

SERMON **Power Sources** Rev. Speers

+HYMN no. **367** *from Ghana* ***Jesu, Jesu***

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDER

To be ordained and installed to the Class of 2012: Maryellen Van Royen

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST *please exchange the Peace of Christ with this new elder and your neighbors*

OFFERTORY *Sign Me Up!* Kevin Yancey and Jerome Metcalf

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

Merciful God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our trust in you. You alone know our hearts, and you more than any human being love us. May this act of giving draw us closer to you, and spread a table of bounty before all who come closer to you through our sharing, in Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+HYMN no. **315** *with the third verse as follows* ***Every Time I Feel the Spirit***

***Oh I have sorrows, and I have woe, and I have heartaches here below:
But my God leads me, I'm in God's care, and I can feel God ev'rywhere.
Every time I feel the Spirit, etc.***

+CHARGE AND BENEDICTION...and let the whole church say, **Alleluia! Amen.**

MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH

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 musicians offer their music to the glory of God.

+all who would like to may stand; unison prayers are in bold.

LENT: UNION CHURCH & BAY RIDGE CHURCHES

Beyond the recent TV commercial, the Biblical Hebrew word SHALOM (which shares with Arabic the Semitic root SLM) has many meanings. It means peace, but it also means wholeness, health, well-being, prosperity, all the beautiful things that can happen...

*...when everyone has enough, and everyone who has enough
is satisfied with what they have.*

Our lectionary for Lent in Year B explores the sequence of covenants that God makes with human beings in the Bible. This year, we explore some of those meanings in our worship, special events, and Thursday evening “loaves and fishes” supper programs (bring a bag supper for yourself plus something to share), exploring God’s covenants of peace in our series “Peace Is...”

Wednesday, February 25: Ash Wednesday the first day of Lent: we give up “alleluias”
7:30 pm at Bay Ridge United Church, 636 BR Pkwy 11209 718.836.4978

Saturday, February 28: Peace Is...Healing
9am-12:30pm in the Sanctuary, massage, yoga, healing prayer: come share with others what heals you!

Sunday, March 1: Peace Is...Justice for All
11am Presbyterian Welcome Celebration, Communion

Thursday, March 5: Peace Is...a Full Heart
6:30pm “loaves and fishes” supper and Taizé evensong

Thursday, March 12: Peace Is...Understanding
6:30pm “loaves and fishes” supper: Come hear about the 4th Ave Church Christian-Muslim Sunday School!

Thursday, March 19: Peace Is...Justice for All
6:30pm “loaves and fishes” supper: come hear what’s been happening at the Church of Gethsemane!

Thursday, March 26: Peace Is...Understanding
6:30pm “loaves and fishes” supper: Bruce MacIntyre talks about the Brooklyn College choir at the Peking Olympics!

Monday, March 30: Peace Is...All Have Enough
6pm soup at Our Saviour’s, 80th and 4th Ave, joint program with St Andrew the Apostle and others; BRUCA hopes to donate for Empty Bowls fundraiser!

Thursday, April 2: Peace Is...a Full Heart
6:30pm “loaves and fishes” supper and Taizé evensong

Sunday, April 5: Palm/Passion Sunday 11 am worship with communion

Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday Supper
6:30pm intergenerational model seder with storytelling, singing, and a meal, culminating in the Lord’s Supper

Friday, April 10: Good Friday Tenebrae
7:30pm traditional Tenebrae with the Lord’s Supper, Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church, 6753 4th Avenue 11220 718.836.0681

Saturday, April 11: Easter Vigil
8pm Redeemer-St John’s Lutheran Church, 939 83rd St 11228 718.883.7700

Sunday, April 12: Easter Day!
11am festival worship with communion, special music, and...alleluias!

I Samuel 4:1b-11 NRSV

In those days the Philistines mustered for war against Israel, and Israel went out to battle against them; they encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. ²The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle was joined, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. ³When the troops came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, “Why has the LORD put us to rout today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD here from Shiloh, so that he may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.” ⁴So the people sent to Shiloh, and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. ⁵When the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. ⁶When the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, “What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?”

When they learned that the ark of the LORD had come to the camp, ⁷the Philistines were afraid; for they said, “Gods have come into the camp.” They also said, “Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. ⁸Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. ⁹Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, in order not to become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight.” ¹⁰So the Philistines fought; Israel was defeated, and they fled, everyone to his home. There was a very great slaughter, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. ¹¹The ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

Mark 1:30-39 NRSV

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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; the Van Royen family for today's refreshments; Mary Cusack (outgoing 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: 2/8—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 Dodge family, the Douglass family, the Attara family, the Peterson family; the Cleary family, Art Samuel and Mary Chamberlain, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Bob and Louise, 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

Next Sunday, February 15 at 4pm: Union Church Concerts presents Westminster Choral Scholars of Westminster Choir College under the direction of Tom Colao. Freewill offering.

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

Fortnightly Tuesday Bible Study meets this Tuesday, February 10, at 7pm in the Parish House. The group is studying the letters of Paul in the New Testament: I Thess next.

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: March 2 is the next meeting.

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

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: "Peace Is..."***

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.

Lenten Suppers will be on Thursdays this year, with "loaves and fishes" supper at 6:30pm followed by program at 7pm. The full schedule for ***Covenants of Peace: "Peace Is..."*** is in your newsletter, on our website www.ucbr.org, and on the insert in this bulletin.

Maundy Thursday will again be a model seder, this time for all Bay Ridge Presbyterian churches, **here at Union Church on Thursday, April 9, beginning at 6:30pm.**

More Lenten events will appear here as space opens up...

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.