

Welcome to the

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

March 15, 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](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

### THIRD 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 Colossians 2:12-14*

When we were buried with Christ in baptism, we were also raised with Christ

**Through faith in the power of God, who raised Jesus from the dead.**

And when we were dead, in our old ways, God made us alive together with Christ,

**Forgiving us, erasing the record against us, setting it all aside,**

**Nailing it to the cross.**

#### ✚HYMN no. 169 (*no procession in Lent*)

*for Malcolm T. **The Lord’s My Shepherd***

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**O Lord, you are our dwelling place. Your goodness never fails, no matter how many times, and in what ways, we have broken your covenant with us. For yes, here we are again, your beloved children, caught in the brambles of our fears and resentments, afraid to trust you, and determined to play it safe. We ask your forgiveness, and your good direction. Show us the right way to see our lives. 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 22:1-18**

**ANTHEM**

**SECOND LESSON** **John 2:13-22**

**SERMON** **Caught in the Brambles** Rev. Speers

✚**HYMN** no. 296 *Camina, Pueblo de Dios/Walk On, O People of God*

**OFFERTORY** *Nada Te Turbe* Daniel Delaney, cello Theresa of Avila/Joan Szymko

✚**DOXOLOGY** no. 592 and **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** a prayer of Brigid of Ulster d 523

**O Lord, you who give increase to all things: bless, O God of unbounded greatness, this storehouse with your right hand. May this storehouse be a storehouse of bright testimony, a storehouse in which plenty shall abound. The glory of Christ is the glory of the universe. May that glory be ever multiplied, and returned to Christ, in whose name we pray. 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** no. 339

*Be Thou My Vision*

✚**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.**

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God  
by the Norstrand family, in loving memory of Severin Norstrand**

**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; Mary Chamberlain for 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: 3/15—Severin Norstrand; 3/22—Janet Louisa; 3/29—Helene Ogurek.

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

**We are sad to announce the death of Elder Malcolm Tannahill** last Sunday, March 8. Condolences may be sent to his widow, Eva Tannahill, 107 Battery Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11209.

**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 family and friends of Malcolm Tannahill, 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.

**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. 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](http://www.ucbr.org).

**Today we add Celtic heritage** to Latin American and Women's History Month!

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

**TODAY at 4pm: The Soul...Rising: Fauré *Requiem* and 16-20c. works in concert**

**THIS Thursday, March 19: Peace Is...Understanding** 6:30pm "loaves and fishes" supper:

Come hear about the Brooklyn College Choir trip to sing at the Beijing Olympics!

**GARDEN CLEANUP Sunday March 29 after worship!** Wear jeans to church, stay to spruce up the garden for Palm Sunday (April 5) and Easter (April 12)! Many hands make light work, have fun with your Union Church family, and meet the neighbors. (Rain date Saturday April 4.)

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

**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: **Tuesday, March 24.**

**Wednesday midweek Bible Study,** 11am at Redeemer-St John's Lutheran church, 939 83<sup>rd</sup> 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: **April 6** 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.

## **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 “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!

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

4pm Lenten Concert “The Soul...Rising”: Fauré *Requiem* and works from 16-20c.

**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!

## **Genesis 22:1-14 NRSV**

---

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' <sup>2</sup>He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' <sup>6</sup>Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. <sup>7</sup>Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together. <sup>9</sup>When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' <sup>12</sup>He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' <sup>13</sup>And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'

## **John 2:13-22 NRSV**

---

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.