

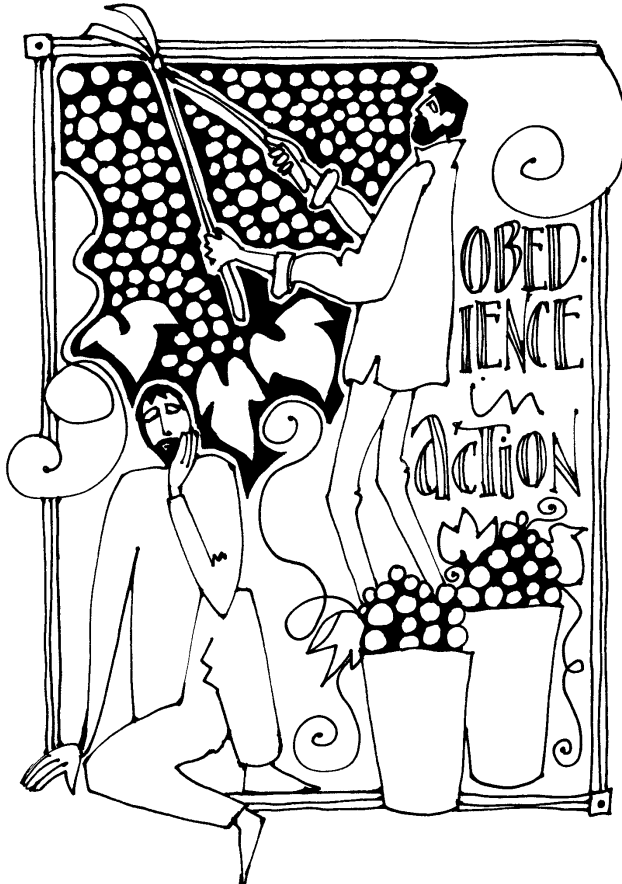
Welcome to your spirit's home...

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York

## September 28, 2008



Chapel, Parish House and Office

8101 Ridge Boulevard at Eighty-First Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209

[www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org) ❖ [unionchurch@earthlink.net](mailto:unionchurch@earthlink.net) ❖ 718.745.0438

The Reverend Mary Barrett Speers, Pastor ❖ Vince Peterson, Minister of Music  
Ed Huml, BRUCA Program Director ❖ Jody Levine, Playgroup Director and Administrator

*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. 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.*

### +CALL TO WORSHIP

*adapted from Psalm 25*

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths:

**Lead me in your truth, and teach me.**

Good and upright is the LORD, instructing sinners in the way.

**God leads the meek in what is right, and teaches the humble the way.**

### +HYMN IN PROCESSION no. 267

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

**Gracious God, we give you thanks that through Christ we are chosen and gifted to restore your kingdom here on your earth. How often do we realize that our actions speak louder than our words? How often have we made excuses for ourselves, while questioning the integrity of others; how often have we been suspicious of the motives of others, or doubted the sincerity of their faith? Where our zeal has waned, renew us. Where our motives are distorted, reshape us. Where our own faith is weak, strengthen us. By your Spirit lead us to live in a way that gives honor to you. Let people see in us the love of Christ that first inspired us, in words and actions that befit his body here on earth, for it is in his 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 sung Glory to God 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 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: Exodus 17:1-7**

Ruth Ward

**PSALM/ANTHEM** no. 489 (from Psalm 118)

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

**SECOND LESSON: Matthew 21:23-32**

**SERMON: Heaven Help Us All**

Rev. Speers

**+HYMN** no. 154

*Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor*

**OFFERTORY**

*Heaven Help Us All*

Ronald Miller, arr. Kathleen McGuire

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

**You call to us to seek you, O Christ, and to find new ways to share our joy with 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.**

**GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS** and **PASTORAL PRAYER**

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** no. 142

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

**+CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**CLOSING MUSIC**

*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 musicians offer their music to the glory of God.*

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

## Heaven Help Us All

Heaven help the child who never had a home,  
Heaven help the girl who walks the streets alone  
Heaven help the roses if the bombs begin to fall,  
Heaven help us all.

Heaven help the black man if he struggles one more day,  
Heaven help the white man if he turns his back away,  
Heaven help the man who kicks the man who has to crawl,  
Heaven help us all.

Heaven help us all, heaven help us all, help us all.  
Heaven help us, Lord, hear our call when we call  
Oh, yeah!

Heaven help the boy who won't reach twenty-one,  
Heaven help the man who gave that boy a gun.  
Heaven help the people with their backs against the wall,  
Lord, Heaven help us all.

Heaven help us all, heaven help us all, heaven help us all, help us all.  
Heaven help us, Lord, hear our call when we call.

Now I lay me down before I go to sleep.  
In a troubled world, I pray the Lord to keep, keep hatred from the mighty,  
And the mighty from the small,  
Heaven help us all.  
Oh, oh, oh, yeah!  
Heaven help us all.

## **Exodus 17:1-7 NRSV**

**F**rom the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

## **Matthew 21:23-32 NRSV**

**W**hen he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

**Today's flowers are given to the glory of God  
by Mary Cusack and the Program and Mission Committee, in honor of Peggy Howland,  
Jo Tolley, Andrea Zarou, all women in ministry, and the Presbytery of New York City**

**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: the Sunday School teachers, Vince Peterson and the choir; Jill Stoler for today's refreshments; Malcolm Tannahill and the ushers; 'bishops' Mary Cusack (Communion) Kristin Miller-Lynch (coffee hour), and Isabel Morales (Sunday School).

**There are still opportunities to read Scripture and provide refreshments: sign up today!**

**The Book of Remembrance** is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, September 28—Shikri Coury; 10/5—Nancy Gatto; 10/12—Bernice Reid; 10/19—Thomas J. Ferretti; 10/26—May Crawford; 11/2—William Reppke; 11/9—Ernest Skoldberg, Jr.; 11/16—Rev. William Gray Tolley; 11/23—Dorothy May and Frances Freeman; 11/30—Beatrice Goddard.

**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; Bud, Kevin, Maribelle, the Boynton family. Please call the office to add names to the prayer list.

**Thanks to everyone who volunteered in the garden, served meals, sang in the choir,** and otherwise contributed to welcoming **Rev. Peggy Howland** and the **Presbytery of New York City** to Union Church yesterday, especially the "bishops" for the event: Michele DiBartolo and Isabel Morales, Olive Reich for the Lisa Reich cake, and Vince Peterson for conducting the choir.

**This Week and Ongoing**

**Marathon of Prayer and Praise** organizing meeting tomorrow evening at Bethlehem Lutheran Church parsonage; see Michele DiBartolo.

**First Taizé service of the season this Thursday, October 2, at 7pm in the Sanctuary.**

**Bible study at Redeemer-St. John's Lutheran Church, 939 83<sup>rd</sup> St,** every Wednesday at 11am.

**BRUCA and Playgroup are still receiving registrations; it is not too late to sign up!**

**Yoga continues on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 in the Sanctuary.** Flyers are on the back table: there is no need to register in advance; wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel and a mat if you have one. Each class is \$15, pay as you go. No experience is needed for this gentle, restorative class.

**Next meeting of Program and Mission Committee second Monday, October 12, 6:30pm?**

**Next Stated Session meeting fourth Monday, October 27, at 7pm in the Parish House.**

**Looking to the Future**

**Tuesday evening Bible study** next meeting is Tuesday, October 7, Rev. Speers's study 7pm.

**Support group for parents of children with special needs starts Monday, October 6, 11-1:** call Isabel Morales 800.405.8818 if you or a friend would be interested.

**First of this year's Union Church Concerts: *Peter and the Wolf* 4pm Sunday, October 19, with orchestra, soloists, and Mark Shapiro narrating. Bring the whole family!**

**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.**