

Welcome to your spirit's home...

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Eighthieth Street and Ridge Boulevard



December 19, 2010

Parish House, Bay Ridge-Union Center for the Arts (BRUCA) and Office
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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



Fourth 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 LOVE CANDLE

Leader 1: Behold, a young woman shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name *Emmanu-El*, “God with us”.

Leader 2: We light this candle as a symbol of Love, born into the world at Christmas.

May our dreams of your angels, O God, make us ready for the coming of your holy child Jesus, who is our hope, our joy, and our peace.

A leader lights all four candles on the ring. All then say:

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

✠HYMN IN PROCESSION no. 14

Savior of the Nations, Come

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 7:10-16**

ANTHEM *The Seven Joys of Mary* *traditional English*

SECOND LESSON **Matthew 1:18-25**

SERMON **Love With Us** Rev. Speers

☒ **HYMN** (*insert*) ***Canticle of the Turning***

OFFERTORY *Rorate Caeli* Craig Phillips

☒ **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** (*insert: a Catalán carol*) ***Cold December Flies Away***

☒ **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 poinsettias are given to the glory of God in honor of living persons or in loving memory of those who now sing with the heavenly choir:

Michelle Gibbens	in honor of Ruth Vanderbilt Burdick
The Lynches	dedicated to our friends and family
Carla and John MacLeod	in memory of loved ones; in honor of our parents
Marie Nelson	for loved ones
Gen. David and Carolyn Ramsay	for loved ones
The Alan Smith family	in memory of loved ones
Rev. Mary Speers	in memory of my father

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, Olive Reich for today's refreshments, 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 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, 12/19—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-W 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: Vince's **Choral Chameleon** holiday concert, 5pm at the Fourth Universalist Society, entrance on 76th St off Central Park West. Winter Solstice music from around the world!

This Friday, Christmas eve: 10:30pm "midnight" communion service with candles, carols, and choir.

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)

In recess until the New Year: 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.

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

Saturday, January 8, last day to take down the greens in the Sanctuary...until next year!

Saturday, January 22, session budget meeting 9-1

Sunday, February 13, Annual Congregational Meeting with Election of Elders