

Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

March 29, 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

FIFTH 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 Psalm 51: 6 and 12

○ LORD, you desire truth, steadfastness even where it cannot be seen:

Therefore teach us wisdom in our secret hearts.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation:

Sustain in us a willing and generous spirit.

+HYMN no. 311

We Meet You, O Christ

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord our Hope, your promises alone are true. Your goodness never fails, no matter how many times, and in what ways, we have broken your covenant with us. Forgive us for running from you in our fear and self-reproach. Bring us back, Loving God. Help us to see our lives as you see them, and not as we imagine them to be. 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 **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

ANTHEM *Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake* John Hilton (the elder), d. 1608

SECOND LESSON **John 12:20-32**

SERMON **The Germinator** Rev. Speers

✚**HYMN** no. 374 ***Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace***

OFFERTORY *There Is a Balm in Gilead* traditional, arr. William Dawson

✚**DOXOLOGY** no. 592

✚**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** a prayer of Ignatius Loyola, 16c. Spanish

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, as in Lift Up Your Hearts (PCUSA 1999)* ***In the Bulb There Is a Flower***

✚**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** 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.*

Jeremiah 31:31-34 NRSV

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12:20-32 NRSV

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. ²⁷‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ ³⁰Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
by Edward Norstrand, in loving memory of his sister, Helene Norstrand Ogurek**

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; Juan Handal 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: 3/29—Helene Ogurek; 4/5—Dorothy Simmons; 4/12—Mildred Anderson; 4/19—Laurel Cogan; 4/26—Mary Nell Norstrand; 5/3—Mildred (Sue) Watson; 5/10—Clara Yagian; 5/17—Edith Jensen; 5/24—Charles Masterson; 5/31—Laura Cramer.

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 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: Art Samuel and Mary Chamberlain, the family and friends of Malcolm Tannahill, the Boll-Gamaliy family, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Libeth, Hughes, and the Vandermarcq family; 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.**

This Week, the Rest of Lent, and Ongoing and Future Happenings

GARDEN CLEANUP and **PEW RACK FIXING TODAY after worship!** (Rain date Sat April 4.)

TODAY at 2pm: our alto section leader, Sara Dougherty, stars in Handel's *Radamisto* at Brooklyn College! See Bruce MacIntyre for details. Several of us are going after garden/pew cleanup.

TOMORROW at 6pm: Ecumenical Lenten Soup Supper for hunger awareness, with St Andrew's RC Church and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 80th Street and Fourth Avenue.

THIS Thursday, April 2: Peace Is...a Full Heart 6:30pm "loaves and fishes" supper, followed by First Thursday Taizé evensong in the Sanctuary.

Palm/Passion Sunday is next Sunday, April 5.

Support group for parents of children with special needs first Mondays, 11-1. next: **April 6 Fortnightly Tuesday Bible Study** next meeting is Tuesday, **April 7** at 7pm in the Parish House.

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.

Good Friday, April 10 @ 7:30pm Tenebrae and communion with Bay Ridge Presbyterian churches at Fourth Avenue Church, 6753 4th Avenue 11220 718.836.0681

Easter Vigil 8pm Saturday, April 11 Redeemer-St John's Lutheran Church, 939 83rd St.

11228 718.883.7700 Easter Vigil is an ancient, dramatic celebration of salvation history.

Easter is April 12! 11am Festival Worship with special music, communion and Alleluias!

April 19, the Sunday after Easter, L.I.E. Spring Gospel Concert at 4pm: Save the Date!