

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 19, 2008



Chapel, Parish House and Office

8101 Ridge Boulevard at Eighty-First Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209

www.ucbr.org ❖ unionchurch@earthlink.net ❖ 718.745.0438

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.*

INTROIT

(introit is Latin for “entrance”)

✚CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Psalm 96:1-12

O sing to the LORD a new song:

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice!

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it:

Let the field exult, and everything in it!

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;

tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

✚HYMN no. 458 based on Psalm 96:1-12

Earth and All Stars

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

Eternal God, creator of the world and giver of all good, we thank you for the gift of life. Help us to remember that the whole earth is yours, and that everything we have comes from you. Remind us that wayward as we are, you love us still; and that you will make us whole if we only ask. Show us our transgressions and their consequences as you only can see them, and in your great mercy, draw us back near to you, forgiving us, loving us, removing all fear and shame, and freeing us to be all you created us to be, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 is a round from Taizé:*

¹Glory to God, glory to God, ²glory to God in the highest...Alleluia, Alleluia.

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 36:2-7

PSALM/HYMN no. 428

*We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give.
To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe,*

We Give Thee But Thine Own

*To tend the lonely in distress,
Is angels' work below.
The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace—
It is a Christlike thing.
And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be;
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.*

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 22:15-22

SERMON Your Spiritual Diary

Rev. Speers

+HYMN no. 339

Be Thou My Vision

BAPTISM and RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

Jill Stoler; Thea Luria, Maryellen Vanroyen

+THE RENUNCIATIONS *from the earliest Baptismal rite, and common to the Church Universal*
Do you renounce all evil, and powers in the world that defy God's righteousness and love?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin, which separate you from the love of God?

I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior?

I do.

Do you further covenant and promise, with the aid of the Holy Spirit,
to be Christ's faithful disciple to your life's end:
to trust in Christ in all things, to obey Christ's word and show Christ's love;
to continue in the peace and fellowship of the Church, which is Christ's Body;
to make diligent use of the means of grace;
to give of your substance as the Lord may prosper you;
and to give your whole heart to the service of Christ
and the Kingdom of God throughout the world?

Yes, with God's help, I do. AMEN.

The Means of Grace are the Word, the Sacraments, and Prayer. The Order of Worship continues on the back cover.

✚**PROFESSION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed is an early Baptismal creed* **Hymnal p. 14** trad.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

✚**THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

please greet one another with the Peace of Christ

OFFERTORY

O Come Let Us Sing

Anthony Piccolo

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

You call to us to follow 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. 285

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

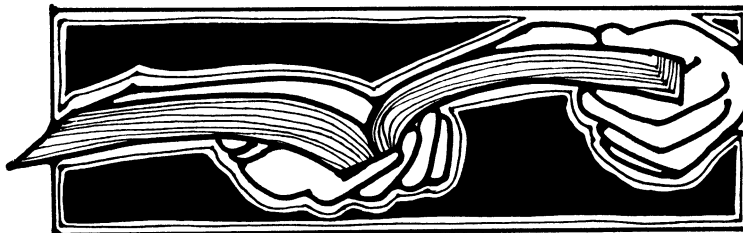
✚**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

...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 36:2-7, NRSV

Moses then called Bezalel and Oholiab and everyone skilful to whom the Lord had given skill, everyone whose heart was stirred to come to do the work; ³and they received from Moses all the freewill offerings that the Israelites had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, ⁴so that all the artisans who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task being performed, ⁵and said to Moses, ‘The people are bringing much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do.’ ⁶So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp: ‘No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.’ So the people were restrained from bringing; ⁷for what they had already brought was more than enough to do all the work.

Matthew 22:15-22, NRSV

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?’ ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, ‘Whose head is this, and whose title?’ ²¹They answered, ‘The emperor’s.’ Then he said to them, ‘Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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; Maryellen and Aidan Vanroyen 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: today, 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. **Special thanks to Katherine Greissman, who has catalogued all the names in all three volumes!**

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.

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

***Peter and the Wolf* TODAY:** first of this year's Union Church Concerts, this afternoon at 4pm, with orchestra, soloists, and Mark Shapiro narrating. Bring the whole family!

International family potluck lunch/brunch with Bay Ridge United Church today: go have lunch and fellowship, come back with their families to *Peter and the Wolf* at 4pm.

Volunteers for this Wednesday's school-group performances of *Peter and the Wolf* please meet briefly after worship today, in the meeting area of the Sanctuary.

Program & Mission Committee meets tomorrow, Oct 20, 6:30pm in the Parish House

Tuesday evening fortnightly Bible study meets this Tuesday, Oct 21, in 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 yoga mat if you have one.

Next Stated Session meeting fourth Monday, October 27, at 7pm in the Parish House.

Looking to the Future

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.

Tuesday, November 4 is Election Day. Exercise your right to vote! If you need help getting to the polls, or know anyone who does, see any session member or call the church office.

Thursday, November 6: Taizé Evensong, 7pm in the Sanctuary.

Friday-Saturday, November 7-8, Brother John of the Taizé community visits Park Slope United Methodist Church; see Lynn Penney for details.

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).