

Welcome to the

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

## March 1, 2009



Noah, from the School of the Sacred Heart, Jersey City, New Jersey

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

8101 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11209

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

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.*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT ❖ MARCH 1, 2009

### 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 a tenth-century African hymn*

The cross is the way of the lost,  
The cross is the staff of the lame.  
The cross is the strength of the weak,  
**The cross is the hope of the hopeless.**  
The cross is the freedom of the slave,  
The cross is the water of the seeds.  
The cross is the spring for those who seek water,  
**The cross is the cloth of the naked.**

### ✚HYMN no. 371 *(no procession in Lent)*

*Lift High the Cross*

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Mysterious God, we give you thanks for your constancy no matter how many times, and in what ways, we have broken your covenant with us. We are grateful for life and love and all the many blessings you shower down upon the just and the unjust alike. In these days of Lent, bind us closer to you and to all your children. Take us beyond the sins we think too much about, and direct our attention to the sins we never notice because we are used to them. In your mercy, lead us through repentance and restitution to resurrection, the abundant life of the Way of the Cross of Jesus Christ our Lord...**

### SILENT PRAYER

**KYRIE no. 395** *first verse: from El Himnario, 1964*  
*(March is Latin American History Month)*

*Piedad/Take Pity, Lord*

### 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 no. 341...* *from Blessed Assurance*  
*This is my story, this is my song, praising my savior all the day long...*

✚**THE PEACE OF CHRIST** *please offer the Peace of Christ to these elders and your neighbors*

### GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GIFT OF CHALICE**

Rev. Mieke Vandersall and Candidate Derrick McQueen for Presbyterian Welcome;  
Elder Mary Cusack and Rev. Mary Speers for Union Church

**SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** *(new for Lent)* **Draw Me Close to You**

*Draw me close to you, never let me go;  
I lay it all down again to hear you say that I'm your friend.  
Help me find the way; bring me back to you:*

*You're all I want, you're all I've ever needed, you're all I want: help me know you are near.*

**FIRST LESSON** **Mark 1:9-15**

**ANTHEM** *Here's Where I Stand* Mary Cusack, soprano Lynn Ahrens/Michael Gore

**SECOND LESSON** **Genesis 9:8-17**

**SERMON** Rev. Vandersall

**+HYMN** no. 272 **God of the Sparrow**

**OFFERTORY** *Jesus, Give Us Your Peace* Scott Morwitz, tenor Michael Mahler

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

**Merciful God, we dedicate these offerings 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.**

**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*

**PRAYER OF RESOLUTION** no. 597 *an Appalachian melody*

*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 gives 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** no. 514 *(no recession in Lent)* **Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

**+CHARGE AND BLESSING** no "Alleluias" in Lent ...let the church say simply, **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 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Church Christian-Muslim Sunday School!

**Thursday, March 19: Peace Is...Understanding**

6:30pm “loaves and fishes” supper: Bruce MacIntyre talks about the Brooklyn College choir at the Peking 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, 80<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue 11220 718.836.0681

**Saturday, April 11: Easter Vigil**

8pm Redeemer-St John’s Lutheran Church, 939 83<sup>rd</sup> St 11228 718.883.7700

**Sunday, April 12: Easter Day!**

11am festival worship with communion, special music, and...alleluias!

## Mark 1:9-15 NRSV

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**I**n those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

## Genesis [8:13,18-19 and] 9:8-17 NRSV

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*In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. <sup>18</sup>So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. <sup>19</sup>And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.*

**T**hen God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' <sup>12</sup>God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God  
by Jeanne and Donald Pape, in loving memory of her aunt Alice Seely**

**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:** Rev. Mieke Vandersall and Candidate Derrick McQueen of Presbyterian Welcome, Vince Peterson, Mary Cusack, Scott Morwitz, and the choir; Mary Chamberlain, Communion Elder and imprecarina of today's refreshments; Kristin Miller (coffee hour 'bishop') and Michele DiBartolo (Sunday school 'bishop').

**We are sad to announce the death of Walter Boll** in Carmel, NY, where the Boll-Gamaliy family moved a few years ago. Condolences may be sent to Ruth Boll and Carolyn and Chris Gamaliy, 88 Concord Road, Carmel, NY 10512.

**The Book of Remembrance** is open to remember: 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 Boll-Gamaliy family, the Dodge family, the Douglass 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.

**This Week, Ongoing, and Future Happenings**

**Lenten Mystery Pals:** please fill out a slip as you arrive. The drawing of names for your Mystery Pal will take place after worship today, **March 1**.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** is the annual Lenten offering of the World Council of Churches; Union Church joins with the rest of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in this worldwide mission effort. Children have boxes in which to save allowance money and collect offerings from family and friends (like UNICEF boxes at Hallowe'en), and adults may use the pew envelopes or send a check to the office. Session will announce our Union Church total on **Easter Sunday, April 12**.

**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](http://www.ucbr.org), and on the insert in this bulletin.

**Taizé evensong** this Thursday is our first "Loaves and Fishes" Lenten Supper program at 6:30 pm.

**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 12:30pm today!

**Sunday, March 15 at 4pm:** Fauré Requiem, & 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>c. works for orchestra, choir, and soloists.

**Maundy Thursday** is a model seder with communion, here at Union Church April 9 @ 6:30 pm.

**Wednesday midweek Bible Study**, 11am at Redeemer-St John's Lutheran church, 939 83<sup>rd</sup> 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 March 10.

**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** 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.

**Next Session Meeting Monday, March 23, at 7pm** in the Parish House.