

Welcome to your spirit's home...

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

**Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard**



**November 28, 2010**

**Parish House, Bay Ridge-Union Center for the Arts (BRUCA) and Office**  
8101 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11209

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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

# *Thanksgiving Sunday and First 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 FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

**Romans 13:11-12**

Leader 1: [Says the Apostle Paul.] You know what time it is: It is now the moment for you to awake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed: the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Leader 2: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.  
The light sent from God shines in the darkness  
to show us the way of salvation.

*A leader lights one candle on the ring. Leaders and people then say:*

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

### **✠HYMN IN PROCESSION no. 551**

***Come, Ye Thankful People, 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**      **Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

**ANTHEM**

**SECOND LESSON**      **Philippians 4:4-9**

**SERMON**              **Now Thank We All Our God**                      Rev. Speers

☒ **HYMN** no. **555**                                      *Now Thank We All Our God*

**OFFERTORY**

☒ **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 RECEPTION** no. **8**                      *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!*

☒ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

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

## 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 the third 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. You will soon be receiving your pledge card in the mail. Please keep your pledge in prayer for the next two weeks, and bring your pledge card to the Communion Table on **Gifts Sunday, December 12, 2010.**

**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. 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, 11/21—Ernest Skoldberg, Jr.; 11/28—Beatrice Goddard.

**Prayer requests** should come to the church office by telephone **718.745.0438** or email **ucoffice@earthlink.net**. Please also notify the office to remove a name from the prayer list.

**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

“What Union Church means to me” reminder: Please email yours to **ucoffice@earthlink.net**.

**Adult Bible Study has a change of day and venue:** with Redeemer-St John's Adult Bible Study, on 83<sup>rd</sup> St between 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Aves in Dyker Heights, Tuesday evenings 6:30-8pm. The group is studying the book of Exodus. See Rev Speers for details.

**Advent Taize Evensong this Wednesday, December 1** at 7pm in the Sanctuary

**Today, November 28: First Sunday of Advent**

**Next Saturday, December 4, 9:30-1pm: Sprucing up the Sanctuary for the season**

**Next Sunday, December 5: Adult Bible Study 9:30-10:30 am, Second Sunday of Advent and Advent Communion**

**Sunday, December 12: Gifts Sunday 11am and Sing-It-Yourself *Messiah* 4pm (see below)**

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

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

**Only two weeks from today! Sing-It-Yourself *Messiah* Sunday, December 12 at 4pm; \$15 and \$12 (seniors, students):** (If each of us took four tickets and got 3 friends to come, we'd be all set for December 12!) See Rev Speers, or call Jennifer in the office for tickets! **718.745.0438**

**Nominating Committee meets next Sunday, December 5, after worship:** Carmelo DiBartolo, Bruce MacIntyre, Lynn Penney, Jill Stoler, and Jamie Vuignier