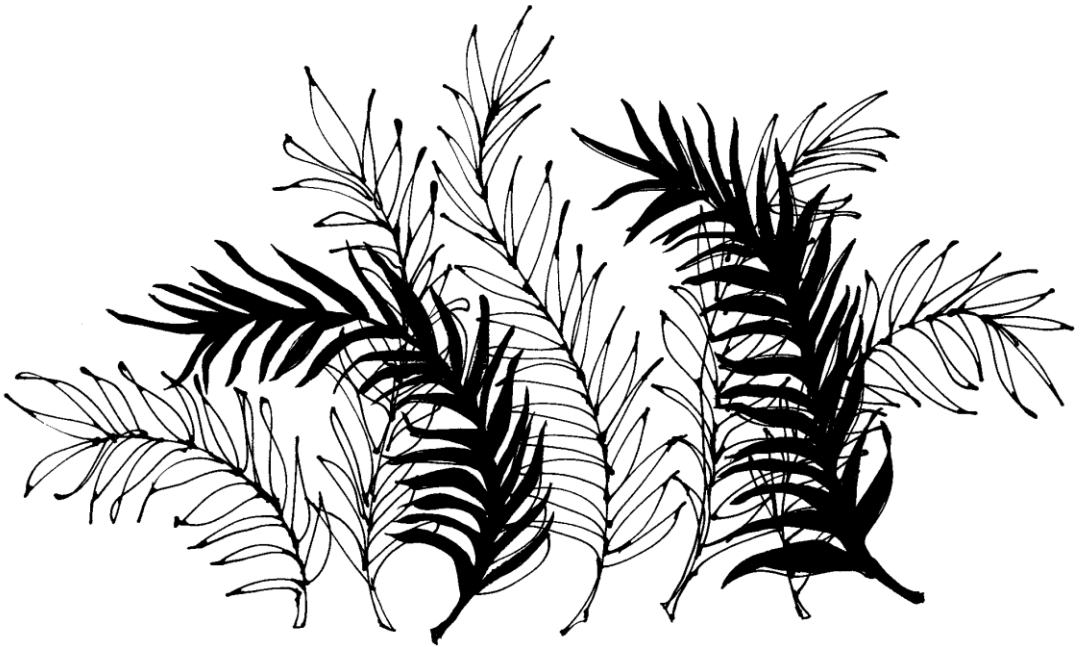


Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard

April 5, 2009



Palm-Passion Sunday

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

PALM~PASSION SUNDAY

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.

Please gather in the back of the Sanctuary with your palms:

✚CALL TO WORSHIP: John 12:9-17 *Hear how the Apostle John sets in context the story of the Palms...*

When the great crowd learned that Jesus was in Bethany outside Jerusalem, they came not only to see him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many people were deserting and believing in Jesus.

The next day the great crowd that had come to the Passover festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

**Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord:
the King of Israel!**

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

‘Do not be afraid, O daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming, sitting on the foal of a donkey!’

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify.

(It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.)

The Pharisees then said to one another, ‘You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!’

✚PRAYER RESPONSE: BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Rev. Speers

Almighty God, on this day your Son Jesus Christ came into the holy city of Jerusalem, and was hailed King by the people, as they waved their palm branches and spread their cloaks along his way.

On this day the earthly fate of Jesus was sealed, and his followers knew nothing of it.

Let these branches be for us reminders of his Passion and his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our Lord, and follow him in the Way of eternal life, for we pray in his strong name. AMEN.

Hosanna to the Son of David! **Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the Highest!**

✚**HYMN IN PROCESSION** no. 88 *all process with the choir* **All Glory, Laud and Honor**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of joy, God of sorrow, we confess that we like the safety and comfort of the crowds better than the risk of responsibility. We shout “hosanna” with everyone else, but, with Peter, when someone asks, “are you one of them?” we deny it. Lord, it is presumptuous even to ask that you forgive our fickleness—and yet the amazing truth is we know you already have. This week, we remember all you took upon yourself, only because you love us so. We believe Jesus came into the world to save sinners. We ask you to be patient with us, help us understand our own part in the sins of the world, and then pour out your forgiveness in such a way that, this very Easter, we are forever transformed, through Jesus Christ our Lord...

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE no. 573 *call-and-response—kyrie means lord in Greek—an ancient tradition*
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

✚**SUNG RESPONSE** *adapted from v. 3 of no. 89...* *tune: ELLACOMBE*

**Hosanna in the Highest! That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of Heaven our King.
O Praise the Holy Spirit with heart and life and voice:
Hosanna to our Savior, eternally rejoice!**

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

OFFERTORY

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

Loving God, we dedicate these gifts 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 us, in Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

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 **Isaiah 50:4-9a**

ANTHEM *Cantique de Jean Racine* Gabriel Fauré

SECOND LESSON **Philippians 2:5-11**

SERMON **The Reluctant King** Rev. Speers

✚COMMUNION HYMN no. 76 ***My Song Is Love Unknown***

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE *God's offering to God's people*

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING with responses as in the *Hymnal* p. 13

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Hymnal* p. 16: "debts"

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION

please come to the table and dip your 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. 371 ***Lift High the Cross***

✚CHARGE AND BENEDICTION ...and let the church say simply, **AMEN.**

MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH *please keep silence out of kindness to those who wish to listen or pray. This is an especially solemn day, and our musicians have asked that the congregation please refrain from applauding; they offer their music in devotion to God.*

✚all who would like to may stand; Unison prayers are in bold.

Isaiah 50:4-9a NRSV

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸The one who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Philippians 2:1-13 NRSV

If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a

slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should

confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but

much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Announcements

Visitors, welcome! Please join us after worship for refreshments and conversation, and please sign the Union Church guest book (at the back) so that we may get to know you better.

Many thanks to all worship leaders: Vince Peterson and the choir; the Van Royen family 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: 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; we join with the rest of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in this worldwide mission offering.

This week is Holy Week:

Maundy (Holy) Thursday 6:30pm April 9, here at Union Church

(intergenerational "model seder" and reenactment of the first Lord's Supper)

Good Friday, 7:30pm April 10, Fourth Avenue Church, 4th Ave at 67th Street

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

Easter is next Sunday, April 12!

Two Sundays from today: RESURRECTION! Gospel Extravaganza with the Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble, April 19 (Orthodox Easter) **at 4pm** featuring our own Mary Q/Zack.

Garden Cleanup for Easter: Many thanks to all who stayed last week, and to Ruby Moy, Kristin Miller, Mary Q/Zack, and all who gardened during the week. Keep picking up trash when you see it, and the garden will look wonderful for Easter!

Lenten Mystery Pals: Please remember your Mystery Pal this week. Are you going to be away on Easter (next Sunday)? Please make an alternative plan to reveal the mystery!

Looking to the Future

The spring term of BRUCA clay classes is beginning in our Parish House, running eight weeks through the beginning of June. Registration has already begun; reserve your place early.

Parents' and young children's potluck playtime Sunday, May 3 after worship in our Playgroup Space. If you have friends, neighbors, relatives with young children whom you would like to include in the invitation, please let **Jennifer Segna** know: her email address is jonesy_veve@hotmail.com. A great way to help young parents and children get to know each other, *and* introduce them to the **most fabulous playgroup room in Bay Ridge!**