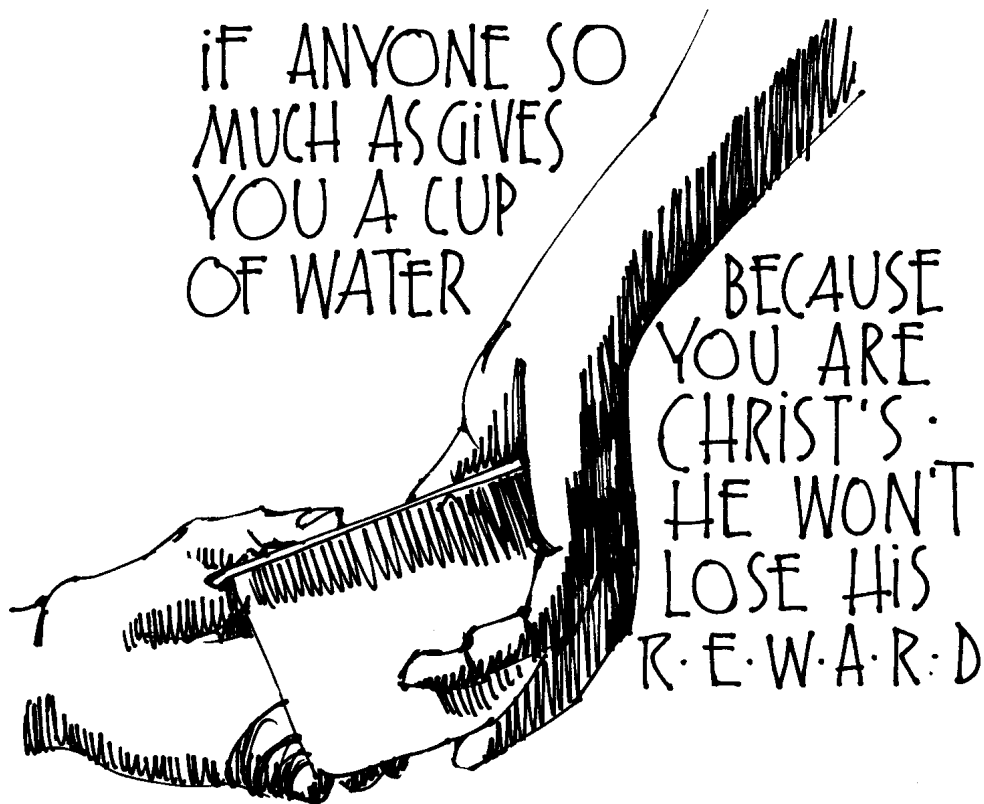


Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard



September 27, 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

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

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.

INTROIT

✚CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 19:7,10

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

The decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

✚HYMN IN PROCESSION no. 455

All Creatures of Our God and King

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

Eternal God, creator of the world and giver of all good, we thank you for this our home; for the earth, home to all your children; and for the gift of life. Keep us mindful of your Spirit in everyone, and show us where we have failed to see the face of Jesus, where we have seen only our own unloveliness, in the faces of others. In your great mercy, draw us back near to you, forgiving us, loving us, removing all fear and shame, and freeing us to be all you created us to be, through the life, death and resurrection 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 *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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSIONING OF CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

The congregation responds:

In the love of Christ we encourage you,

And we pray that God will continue to bless you.

May the Peace of Christ go with you, as you learn and grow together. AMEN.

✚THE PEACE OF CHRIST

please exchange the Peace of Christ with your neighbors

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: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

ANTHEM

Psalm 124

(Hymnal no. 236)

SECOND LESSON: Mark 9:38-50

SERMON:

Hymn in Recession

Rev. Speers

✚HYMN no. 408

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

OFFERTORY

(You've Turned My) Mourning Into Dancing

Tommy Walker

✚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.

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 IN RECESSION *(insert)*

You Are Salt for the Earth

✚CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

...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**

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ²On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." ³Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me — that is my petition — and the lives of my people — that is my request. ⁴For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." ⁵Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" ⁶Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

⁹Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." ¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

^{9:20}Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²²as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Eleanore Skoldberg
in loving memory of Ernest V. Skoldberg, Jr.**

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, Carla MacLeod for today's refreshments; Maryellen Van Royen (Communion bishop) and Kristin Miller (coffee hour bishop).

All of us enjoy the Coffee Hour at the close of worship. Most of us do a lot for the church (we're a small church). No matter how much else you are doing, **you too can sign up for at least one coffee hour per season**, and make the Program and Mission committee really happy.

Thanks to Jennifer Segna for assuming the role of Sunday School bishop for the next month or so, until Jack's sister is born! We also thank her for the **new, revitalized food collection box**, and its great monthly themes! **September is *Back to School***, and the theme is...peanut butter and jelly (plastic jars, please).

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, 9/27—Ernest V. Skoldberg, Sr. ; 10/4—Nancy Gatto; 10/11—Bernice Reid; 10/18—Thomas J. Ferretti; 1-/25—May Crawford; 11/1—Rev. William Gray Tolley; 11/8—Ernest Skoldberg, Jr.; 11/15—William Reppke; 11/22—Dorothy May and Frances Freeman; 11/29—Beatrice Goddard.

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 Donna, Janet, Geraldine, John and the Vandermarcq family, Mary, Jane, Helen, Sally.

This Week and Ongoing

Yoga classes meet Monday and Wednesday evenings 6:45-8:15pm in the Parish House Chapel. No experience necessary! Please speak to Kristin Miller.

Don't know much about the Bible? Teaching Sunday School is the best way we know to learn more *and* make new friends at Union Church. See Jennifer Segna today!

Next Sunday, October 4, is World Communion Sunday! Ask an old-timer what anniversary that is in the life of Union Church.

"Just Strings" new Sunday quartet series opens in our Sanctuary 4pm Sun Oct 4:

Miami String Quartet, in residence at Kent State and the Hartt School of Music. Admission \$20

Program: Haydn "Emperor" Quartet, Op. 76 #3

Ginastera Quartet #1

Dvorak "American" Quartet, Op. 96

contact: John Gingrich: gingarts@erols.com

Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs meets first Mondays at 11am in the Sanctuary, except for holidays: next meeting Monday, October 5.

Taizé Evensong moves back to the first Tuesday of every month, beginning 7pm **October 6**.

This year Taizé moves to our new renovated Parish House Chapel, 8101 Ridge Boulevard.

Session meets on the FOURTH MONDAY of every month, except when that Monday falls on a holiday. Next session meeting: **Monday, September 28, at 7pm** in the Parish House.