

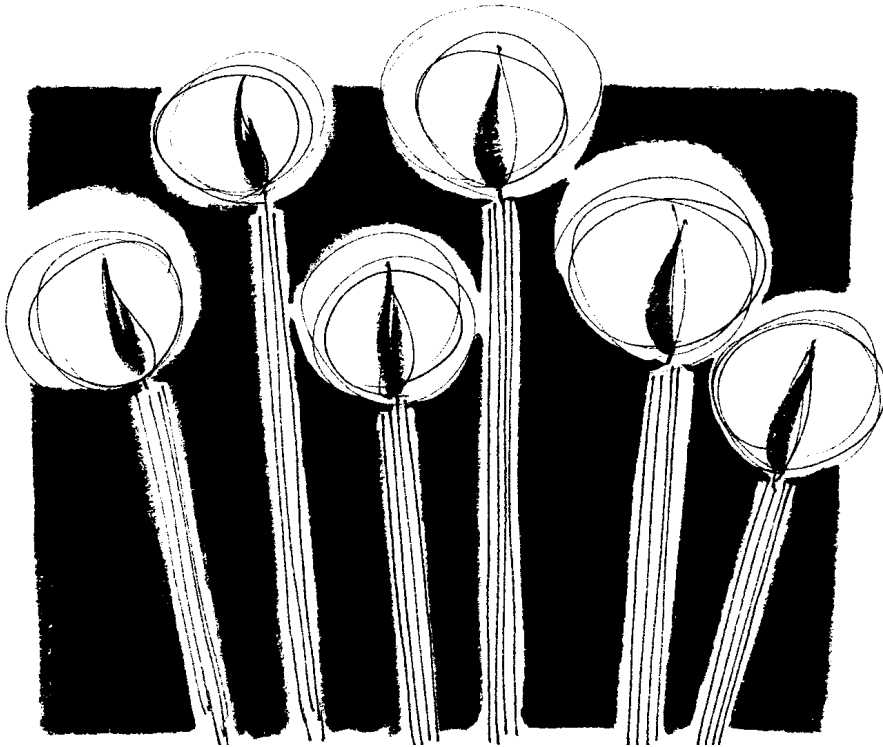
Welcome to your spirit's home...

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York

All Saints Sunday
October 26, 2008



Union Church 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

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

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 *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* (Sirach 44) Ralph Vaughan Williams

✦CALL TO WORSHIP **from Matthew 5:1-12 and Revelation 7:12**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you for the sake of Christ,
For in the same way the prophets have always been persecuted.
**Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.**

✦HYMN no. 526 verses 1,2,3, ** (“and when the strife is fierce...”), and 4 *For All the Saints*

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

O God of saints and sinners, we praise you for those whose lives have lit our way, who have paid the cost of discipleship in service to others; for faithful leaders, bold prophets; and for those who have been faithful in seen and unseen ways, even unto death. Merciful God, we find the cost of discipleship far too high. How much more ready are we to admire the saints than to imitate them—to praise them rather than follow where they have led. But in Christ and the saints, you have set before us a better way. Forgive our sinful, self-centered ways. Renew and inspire us, direct our gaze outside our own concerns, set our feet on the path of wholeness and service; through Christ our Lord, who loves us and redeems us, 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: **Revelation 7:9-17**

PSALM ANTHEM *How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings (Psalm 84)* Randall DeBruyn

SECOND LESSON: **Matthew 22:34-40**

SERMON **Revised and Edited** Rev. Speers

✚**HYMN** no. 407 *Quando el Pobre/When a Poor One*

OFFERTORY *The Guiding Light of Eternity (a Celtic prayer)* Stephen Paulus

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

Blessing and honor and glory and power are yours, O God. Grant that we may honor and serve you as the saints in heaven: with the praises of our lips, the service of our lives, and the gifts of our treasure. Bless all that we offer, that the hungry may be fed, the homeless received with hospitality, and the Gospel proclaimed with power throughout the world; through Christ, the King of the saints and the Lord of glory. 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. 420 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

✚**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.**

Matthew 22:34-40 NRSV

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹and a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Revelation 7:9-17 NRSV

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God,

¹²singing,

‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour
and power and might
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ ¹⁴I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

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; the Samuel family for today's refreshments; Malcolm Tannahill and the ushers; 'bishops' Mary Cusack (Communion) Kristin Miller-Lynch (coffee hour), and Michele Di Bartolo (Sunday School).

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember: today, 10/26—May Crawford; 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 Theresa Attara's sister-in-law, Catherine Attara, and of Vince Peterson's father, Clarence Oscar "Bud" Peterson. Condolences may be sent to Theresa at 110 80th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209, and 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: Theresa and the Attara family, Vince and his family, the Cleary family, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Barbara Briggs, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Helen, Wendy, Sally, Michelle, Kevin. Please call the office to make changes to the prayer list.

Warren Gatto is engaged! Letters of congratulation may be sent to him and Shin, his fiancée, at 6614 17th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11204 or wgatto@aol.com.

MARATHON OF PRAYER AND PRAISE was a huge success! Thanks to all who took part, especially to Bethlehem Lutheran Church for hosting, Thrivent Foundation for supporting the Caribbean steel band, Michele DiBartolo for serving on the ecumenical planning committee, and Vince Peterson and the Union Church Choir for providing the music for our community worship.

This Week and Ongoing

Union Church Concert 4pm TODAY, November 9: Erika Lloyd, soprano, with Brad Whitely, piano, in a program of twentieth-century American song including Barber, Bernstein, Sondheim.

Program and Mission Committee second Mondays, next is **tomorrow**, 6:30pm, Parish House.

Bible study at Redeemer-St. John's Lutheran Church, 939 83rd St, every Wednesday at 11am.

Tuesday evening fortnightly Bible study next meeting Tuesday, November 18, in Rev. Speers's study, Union Church Parish House, one block south at 8101 Ridge Boulevard: 7pm. The group is concentrating on *lectio divina* of the Psalms.

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 December 1).

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.

Session meeting fourth Mondays: next is Nov 24, at 7pm in the Parish House.

Looking to the Future

Advent is just around the corner!