

Welcome to your spirit's home...

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard



Edward Hicks, The Peaceable Kingdom

December 5, 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**

Second 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 PEACE CANDLE

The LoPorto family

Leader 1: A shoot shall grow from the stump of Jesse, who will be for all people. In him shall all the peoples of the world be reconciled.

Leader 2: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Peace.
May the Word sent from God through the prophets lead us now in the way of justice and peace.

A leader lights two candles on the ring. Leaders and people then say:

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

✠HYMN IN PROCESSION no. 11

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

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 MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

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 11:1-10**

ANTHEM *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* 18th New England, music by Elizabeth Poston

SECOND LESSON **Matthew 3:1-12**

SERMON **A World Made Right** Rev. Speers

☒ **HYMN** no. 5 *verses 2, 3, and 4* ***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence***

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.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

God's offering to God's people

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING and INTERCESSION

new Hymnal p. 13

*"...who forever sing your praise:" **Holy, Holy, Holy...** (Vince's new music)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER *"debts"*

new Hymnal p. 16

☒ **SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

Please come to the table and dip the bread in the cup

PRAYER OF RESOLUTION

call-and-response, Hymnal no. 597 an Appalachian melody

Bless the Lord, O my soul:

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul:

And forget not all God's benefits.

God our help: we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your holy child Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Christ, and pledge ourselves to serve you and the world you so love, even as in Christ you have served us. AMEN.

☒ **HYMN IN RECESSION** no. 501 *a French carol* ***Bread of Heaven, On Thee We Feed***

☒ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

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

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb & the leopard shall lie down with the kid: & the calf & the young lion & the fatling together: and a little child shall lead them.



THE PLACE OF A KING IN THE ROOM OF THE HEAVENLY

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 Fezell (communion 'bishop'), Jennifer Segna (Sunday School 'bishop'), and Liz LoPorto (coffee hour 'bishop').

Today is the fourth 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 should have received your pledge card in the mail this week. Please keep your pledge in prayer for the next week, and bring your pledge card along with **unwrapped multicultural children's books** 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, 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, 12/5—Andrew Stutz; 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.

Nominating Committee meets today, after worship: Carmelo DiBartolo, Bruce MacIntyre, Jill Stoler, and Jamie Vuignier

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

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.

Next Sunday, December 12: Gifts Sunday 11am and Sing-It-Yourself *Messiah* 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! **718.745.043**

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)

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

Sunday, December 26: 11am Lessons and Carols service: 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.