

Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard

www.ucbr.org



Homecoming September 14, 2008

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

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

HOMECOMING 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.

✚**FESTIVAL INTROIT** *How Amiable Are Thy Dwellings* E. Gorgas, dancer R. Vaughan Williams

✚CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Isaiah 52:7-8

How beautiful on the mountains,

How beautiful are the feet of them who bring the message of peace.

Listen! Your lookouts raise up their voices; together they sing for joy:

For in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to the holy city.

✚HYMN no. 210

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

Great Mover of the Universe, you have placed the rhythms of life within us. Forgive us that too often we hear only alarms while the music of the spheres surrounds us; that we feel alone while the faithful of all the ages dance invisible beside us; that we despair while your Spirit is our very breath. Unstop the ears of our ears, make strong and true our voices and our bodies in your praise, help us to tread lightly on your earth, and enliven our hearts until they leap with joy, all of us together in the angel band of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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. AMEN.

SUNG RESPONSE no. 576 *as a round, on the numbers*

Glory to God from Taizé

1 & 3 Glory to God, Glory to God, 2 Glory to God in the highest... 4 Alleluia, Alleluia!

✚THE PEACE OF CHRIST

please exchange the Peace of Christ with your neighbors

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hymnal #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: **Jonah 3:1-5,10; 4:1-11**

Elder Bruce MacIntyre

ANTHEM

Locus Iste

Anton Bruckner

Locus iste a Deo factus est: inaestimabile sacramentum, irreprehensibilis, est.

This place was made by God: it is a priceless sacrament, irreproachable.

SECOND LESSON: **Romans 14:7-19**

SERMON: **Your Feet's Too Big**

Rev. Speers

OFFERTORY from *Sonata in A minor* of A. Vivaldi

Katherine Greissman, violoncello

✚DOXOLOGY no. 592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God from whom all blessings flow, tune us to your will, fill us with your melodies, and send into your world through us, and through all that we offer you, the song of everlasting life in Christ Jesus our Lord. AMEN.

✚HYMN no. 518

Una Espiga/Sheaves of Summer

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

"On the night when he was arrested, our Lord took bread..."

✚THE COMMUNION

please come to the table and dip your bread in the cup

✚THANKSGIVING AFTER THE COMMUNION

sung and spoken, Hymnal no. 597

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.

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 brings 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 (insert)

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

✚CHARGE AND BEDICTION

...and let the whole church say, **Alleluia! 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 artists offer their work to the glory of God.

✚please rise as you are able; **unison prayers and responses are in bold**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 4:1-11 NRSV

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²‘Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.’ ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, ‘Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’ ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the Lord and said, ‘O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.’ ⁴And the Lord said, ‘Is it right for you to be angry?’ ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, ‘It is better for me to die than to live.’

9 But God said to Jonah, ‘Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?’ And he said, ‘Yes, angry enough to die.’ ¹⁰Then the Lord said, ‘You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?’

Romans 14:7-19 NRSV

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.’

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God. ¹³ Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another. ¹⁴I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. ¹⁵If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. ¹⁹Let us then pursue what makes for peace, and for the building up of one another.

Note on *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

As you sing this hymn, lift up your eyes to the farthest-back clerestory window on your left in the Union Church Sanctuary. It was given in memory of Peter Wilhousky, who composed the best-known arrangement of "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" for choir, by his wife, who was a member of the Gilkey family of Union Church. Nationally known as the maestro of the great all-borough New York City high school choruses of the mid-twentieth century, choral repetiteur for Arturo Toscanini's NBC Symphony Orchestra broadcasts, and, although Russian Orthodox himself, a member by marriage of the Union Church extended family, Mr. Wilhousky taught music at New Utrecht High School for many years, and, one fateful day, invited his former pupil Emile Serposs to play the organ for only a few Sundays while Union Church looked for a new organist. Emile was our organist for many years, retiring only a few years ago. History has a way of repeating itself, and one fateful day, Emile invited his Brooklyn College Conservatory colleague Bruce MacIntyre to fill in for the baritone section leader, and Bruce has been a leader at Union Church ever since. Then, one fateful day, Bruce agreed to serve as chair of the search committee that brought Vince Peterson to Union Church....

The well-known words of this hymn come from a poem by Civil War journalist Julia Ward Howe (a famous Abolitionist and early feminist with Brooklyn connections), who stayed up all night writing in her Washington hotel room after a visit to Union troops at their encampment in Arlington, Virginia. As she wrote, she heard in her mind an old camp-meeting tune, best known in her day as the tune of the Abolitionist rallying song "John Brown's Body." John Brown led and was killed in an anti-slavery uprising in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, in the weeks leading up to the Civil War.

**Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of James C. MacIntyre, by his son, Bruce MacIntyre**

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 leaders: Elizabeth Gorgas (liturgical dancer), Katherine Greissman ('cello), Vince Peterson and the choir; Olive Reich (cover art); Malcolm Tannahill and the ushers; 'bishops' Mary Cusack (Communion) Kristin Miller-Lynch (coffee hour), and Isabel Morales (Sunday School).

There are still opportunities to provide refreshments this fall: sign up today!

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, September 14—Percival Buerk; September 21—Ernest V. Skoldberg, Sr.; September 28—Shikri Coury.

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

Continue to pray for/stay in touch with: Dolores Cleary, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Barbara Briggs, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; Maribelle, the Boynton family. Please call the office to add names to the prayer list.

Ruby Moy is garden "bishop" many Saturdays and always likes company. In addition, we need **volunteers to stay an hour or so after church next Sunday, September 21** to tidy the garden for the upcoming Presbytery meeting the following Saturday, September 27 (see below).

Looking to the Future

BRUCA and Playgroup start tomorrow! Visit www.ucbr.org or call **718.745.0438**

Bible study at Redeemer-St. John's Lutheran Church starts this Wednesday. See Rev. Speers.

Sunday School Curriculum Orientation Saturday, September 20. See Michele and Kristin.

Sunday School Rally Day Sunday, September 21 at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.

Stated Session meeting Monday, September 22 at 7pm in the Parish House.

Support group for parents of children with special needs call Isabel Morales 800.405.8818

Tuesday evening Bible study is now forming with Rev. Speers and Rev. Wieber of Salem ELC.

Sunday, Nov 2: Fifth Annual "Marathon of Prayer and Praise"—Bethlehem Lutheran Church, diagonally opposite the last year's location, on Fourth Avenue at Ovington.

Presbytery Meeting September 27

Presbytery of New York City meets here at Union Church Saturday, September 27:

This fall marks the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Peggy Howland, the first woman ordained by Brooklyn-Nassau Presbytery and the twelfth in the whole PCUSA, right here at Union Church with **George Bonnell** in 1958!

Rev. Jo Tolley will also be here for the event. **Vince Peterson** will lead a "pickup choir" made up of volunteers from choirs all over the presbytery. Our friend **JANIS RUSSELL, DIRECTOR OF THE LAFAYETTE INSPIRATIONAL ENSEMBLE AND AN ELDER AT LAFAYETTE AVENUE CHURCH, WILL BE THE LEAD SINGER** in the arrangement (by a woman) of Stevie Wonder's *Heaven Help Us All* that Vince and Rev. Speers sang at General Assembly in San Jose.

Presbytery worship starts at 10am; come say hi to Peggy Howland and Jo Tolley, make music with the pickup choir under Vince's direction: stay to help serve lunch in the Parish House.

Isabel Morales and Michele DiBartolo are "hospitality bishops" for this big event. **When they call you, say YES!**