

Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard

January 18, 2009



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

8101 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11209

718.745.0438 www.ucbr.org www.bruca.org 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

✚**THE PEACE OF CHRIST** *please turn and share the Peace of Christ with your neighbors*

GREETING and **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *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 **Ezekiel 36:22-28**

ANTHEM *Freedom Is Coming* from South Africa, via the Iona Community

SECOND LESSON **Mark 1:14-20**

SERMON **Freedom Is Coming** Rev. Speers

HYMN (*insert*) ***We Shall Overcome***

OFFERTORY *Jesus, Give Us Your Peace* Scott Morwitz, tenor Michael Mahler

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

God our help, we your children offer you our selves and the fruits of our labors. We hear your call to follow your beloved child Jesus. We long to fulfill our vows as baptized believers. Accept these offerings in Jesus' name, and bless us to greater service, for by the Spirit we belong to Christ Jesus, whom we are called to follow and in whose strong name we pray. 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

Hymnal p. 16: "debts"

✚**HYMN** no. 563

Lift Every Voice and Sing

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

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

We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome some day!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day!

We'll walk hand in hand...

We shall all be free...

We shall live in peace...

Ezekiel 36:22-28 NRSV

Therefore say to the house of Israel,

Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³ I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord God, when through you I display my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. ²⁸ Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Mark 1:14-20 NRSV

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Eddie Norstrand
in loving memory of his father, Edward J. Norstrand

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; Gorgas for dancing; Mary Chamberlain for today's refreshments; Mary Cusack (Communion 'bishop') Kristin Miller (coffee hour 'bishop') and Michele DiBartolo (Sunday school 'bishop').

The Book of Remembrance is open to: 1/18—Edward Norstrand; 1/25—Leinda Mouacdie; 2/1—Virginia Villano; 2/8—Viola Ferretti; 2/15—Susan Uillyette; 2/22—Emma Smith; 3/1—Alice Seely; 3/8—June Aram; 3/15—Severin Norstrand; 3/22—Janet Louisa; 3/29—Helene Ogurek.

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

We are sad to announce the death of Barbara Briggs, who entered the Church Triumphant on Dec. 28, 2008. Condolences may be sent to Brian Kasler in care of the church office.

Continue to pray for peace: 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: the loved ones of Barbara Briggs, Maryellen Van Royen and the Douglass family; the Moore family, the Attara family, the Peterson family, the Cleary family in their new home, Art Samuel and Mary Chamberlain, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Ed, Mark and Audrey, Helen, Wendy, Sally.

The food collection box is in the vestibule. Or visit www.freerice.com and www.thehungersite.com

This Week and Ongoing

Concert 4pm TODAY, Duo Nova Antigua (guitar, flute) in *Music of Two Worlds* (Old and New)

"Day On" at Gethsemane tomorrow 11-2, 1012 8th Ave www.parkslopeparents.com bring canned goods, children of all ages, we'll be singing and making an Acts of Kindness banner.

Wednesday midweek Bible Study, 11am at Redeemer-St John's Lutheran church, 939 83rd St.

Fortnightly Tuesday Bible Study meets Tuesday, Jan 27, at 7pm in the Parish House.

Support group for parents of children with special needs first Mondays, 11-1: call Isabel Morales 800.405.8818 if you or a friend would be interested: **Feb 2** is the next meeting.

Yoga continues 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.

Looking to the Future

Newsletter deadline (for Feb-March including most of Lent) this Wednesday, January 21

Session meets Monday, January 26, at 7pm in the Parish House (and fourth Mondays generally)

Next Taizé Evensong is February 5 at 7pm.

Lent begins—as always—with **Ash Wednesday, February 25** at Bay Ridge United Church. This Lent, our Sunday readings focus on covenants in the Bible, our programs explore aspects of peace in the Bible, so our Lenten theme is...*Covenants of Peace*. Stay tuned for more details...

Reflective Saturday in Lent Feb 29: *Peace is Healing* with massage, yoga, healing prayer

Sunday March 1, *God's Covenant of Peace with All People*, Mystery Pal Exchange, and

Communion with guest Rev. Mieke Vandersall of Presbyterian Welcome; Mary Cusack to sing; Mieke will present the special Communion chalice given to all Presbyterian Welcome churches.

Looking for a *positive* spiritual practice for Lent? Consider singing in the choir! Or join in just to sing in the March 15 concert: the Fauré *Requiem*. See Vince Peterson for details.