

Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

February 22, 2009



Drawing by Ben Segna, proud father of Jack

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

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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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

TRANSFIGURATION: LAST SUNDAY IN 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

adapted from **II Corinthians 4:5-6**

We do not proclaim ourselves;

we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord—

And ourselves servants to one another for Jesus’ sake.

God said, “Let light shine out of darkness,”

the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

✚HYMN (*insert*)

I Believe This Is Jesus

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of grace and glory, we thank you for coming to dwell among us as the Christ, the light of the world. But Jesus calls *us* to be the light of the world, and you know all the ways in which our light is faint and flickering. We lift up to *your* light those times when we find reasons to turn away from the needy; to be skeptical of cries for justice; to be too busy to strive for peace. In the fullness of your mercy, cleanse us of fear and self-reproach, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, so that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ...

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

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

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

SUNG RESPONSE *please sing the chorus only of...* new Hymnal #341 ***Blessed Assurance***

This is my story, this is my song, praising my savior all the day long...

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: II Kings 2:1-15

Ruth Ward

ANTHEM

Wade in the Water

Traditional, arr. William L. Dawson

SECOND LESSON: Mark 9:2-13, 33-37

SERMON

The Way Down the Mountain

Rev. Mary Speers

✚*all who would like to may stand; unison prayers and songs are in bold.*

+SUNG PROFESSION OF FAITH no. 137 *(based on the Nicene Creed)* ***We All Believe***

+THE RENUNCIATIONS *from the earliest Baptismal rite, and common to the Church Universal*

Do you renounce all evil, and powers in the world that defy God's righteousness and love?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin, which separate you from the love of God?

I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior?

I do.

Do you further covenant and promise, with the aid of the Holy Spirit,
to be Christ's faithful disciple to your life's end:

to trust in Christ in all things, to obey Christ's word and show Christ's love;

to continue in the peace and fellowship of the Body of Christ;

to make diligent use of the means of grace;

to give of your substance as the Lord may prosper you;

and to give your whole heart to the service of Christ

and the Kingdom of God throughout the world?

Yes, with God's help, I do. AMEN.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Jack Tulsa Segna, child of Ben and Jennifer Segna

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

please share the Peace of Christ with your neighbors

OFFERTORY

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

You call to us to follow you, O Christ, and to find new ways to convey our joy to 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 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 IN RECESSION no. 299

Amen, Amen

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

This is our last Alleluia until Easter! Lent always begins Ash Wednesday, which is this Wednesday.

MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH *please keep silence for those who wish to listen or pray.*

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
in celebration of the baptism of Jack Tulsa Segna, by his parents, Jennifer and Ben**

LENT 2009: 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, serenity, 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, prayer: share 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!

Sunday, March 15: Peace Is...Eternal Life

4pm choral concert with orchestra “The Soul...Rising”: Fauré *Requiem* and others

Thursday, March 19: Peace Is...Understanding

6:30pm “loaves and fishes” supper: Bruce MacIntyre talks about the Brooklyn College choir at the Beijing Olympics!

Thursday, March 26: Peace Is...Justice for All

6:30pm “loaves and fishes” supper: come hear what’s been happening at the Church of Gethsemane!

Monday, March 30: Peace Is...All Have Enough

6pm soup at Our Saviour’s, 80th and 4th Ave. joint hunger awareness supper with St Andrew the Apostle and other Bay Ridge churches.

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!

II Kings 2:1-15

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

⁴ Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' ¹⁰He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

¹³ He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, 'Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?' When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

¹⁵ When the company of prophets who were at Jericho saw him at a distance, they declared, 'The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.' They came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Mark 9:2-13; 33-37

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’ ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. ¹¹Then they asked him, ‘Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?’ ¹²He said to them, ‘Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? ¹³But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written about him.’

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the way?’ ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’ ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’

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 may have life, and that more abundantly.

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; Jill Stoler for today's refreshments; Mary Cusack (outgoing Communion 'bishop') Kristin Miller (coffee hour 'bishop') and Michele DiBartolo (Sunday school 'bishop').

Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Window Rededication 4pm today with grand coffee hour; their windows were destroyed in the Bay Ridge Tornado in August, 2007

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember: 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

Session meets tomorrow at 7pm in the Parish House with both **outgoing and incoming elders.**

This Week and Ongoing

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

Fortnightly Tuesday Bible Study meets every other Tuesday at 7pm in the Parish House.

The group is studying the letters of Paul in the New Testament: next meeting this week, Feb 24.

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..."***

Lent Reflective Saturday 9-12am Feb 28: *Peace is Healing* with massage, yoga, healing prayer

Next 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.

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*. First rehearsal next Sunday at 12:30pm.