

Welcome to the

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

## Summer Worship in the Chapel

*The earth has yielded  
its increase;  
God, our God,  
has*

PSALM 67

*blessed  
us.*



## September 6, 2009

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

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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 might have life, and that more abundantly.**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### GATHERING MUSIC

#### +CALL TO WORSHIP

*from Psalm 149*

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth:

**Worship the LORD with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing:**

Know that the LORD is good; we are God's people, the sheep of God's hand.

**For the LORD our God is good, the steadfast love of God endures forever,**

**The faithfulness of God to all generations.**

#### +HYMN no. 489 *blue hymnal*

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Loving God, you believed in us before we were born.

You put us in families to teach us how to get along with people.

You send us animals to teach us unconditional love.

Every day you give us your whole world to care for.

Help us to trust you in return.

Help us to pay attention when your Spirit speaks.

Help us to say what you want us to say, and do what you want us to do.

Teach us real freedom. Help us to learn how wonderful it feels  
when we are swimming *with* the current of your will.

May our hearts beat with your heart,

dance with your dance,

and sing with your song,

through the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord...

### SILENT PRAYER

#### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

#### +GLORY TO GOD *a new one, from the Iona Community:*

***Glory and gratitude and praise Now let earth to heaven raise.***

***Glory and gratitude and praise: These we offer to God.***

#### +THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*please turn and share the Peace of Christ with your neighbors*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** *blue hymnal 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**      **Isaiah 35:4-7a**

**+HYMN** no. **380** *blue hymnal*

***O Christ the Healer***

**SECOND LESSON**      **Mark 7:31-37**

**SERMON**      **“Calvin, You Got Some ‘Splainin’ to Do”**

Rev. Dana Fenton

**+HYMN** no. **396** *blue hymnal*

***O For a Closer Walk with God***

## THE OFFERING

**+SONG OF PRAISE WITH THE OFFERING: *Heleluyan*** no. **595** *blue hymnal*  
*a new one, from the Muscogee Native American tribe. Heleluyan means “Hallelujah!” (or Alleluia in Latin) which means “Praise the Lord!”*

## 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 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

*blue hymnal p. 16: “debts”*

**+HYMN** no. **379** *blue hymnal*

***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less***

## +CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

## SENDING-FORTH MUSIC

### 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:** Rev. Dana Fenton (today's preacher), Vince Peterson, the preparers of today's refreshments; Maryellen Van Royen (Communion bishop) and Kristin Miller (coffee hour bishop). The birthday, flower, and reader (lector) signup sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the hall for the summer...and remember, it's TIME to sign up for the fall!

**Thanks to Jennifer Segna** for the **new, revitalized food collection box**, and for the great "gimmick" of monthly themes! **September is Back to School**, with peanut butter and jelly (plastic jars, please).

**The Book of Remembrance** is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, 9/6—Ruth Hassan; 9/13—Percival Buerk; 9/20—Winifred and Gilbert Kretschman; 9/27—Ernest V. Skoldberg, Sr.

**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: Elizan and Areliz Morales as they begin their married life together, Edmundo and Edith Quinones, Ruby Moy and her family, Arabella Meadows-Rogers, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Geraldine, the family and friends of Jaye and Violet, John and the Vandermarcq family, Bob and Louise, Ed, Mark and Audrey, Helen, Sally.

### This Week and Ongoing

**Homecoming is NEXT Sunday, September 13, back to the Sanctuary at 11am with choir, organ, and communion.** Today is a great day to sign up for your turn at providing coffee hour in the autumn months!

**Tuesday evening cooperative Bible Study** (with folks from Union Church and Salem Lutheran Church) resumes **THIS Tuesday**, September 8, at 7pm in the Parish House Pastor's Study.

**Yoga Summer schedule: one more Wednesday 6:45-8:15 Sept 9** right here in the air-conditioned chapel of the Parish House, then fall schedule begins Mondays and Wednesdays.

### Looking to the Future

**Program and Mission Committee meets 6:30pm Monday, September 14 to plan Sunday School and other fall happenings. A very important meeting!**

**Playgroup and BRUCA** begin the week of **September 21**, with **Open House** the week of **September 14**. Call the office 718.745.0438

**Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs** meets first Mondays at 11am in the Sanctuary, except for holidays. Tomorrow is Labor Day, so this month's meeting will be **next Monday, September 14**.

**Fall Reflective Saturday 9-12 Sept 19 in the Sanctuary. Ask Lynn Penney for details!**

**Taizé Evensong moves back to the first Tuesday of every month**, beginning 7pm October 6. Watch for scheduling and location.

**Session meets every fourth Monday except for major holidays. The September meeting is Monday, September 28 at 7pm in the Parish House.**