

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 12, 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 106:1-3

O give thanks to God, for God is good;
The steadfast love of God endures forever.
Who can utter the mighty doings of God,
Who can declare all God's praise?
Happy are those who observe justice,
Happy are those who do righteousness at all times.

+HYMN no. 276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

God of this new day, you invite us to the banquet of your grace. You long to refresh us with your Spirit: you call us to deeper communion with you. Forgive us for all the times, and all the ways, we have rejected your invitation, or have arrived unprepared. Restore us to the joy of feeding upon your Word, of finding our home in the family of faith, as together we follow Christ Jesus, our brother and our Lord, in whom we are made whole 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.

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 32:1-14

PSALM/HYMN no. 396

O, for a Closer Walk with God

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 22:1-14

SERMON The Deadliest of the Sins

Rev. Speers

+HYMN (*insert*)

Go Down, Moses

OFFERTORY A Place in the Choir

Bill Staines, arr. John Leavitt

+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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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. 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

+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; artists offer their work to the glory of God.

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

Exodus 32:1-14 NRSV

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ²Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." ⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" ⁹The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Matthew 22:1-14, NRSV

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests."

¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

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, Clarence Oscar 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; Vince Peterson and the choir; Eddie Norstrand 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, 10/12—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, Clarence Oscar "Bud" Peterson.

Condolences may be sent to Vince at 24-47 44th Street #3A, Astoria, NY 11103; in lieu of additional flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the American Heart Association.

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 Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Barbara Briggs, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Kevin, Cathy. Please call the office to make changes to the prayer list.

This Week and Ongoing

Tuesday evening fortnightly Bible study next meeting is Tuesday, Oct 21, 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. No experience or advance registration is needed for this gentle, restorative class. Each evening is \$15, pay as you go; wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel and a mat if you have one.

Program & Mission Committee a week from tomorrow, Oct 20, 6:30pm.

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 NEXT 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).