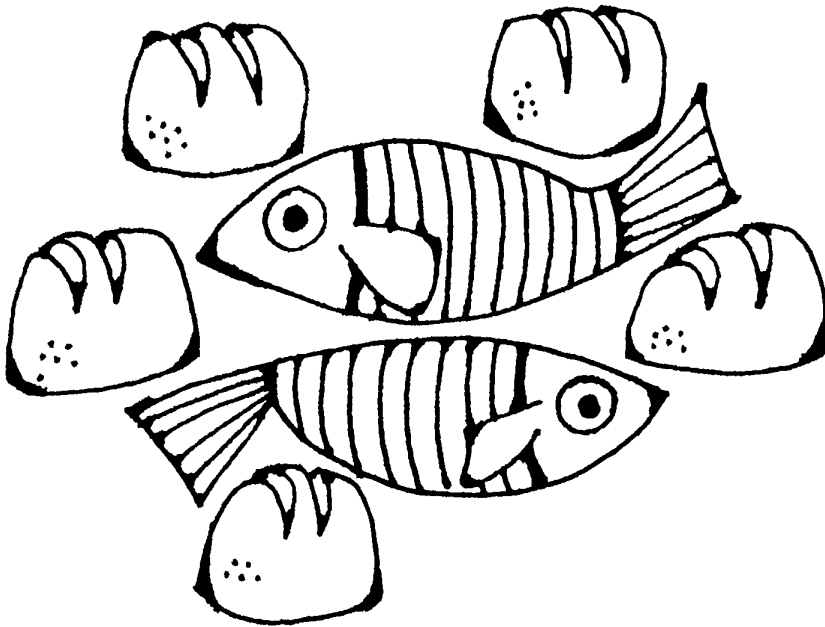


Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

Summer Worship in the Chapel



Special Taizé Worship for July 4, 2010

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

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

This style of communal prayer is based on repetitive singing of simple songs. Let the music surround you. When you are ready, let the melody grow from within you, too. Chanting is cyclical, which means that it rolls over and over and ebbs and flows naturally. When the singing tapers off naturally, a leader begins...

Two chants

Opening Responses and lighting of candles

Come, Lord Jesus.

You too were tired when day was done;
you met your friends at evening time.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus.

You too enjoyed when nights drew on;
you told your tales at close of day.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus.

You kindled faith when lamps were low; you opened Scriptures,
Sang a hymn, and shed your light as darkness fell.

Come, Lord Jesus. Meet us here.

A third chant

The Word of God

Silent Meditation

The silent meditation continues for a significant period of time. Whatever images, thoughts, memories, come to the surface of your consciousness, welcome them, then let them go. After a time, there will be a period of singing, with spoken prayer, and more singing, during which you are invited to come to the table, light a candle, and float it on the surface of the water as you name your request, blessing, or intention to God. The singing will begin softly with...

A fourth chant

Prayers for People and the World

The singing will continue, beginning with leaders offering prayers for ourselves and the world, then the song, then another prayer, then the song again. The leader begins,

Let us pray for those who need to be remembered tonight...

For those who have made the news headlines today
Because of what they have done or said...

For those who have been brought to our attention
Through a recent meeting or a conversation...

For all people in their daily life and work,
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone...

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace...

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For all who suffer hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression...

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who work and pray with the sick, the friendless, the needy...

Those whose pain or hope
We should not forget to share with God tonight...

Lord, we believe that you hear our prayer
And will be faithful to your promise to answer us.

When our eyes open again, may they do so
Not to end our devotions, but to behold your kingdom,
For Jesus' sake.

As the singing continues, this is the time for you to offer your own request, blessing, or intention (to do something, or to change in some way) The prayers conclude with...

The Lord's Prayer (...and forgive us our debts...)

Hymnal p. 16

A fifth chant

Prayer of Blessing

a prayer of St Augustine (fl. 400AD in North Africa)

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.

Tend the sick, Lord Christ,

give rest to the weary,

bless the dying,

pity the afflicted,

soothe the suffering,

shield the joyous;

and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

A sixth chant

...It is customary for such services to conclude with the singing of several additional chants. You are welcome to leave quietly at any point, or to remain for more singing...

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.

Today, July 4: welcome Candidate David DeLauro who is leading *lectio divina* today.

David is “certified ready to receive a call,” and will join Vince Peterson in leading worship while Rev. Speers is at the General Assembly of the PCUSA.

Many thanks to all leaders: David De Lauro, Vince Peterson, the preparers of today’s refreshments; Maryellen Van Royen (Communion ‘bishop’), Jennifer Segna (Sunday School ‘bishop’) and Liz LoPorto (coffee hour ‘bishop’).

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, 7/11—Alice Johnston; 7/18—Jenni Thompson; 7/25—David Alekel.

Continue to pray for our planet and for peace; for all living in the midst of war, poverty, natural and economic disaster; for prisoners, those recently released from prison, and all who work and pray with them, especially the Church of Gethsemane. Also we pray for: the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., the family and friends of Amanda Silverman; the Segna family on the death of Jennifer’s grandmother; Lorrie Green, Charlie Scheffold, Tyler DiBartolo, Eddie Norstrand, the Presbytery of New York City, Carolyn Ramsay, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Bill Louisa, Dolores Cleary, Helen Kretiv; Jackson, Donna, Janet, Geraldine, Mary, Jane, Helen, Sally.

Prayer requests should come to the church office by telephone **718.745.0438** or email **uoffice@earthlink.net**. Please also notify the office to remove a name from the prayer list.

Church office hours: 9am to 2pm Mon-Wed, 9am to 4pm Thursday. 9-12 M-W and 9-2 Thursdays, Jody is in the Sanctuary with the playgroup; if you need to speak with her in person during those hours, please call her cell 917.881.0799; otherwise leave a message on the office machine and she will call you back after she gets back from playgroup.

Pastor’s office hours: 11am to 3pm Mon-Wed and of course at other times by appointment. Rev. Speers is often in the office on those days throughout the afternoon and evening. Thursday is sermon day. There are unavoidable shifts in this schedule from time to time for visitation and various meetings, and she would love to see you, so please call first before dropping by.

Upcoming and Ongoing Programs and Events

Next Sunday, July 11, at 3pm: Bethel (Ghanaian) Presbyterian Church Opening

Celebration in the former Fort Hamilton Presbyterian Church building on 94th Street off Fourth Avenue (behind the BMW dealership). This will be joyful, festive, with wonderful music and Ghanaian traditional dress and food. Please make sure Union Church is well represented in welcoming our new PCUSA neighbor!

Summer Worship remains at 10am in the Parish House Chapel through September 5.

Yoga continues 6:45-8:15pm in the Parish House Chapel. Taizé evensong is in recess until the fall. Please see the pastor if you have special prayer concerns over the summer.

Watch www.ucbr.org over the summer for events and updates on fun, fellowship, and plans for the fall!

Meditative Singing: Some Ideas Gleaned from the Taizé Website

Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Short songs called “chants”, repeated again and again, give singing a meditative character and lead us into eternity.

Using just a few words, these “chants” express a basic reality of faith that is quickly grasped by the mind. As the body sings the words over many times, this reality gradually sinks beneath the armor of the mind and reaches the heart.

Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together, and to remain together in attentive waiting on God.

Spiritual Reading: Six Steps for Reading the Bible in a (not so) New Way

1. Prepare.

Take a moment to come fully into the present. Sit comfortably alert, eyes closed, and center yourself with breathing.

2. Hear the Word.

Read the Scripture several times—out loud, or at least moving your lips, is best—until something seems to “shimmer” for you. This means *literally a word*, or a phrase, in the passage itself, that attracts your attention more than the others. If you find yourself thinking of a “theme,” go back to the word or phrase that suggested the theme to you. It does not matter how irrelevant or trivial or disturbing the word or phrase seems. For the moment, trust that for some reason it has called out to you. Repeat it to yourself, with your voice if possible, over and over like a “mantra.” *Reading out loud helps to focus on the actual words; reading silently tempts you to “think about the meaning”—that is, to interpret—the passage, rather than simply listen in your heart to what it says.*

3. Ask: What do I see? hear? sense? remember?

Read the passage again, asking it to take you to images, music, tastes, smells: to show you “film clips” of your life experience that might help you to understand why this word or phrase is calling out to you today. Where does this Word intersect with your life, inner or outer, today? Formulate a “sound byte” for yourself: “I see,” “I hear,” “I smell,” “I taste,” “I remember...”

4. Ask: Is there an invitation here for me?

Read the passage a third time. Listen for the Spirit’s invitation to do something specific in the next few days. It may not be momentous, or it may be. Turn it over in your mind. Imagine yourself acting on this invitation. How does this make you feel?

5. Pray for the ability to respond.

Pray, aloud or silently, for God to help you respond to the invitation. Offer to God your fears and your hopes. Pray for trust, courage, and the grace to “keep it simple.”

6. Take it on the road!

You never know until you try it. Wherever it leads you, God is already there. Share the adventure with a friend. God bless you!

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