

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

World Communion October 5, 2008



Chapel, Parish House and Office

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

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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

Psalm 19:1&7

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
And the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.
The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
The decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple.

✦HYMN (insert: green hymnal no. 69)

The Spacious Firmament on High

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.

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 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

PSALM/HYMN no. 327 *based on Psalm 119 and John 1:14* ***O Word of God Incarnate***

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 21:33-46

SERMON **Written in Stone**

Rev. Speers

+HYMN no. 129

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

OFFERTORY

+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.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER *God's Offering to God's People*

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING and INTERCESSION

Hymnal p. 13

THE LORD'S PRAYER "*debts*"

Hymnal p. 16

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please come to the table and dip the bread in the cup

THANKSGIVING AFTER THE COMMUNION 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.

Let us pray:

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: green hymnal no. 70*)

This Is My Father's World

+CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

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 artists offer their work to the glory of God.

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

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 NRSV

Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

¹⁸When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, ¹⁹and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die."
²⁰Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Matthew 21:33-46 NRSV

“**L**isten to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." ⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

**Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by the session of Union Church
in loving sympathy with Vince Peterson on the death of his father, Bud Peterson**

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; Bruce MacIntyre, Erol Guroi, and the choir; Mary Chamberlain 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, 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.

We note with sadness the death of Vince Peterson's father, Bud Peterson. Condolences may be sent to Vince at 24-47 44th Street #3A, Astoria, NY 11103.

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

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

This Week and Ongoing

Tuesday evening fortnightly Bible study this Tuesday, Oct 7, Rev. Speers's study, Union Church Parish House, one block south at 8101 Ridge Boulevard: 7pm. Watch the website or the newsletter for which Tuesday it is! The group is concentrating on *lectio divina* of the Psalms.

Bible study at Redeemer-St. John's Lutheran Church, 939 83rd 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.

Program & Mission Committee Oct 20, 6:30pm (Oct 12, the second Monday, is Columbus Day)

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

Looking to the Future

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!

International family potluck lunch/brunch with Bay Ridge United Church is October 19: go have lunch and fellowship, come back with their families to *Peter and the Wolf* at 4pm.

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

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 (the next one is in November).