

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



October 17, 2010

Chapel, Parish House and Office
8101 Ridge Boulevard at Eighty-First Street
Brooklyn, NY 11209

www.ucbr.org

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The Reverend Mary Barrett Speers, Pastor ❖ Vince Peterson, Minister of Music
Ed Huml, BRUCA Program Director ❖ Jennifer Kruger, 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. 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 9:7-10

The LORD sits enthroned forever,

God has established a throne for judgement.

The LORD is a stronghold for those who are pressed down,

God is a stronghold in times of trouble.

Those who know your name, O LORD, put their trust in you,

For you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

✠HYMN no. 272

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, we praise you with joy. You call us to new life and deeper communion with you. In our gratitude, we also find the courage to confess when we turn our own way, when we seek our own comfort rather than your kingdom, when we spoil your plans of peace for us and the world you have given us to care for. Restore us to the joy of living in your creation, of walking in your way, of finding community with one another, as together we follow Christ Jesus, our brother and our Lord, who died for this world and 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.

RESPONSE no. 576: *Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest...Alleluia!*

✠THE PEACE OF CHRIST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *composed for Union Church by Vince Peterson*
Speak, O Lord, and we will hear you: let your will be done indeed.
May we undisturbed draw near you, with your Word your people feed.
Here, of life the fountain flows: here is balm for all our woes.

FIRST LESSON: **Genesis 32:22-31**

ANTHEM

SECOND LESSON: **Luke 18:1-8**

SERMON: **Never Give Up** Rev. Speers

⊗**HYMN** no. 298 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

OFFERTORY

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

You call to us to follow you, O Christ, and spread our joy to 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.**

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. 443

O Christ, the Great Foundation

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

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

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: Vince Peterson and the choir, Liz LoPorto and the preparers of today's refreshments; Jane Feazell (communion 'bishop'), Jennifer Segna (Sunday School 'bishop'), and Liz LoPorto (coffee hour 'bishop').

Continue to pray for our planet and for peace; for all living in the midst of war, poverty, natural and economic disaster, especially the homeless of Pakistan; for prisoners, those recently released from prison, and all who work and pray with them, especially the Church of Gethsemane. Also we pray for: Eddie Norstrand, the Presbytery of New York City, Carolyn Ramsay, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Bill Louisa, Dolores Cleary, Helen Kretiv; Jessica; David and Marion and their family; the family and friends of Jim Taylor, and of Whitney Smith; Norman, Diane, Jackson, Donna, Janet, Gerry, Mary, Jane, Helen, Sally.

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember dear departed members of the Union Church family: Today, 10/3—Nancy Gatto; 10/10—Bernice Reid; 10/17—Thomas J. Ferretti; 10/24—May Crawford; 10/31—Dorothy May and Frances Freeman; 11/7—William Reppke; 11/14—Rev. William Gray Tolley; 11/21—Ernest Skoldberg, Jr.; 11/28—Beatrice Goddard.

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

Welcome Jennifer Kruger to the Union Church office! Jennifer has extensive office experience and has been Jody's senior assistant in the Union Church playgroup for several years. Jennifer will have the same schedule as Jody did, with playgroup in the morning and office hours after noon until 1:30. She will also be in on Friday mornings. Please call or stop by to introduce yourself.

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

Adult Bible Study meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7pm in the Parish House pastor's study.

Next Taize Evensong Wednesday, November 3 at 7pm in the Sanctuary

Marathon of Prayer and Praise, Sunday, Nov 7, with ecumenical communion at 11:30, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The day starts with breakfast at 8:30. Vince Peterson is in charge of music for the service, and the Young Apostles Caribbean Steel Band will be rocking as usual. This is a wonderful and joyful way to "take our worship TO the Marathon" and welcome runners of all abilities from all over the world to Brooklyn, City of Churches. **THIS IS OUR UNION CHURCH WORSHIP FOR NOV 7.**

BECAUSE OF THE MARATHON AND OUR CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN THE ECUMENICAL MARATHON OF PRAYER AND PRAISE AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE IN OUR SANCTUARY ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7.