

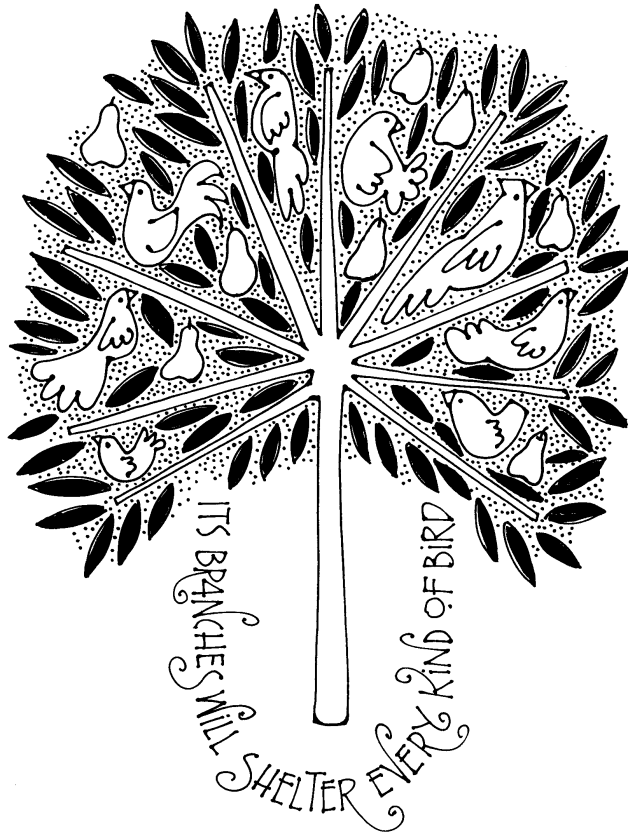
Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard

June 14, 2009



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

8101 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11209

718.745.0438

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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. Be aware of being together in silence with others. Feel the spirit of the community.

+CALL TO WORSHIP

from **Psalm 92**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

The righteous flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

In old age they still produce fruit;
The sap rises green within them.

+HYMN IN PROCESSION no. 288

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Giver of Life, the whole world is your holy temple; your creatures receive breath from you and cannot hide from you. Source of all mystery and awe, fountain of redeeming grace and goodness, we confess our shortcomings and our failures, in life and in faith. Burn away our frustration and our feelings of powerlessness. Wash from us all fear that closes our eyes to your face in our neighbor’s, all complacency that closes our ears to your call to change. Make us secure in your unending love, so that we freely turn from the wrong, and toward the right, trusting in your goodness and the guidance of your Spirit, that we may live in love and work for justice with all creation as we follow Jesus, to whom we are pledged, and in whose strong name we pray...

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

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

SUNG RESPONSE no. 576 *a Gloria ordinarily follows the Assurance. This one is from Taizé:*
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest...Alleluia, Alleluia.

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

please turn and share the Peace of Christ with your neighbors

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION no. 322

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; melt me, mold me, fill me, use me...

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 17:22-24

ANTHEM *Unser Lieben Frauen Traum* “Our Dear Lady’s Dream” Max Reger 1873-1916

SECOND LESSON: Mark 4:26-34

SERMON **Tree Huggers** Rev. Speers

+HYMN (*insert, to the tune SLANE “Be Thou My Vision”*) ***Pray for the Wilderness***

OFFERTORY *King Jesus Hath a Garden* Traditional Dutch

+DOXOLOGY no. 592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

You call to us to follow you, O Christ, and to find new ways to convey our joy to people everywhere. We offer our selves and our substance to do your work in the world, asking that you follow our offerings with your blessing, and keep us always in the guidance of your Holy Spirit. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

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 IN RECEPTION (*insert*) ***When We All Shall Walk Together***
Tune: When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder (provided on insert)

+CHARGE AND BLESSING

...and let the whole church say, **Alleluia! Amen.**

MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH *please keep silence for those who wish to worship or pray*

+all who would like to may stand; unison prayers are in bold.

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the Lord.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the Lord have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Mark 4:26-34

Jesus also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

³⁰ He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Pray for the Wilderness

(Dan Damon, 1989, tune: SLANE “Be Thou My Vision”)

Pray for the wilderness, vanishing fast,
Pray for the rain forest open and vast;
Pray for the people who live in the trees,
Pray for the planet brought down by degrees.

Learn from the elephant, eagle, and whale,
Learn from the dragonfly, spider, and snail;
Learn from the people in neighboring lands,
Learn from the children who play in their sands.

Work for the justice created things need,
Work for the health of each plant and each seed;
Work for the creatures abuse has betrayed,
Work for the garden God’s wisdom once made.

Trust that in God’s Christ overcame nails and wood,
Trust that earth’s people will turn to the good;
Trust that creation forever will grow,
Trust that God’s goodness to us overflows.

Pray for the atmosphere, pray for the sea,
Learn from the river, the rock, and the tree,
Work till *shalom* in full harmony rings,
Trust the connection of all living things.



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 might have life, and that more abundantly.

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; Maryellen Van Royen for today's refreshments (very light because the picnic is today).

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember: today, 6/14—Ruth Cranstoun; 6/21—Madeline Stutz; 6/28—Estelle McKay; 7/5—Alice Johnston; 7/12—Jennie Thompson; 7/19—Warren Dean; 7/26—David Alekel.

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

Continue to pray for the restoration of creation; 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: Edmundo Quinones for his upcoming surgery, Ruby Moy and her family, Arabella Meadows-Rogers, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Lynn, Geraldine, the family and friends of Jaye and Violet, the Vandermarcq family, Bob and Louise, Ed, Mark and Audrey, Helen, Wendy, Sally.

Upcoming Happenings and Opportunities

Thanks to Jennifer Segna for the **new, revitalized food pantry collection box**, and for the great “gimmick” of monthly themes! **June: Babies (ask her about it) and July: All American.**

This afternoon: Strawberry Fields Picnic at 79th St and Shore Road: bring a picnic dish and juice or soft drinks to serve 6 (8 if you have a big family), *bring your own folding chairs*, outdoor games if you have them. Ice, plates, cups, forks, spoons and knives provided. Strawberry-themed items, and anything red, including Union Church T-shirts, are particularly appropriate.

Next Sunday, June 21: Fathers' Day and Last Day in Sanctuary until Homecoming, September 13

Blood Drive Thursday, June 25 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 414 80th St, 3-8:30pm.

Please call ahead to schedule an appointment 800.933.2566 (NYBC).

Yoga continues through most of June 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. Summer schedule begins the last **Tuesday** of June, running **Tuesdays 6:45-8:15 in July and August** in the air-conditioned chapel of the Parish House.

Looking to the Future

Union Church T-shirts will be ready June 23 (wear them to the Pride march with Presbyterian Welcome (see below), also for Cyclones in August...)

Sunday, June 28: 10am Summer Worship begins in our air conditioned Parish House Chapel.

Then join Jill Stoler, Rev Speers, and other Union Church friends with Presbyterian Welcome in the **40th Anniversary of Stonewall LGBT Pride** parade. Look for a link on **www.ucbr.org**

BRUCA adult clay classes will run ten weeks for the price of eight (2 free weeks to accommodate vacations); **Clay Camp**, and **Clay Play Extravaganza** for toddlers, are forming for the summer.

Wedding shower for Elizan Morales and Areliz Perez **July 12!** Watch your bulletin for details...

Brooklyn Cyclones Union Church outing in August, ask Evan and Joe Lynch, Cyclones 'bishops'.