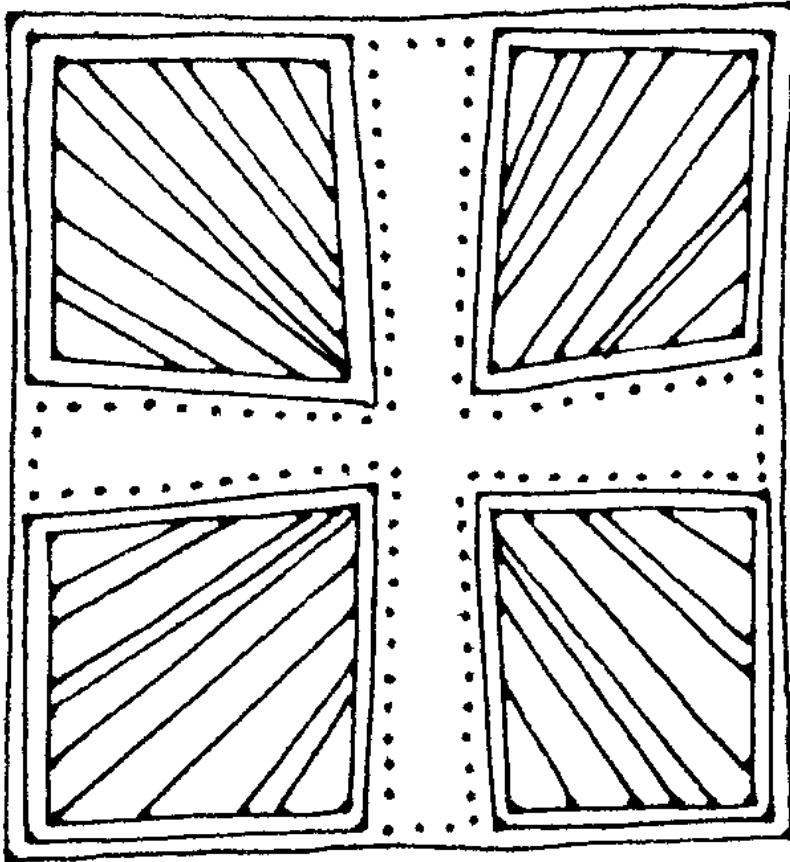


Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

March 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

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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 I Corinthians 1:18 & 25

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,

But to those being rescued it is the power of God:

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,

And the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

✚HYMN *(insert, no procession or recession in Lent)*

I Am Thine, O Lord

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Blessed Lord, 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*

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

LENTEN PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *Draw Me Close to You* Kelly Carpenter

Draw me close to you, never let me go:

I lay it all down again to hear you say that I'm your friend.

You are my desire, no one else will do:

'Cause nothing else could take your place, to feel the warmth of your embrace

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 **Genesis 17:1-7,15-17**

ANTHEM no. 86 *When We Are Tempted to Deny Your Son* David Romig/Louis Bourgeois

SECOND LESSON **Mark 8:31-38**

SERMON **How Do You Get to Carnegie Hall?** Rev. Speers

✚**HYMN** (insert) ***At the Cross (Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed)***

OFFERTORY *Verleih uns Frieden* Felix Mendelssohn

✚ **DOXOLOGY** no. 592 and **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** a prayer of Ignatius Loyola, 16c.
Take, Lord, all our freedom. Receive our memory, our understanding, and our will. Whatever we possess, you have given to us: to you we restore it wholly. We give ourselves to your direction. If you but give us the grace to love you, we are rich enough. We ask this in Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS and **PASTORAL PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal p. 16: "debts"

✚**HYMN** (insert, with 2 new verses by Jane Parker Huber) ***The God of Abraham Praise***

✚**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.*

Genesis 17:1-7,15-17 NRSV

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.' ¹⁷Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, 'Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?'

Mark 8:31-38 NRSV

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

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 preparers of 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: 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, Art Samuel and Mary Chamberlain, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also the Johnson family, Donald (Jr.) and Grace Zarou, Bob and Louise, Helen and Paul, Ed, Mark and Audrey, Helen, Wendy, Sally.

Lenten Mystery Pals: If you didn't pick up a slip last week, please do so this week. Remember, if you want to HAVE a Mystery Pal, you must also BE a Mystery pal!

Easter Lily Order Forms are on the back table. Please order extras for the garden!

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 are on Thursdays this year, with "loaves and fishes" supper (bring a bag supper for yourself plus something to share) at 6:30pm, followed by program at 7pm. The full schedule for *Covenants of Peace: "Peace Is..."* is on the back table, or visit www.ucbr.org.

March is Latin American and Women's History Month. Your bulletin is a scavenger hunt!

This Week, Ongoing, and Future Happenings

Program and Mission Committee meets tomorrow at 6:30 pm in the Parish House.

Deadline for April-May Newsletter is Monday, March 16.

THIS Thursday, March 12: Peace Is...Understanding 6:30pm "loaves and fishes" supper:

Come hear about the 4th Ave Church Christian-Muslim Sunday School!

NEXT Sunday, March 15 at 4pm: The Soul...Rising, Lenten concert includes Fauré *Requiem* and works for orchestra, choir, and soloists by Palestrina, Mendelssohn, Vaughan Williams.

Rehearsals for the March 15 concert: 12:30-3pm today; next Saturday, March 14th, 12noon to 4pm (rehearsal with orchestra); Sunday, March 15th singers' call 1:30, performance 4pm.

Maunder Thursday is an intergenerational "model seder" re-enactment of the Last Supper Passover meal, with supper and communion, here at Union Church April 9 @ 6:30 pm.

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: **this Tuesday, March 10.**

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

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.