

Welcome to the

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard

## February 13, 2011



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

8101 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11209

718.745.0438 [www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org) [www.bruca.org](http://www.bruca.org) [unionchurch@earthlink.net](mailto:unionchurch@earthlink.net)

The Reverend Mary Barrett Speers, Pastor ❖ Vince Peterson, Minister of Music

Ed Huml, BRUCA Program Director ❖ Jennifer Kruger, Administrator and Playgroup Director

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 with us regularly for Christian worship, nurture, and the doing of God's work in the world—  
that you may have life, and that more abundantly.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP VII EPIPHANY

### 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

from Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God:  
the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.  
There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard:  
yet their voice goes out though all the earth,  
their words to the end of the world.

### ★HYMN no. 483

*Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, we praise you as we join together in worship. We come before you knowing that only in your service will our lives find purpose and meaning. We are sorry for all the mistakes we have made by trusting in ourselves, or in any thing or person, more than you. We are sorry for all the times we have pleased ourselves or other people instead of you. Please fill us with your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Life and Love, not because we are worthy, but because you love us. We know that we cannot offer the way of life in your needy and broken world unless you live inside us, empowering us for the glory into which you lead us, through Jesus Christ our Lord...

### SILENT PRAYER

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

### ★RESPONSE no. 576: *Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest...Alleluia!*

### ★THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*please turn and share the Peace of Christ with your neighbors*

## GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION no. 322

*Spirit of the Living God*

FIRST LESSON Deuteronomy 30:11-20

ANTHEM

SECOND LESSON Matthew 5:21-37

SERMON A Fork in the Road

Rev. Speers

★HYMN no. 354

*Guide My Feet*

OFFERTORY

★DOXOLOGY no. 592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God who gives us life, in Christ you gave your life for us. With all that we have, and all that we are, we offer our lives to you. Accept our endeavors, amend our errors, and guide our ambitions, that we may indeed follow you more nearly, for we pray in the strong name of Jesus. 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.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Hymnal p. 16: "debts"*

★HYMN no. 386

*O For a World*

★CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH

*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; the musicians offer their music to the glory of God.*

★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.

**Looking for a *positive* spiritual practice?** Consider singing with the choir, Sundays at 9:30am!

**Many thanks** to all leaders: Vince Peterson and the choir, the LoPorto family for today's refreshments, Jennifer Segna (Sunday School 'bishop'), Jane Feazell (Communion '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 LGBTQ servicemen and women and all in the armed forces in this time of transition; for prisoners, those recently released from prison, and all who work and pray with them, especially Rev. Diane Lacey and the Church of Gethsemane. Also we pray for: the Miller/Morgan family, Bay Ridge Prep, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, the people of Arizona, the Morales/Torres family, Eddie Norstrand, the Presbytery of New York City and Tony de la Rosa, Carolyn Ramsay, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Bill Louisa, Dolores Cleary; Tim, Molly, Jessica, David and Marion and their family, and all families with loved ones in hospice; Norman, Diane, Jackson, Donna, Janet, Jane, Helen, Sally.

**We note with sadness the death on January 3 of Stuart Miller,** son of the Rev. Craig Miller and his wife, Nancy Morgan. Condolences may be sent to 426 80<sup>th</sup> St, Brooklyn, NY 11209.

**The Book of Remembrance** is open to remember dear departed members of the Union Church family: today, 2/13—Viola Ferretti; 2/20—Alice Seely; 2/27—Severin Norstrand; 3/6—Malcolm Tannahill; 3/13—June Aram; 3/20—Janet Louisa; 3/27—Helene Ogourek.

**Union Church office hours: 12-1:30 M-W and 9-11 Fri.** 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 Bay Ridge United and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at Redeemer-St John's Lutheran Church,** 83<sup>rd</sup> St between 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Aves in Dyker Heights, Tuesday evenings supper 6-7, study 7-8pm. The group is in recess for the month of February. See Rev. Speers for details.

**Saturday, February 26: Elder training at Brick Church, 92<sup>nd</sup> and Park, 9am-3:30pm**

**Sunday, February 27: Baptism of Grace Segna**

**Joint Session Meeting (outgoing and incoming elders together) Feb 28** at 7pm in the Parish House

**Taizé Evensong Wednesday, March 2** at 7pm in the Sanctuary (first Wednesdays).

**Annual Congregational Meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 6 after worship.**

**Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is March 9:** our annual shared worship will be at Bay Ridge United Church, Bay Ridge Avenue (75<sup>th</sup> Street) between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues, at 7:30pm.

**The first Sunday in Lent is March 13.**

**Lenten Concert Sunday, April 3 at 4pm** including *Missa Criolla* of Argentinian composer Ariel Ramirez, with music of five centuries from the Spanish diaspora.

**Mark your calendars: Easter is April 24.**

**Holy week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday on April 17.**