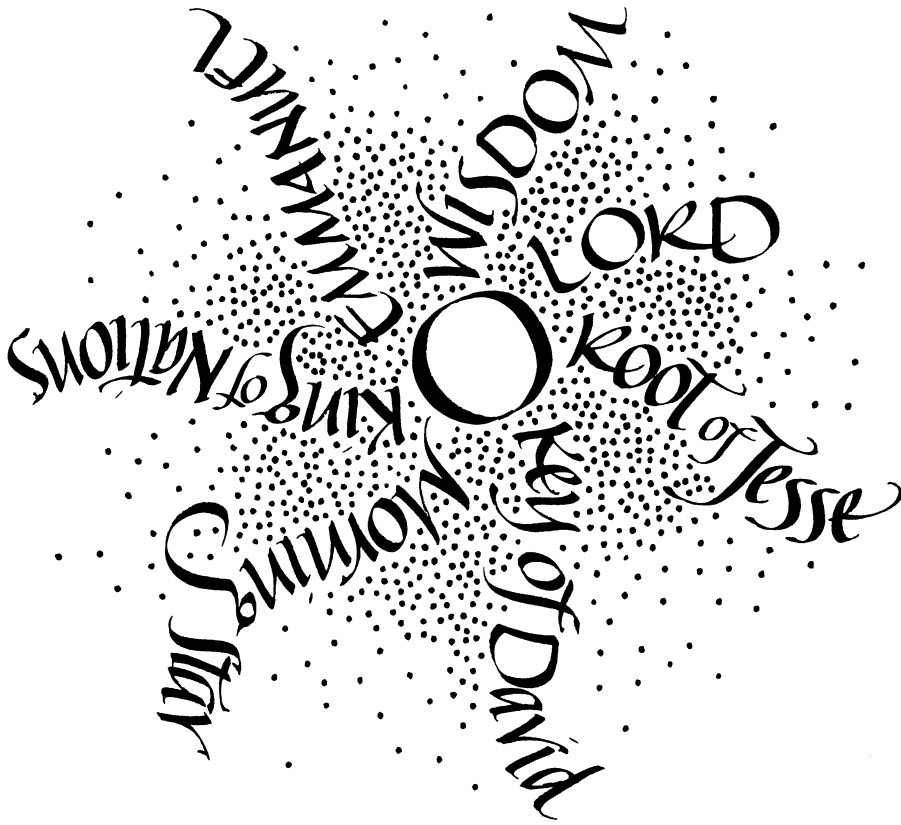


Welcome to your spirit's home...

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard



December 12, 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 ❖ Jennifer Kruger, Administrator and Playgroup Director



Third Sunday in Advent

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: THE JOY CANDLE

Michelle Gibbens and Diamond Jewels

Leader 1: The redeemed of the LORD shall return with singing; they shall find everlasting joy and gladness; sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Leader 2: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy.

May the gift of your Incarnation, O God, give us joy in the hope of salvation, as we walk with singing in the light of your love. [from *Is. 35:10*]

A leader lights three candles, including the Joy (pink) candle. All then say:

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

✠HYMN IN PROCESSION no. 69

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of the future, you are coming in glory to fill your world with goodness. We confess that in all our preparations for the season, we are still unprepared for you. Where we might be opening our hearts and our lives to receive you, we are busy filling them up, as though we did not really believe you were coming. Help our unbelief: give us grace to leave open our unfilled places, so that when our guest comes, they become places of honor, and we are ready with a joyful welcome in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord...

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

GLORY TO GOD: *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

chorus from no. **23** (a French carol)

✠THE PEACE

please offer the Peace of Christ to your neighbors

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND MAKING OF PRAYER ANGELS

☒ **OFFERING OF GIFTS** *Please come forward with your gifts and “prayer angels” for the tree, and place your pledges for 2011 on the Communion table. Please save your weekly offering for the offertory later on.*

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

verse 1 from no. **5** (PICARDY)

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand,
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

FIRST LESSON **Isaiah 35:1-10**

ANTHEM *recitatives and aria from Messiah: He Shall Break* Scott Morwitz, tenor

SECOND LESSON **Matthew 11:2-11**

SERMON **A Journey Full of Joy** Rev. Speers

☒ **HYMN** no. **36** *In the Bleak Midwinter*

OFFERTORY *recitatives and chorus from Messiah: Glory to God* Erika Lloyd, soprano

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

Holy One, you who are complete in Yourself and the source of all power and grace, place within us the spirit of the coming Christ, fill us with such thankfulness that we become a blessing to everyone we meet, and send into your world through us the abundant life we have through the one who was, and is, and is to come, Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 IN RECESSION** no. **12** *a French carol*

People, Look East

☒ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

CLOSING MUSIC

☒ *please rise in body or in spirit; Unison prayers are in bold.*

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by the Rev. Andrea Zarou
in loving memory of her father. Andrew Stutz**

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

Today is Gifts Sunday, the last Sunday of the stewardship season at Union Church. This is the time of year in which we remember that in giving, we restore to God the things that came from God. Please bring your pledge card and your **unwrapped** multicultural children's books to the Communion Table today. There are more pledge cards in the back of the Sanctuary.

Poinsettias are \$15 apiece, and the yellow ordering envelopes are on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. Please give your name and the name(s) of the person(s) you are honoring.

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 and the people of Haiti; for LGBTQ teenagers and those who bully them; for prisoners, those recently released from prison, and all who work and pray with them, especially the Church of Gethsemane, whose children receive our gifts of books this season. Also we pray for: the Morales/Torres family, the family and friends of Helen Kretiv, Eddie Norstrand, the Presbytery of New York City, Carolyn Ramsay, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Bill Louisa, Dolores Cleary; Jessica; David and Marion and their family; Norman, Diane, Jackson, Donna, Janet, Jane, Helen, Sally.

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember dear departed members of the Union Church family: Today, 12/12—Jean Dangman; 12/19—Josephine Coury; 12/26—Friends of Union Church; 1/2—Olive Buerk; 1/9—Emma Kirk Beck; 1/16—Leinda Mouacdie; 1/23—Edward Norstrand; 1/30—William Conklin.

Union Church office hours: 12-1:30 M-Th and 9-11 Fridays. Jennifer is in playgroup 9-12 M-Th
Pastor's office hours: 11am to 3pm Mon-Wed. Sometimes this schedule changes 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

This afternoon: Sing-It-Yourself *Messiah* 4pm \$15 and \$12 (seniors, students): Bid on your chance to conduct the Hallelujah Chorus! See Rev Speers or Vince Peterson.

Adult Bible Study with Redeemer-St John's, 83rd St between 7th and 10th Aves in Dyker Heights, Tuesday evenings supper 6-7, study 7-8pm. The group is studying the book of Exodus.

This Saturday, December 18: Bay Ridge Prep *Nutcracker*, 1pm at Fort Hamilton!

Next Sunday, December 19: Fourth Sunday in Advent 11am; Vince's Choral Chameleon holiday concert in the city 5pm (ask Vince)

Friday, December 24: 10:30pm "midnight" Christmas Eve service with candles, carols, choir, and communion.

Sunday, December 26: 11am Lessons and Carols: and for the coffee hour...**BRING ALL THE GOODIES YOU DON'T WANT AROUND THE HOUSE FOR A POTLUCK COFFEE HOUR!**

Sunday, January 2: Epiphany Sunday (greens can come down any day after this)

Epiphany Taize Evensong Wednesday, January 5 at 7pm in the Sanctuary

Saturday, January 8, 9:30-1 Session budget meeting and last day to take down the greens