

Welcome to the

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

Eighthieth Street and Ridge Boulevard

## February 27, 2011



not of more value than

M A T T H E W 6 : 2 6

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

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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

# 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

*adapted from Psalm 103*

Let all the earth sing praise to God:

**Let mountains sing out and the heavens exult.**

Let oceans and rivers proclaim their delight:

**We sing for joy and rejoice in God’s love!**

## ★HYMN no. 276

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Loving God, we thank you for your promise to be with us always, standing with us in the midst of all things. Merciful God, we confess that we let our fears govern our lives. We let our worries drown out your word of hope and peace. Instead of seeking the righteousness of your kingdom, we have sought our own security. We have not, therefore, been faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to us. Open our ears to hear your voice, and open our hearts to receive your grace. Free us from our fears. Anchor us firmly in your love, that we may accept your forgiveness and trust in your promise of life, given to us through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we are pledged 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!**

## ★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

*composed for Union Church by Vince Peterson*

*Speak, O Lord, and we will hear you: let your will be done indeed.*

*May we undisturbed draw near you, with your Word your people feed.*

*Here of life the fountain flows: here is balm for all our woes.*

## FIRST LESSON

Isa 49:8-16a

## ANTHEM

## SECOND LESSON

Matthew 6:24-34

SERMON

We Belong to God

Rev. Speers

★HYMN no. 368

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

**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 Body of Christ;

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.**

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

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Grace Brooklyn Segna

**OFFERTORY**

*Trees*

African-American Gospel Song

★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.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Hymnal* p. 16: "debts"

★HYMN no. 315 *(add verse 3 below)*

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

*Oh I have sorrows, and I have woe, and I have heartache here below;*

*But my God leads me, I'm in God's care, and I can feel God everywhere...*

★CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

**MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH** *please keep silence; the musicians offer their music to the glory of God.*

★please rise in body or in spirit; unison prayers are in bold.

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.

### 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 Segna 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; for the people of Egypt and all the countries of the Middle East ; 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; Leida Luz and her donor's family, Tim, Molly, Jessica, David and Marion, Guthrie, 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, 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

**Session meeting 7pm tomorrow in the Parish House;** because of the rescheduled congregational meeting, the joint meeting will be the March stated Session meeting, Monday, March 28 at 7pm.

**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 resumes March 1. See Rev. Speers for details.

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

**Annual Congregational Meeting next Sunday, March 6, after worship.**

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

**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.**