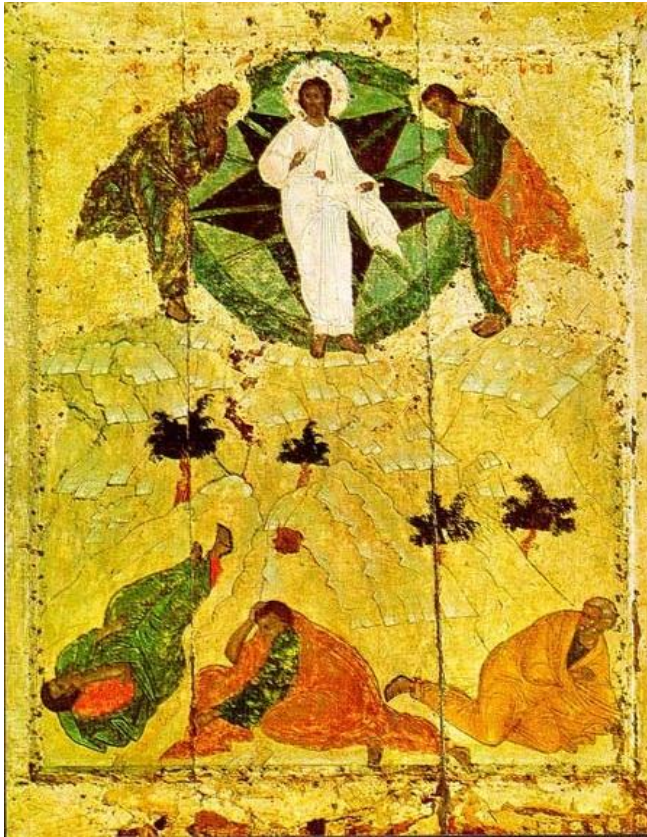


Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard

Last Sunday of Epiphany the Feast of the Transfiguration



March 6, 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 www.bruca.org 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

LAST SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY: FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

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

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.

And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tabernacles here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!'

When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.'

And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Human One has been raised from the dead.'

★HYMN no. 150 *a Spanish folk melody*

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Great God of light, as this season of light draws to a close, help us to see your majestic, glorious face as we are meant to see it, in the faces of our brothers and sisters here on Earth. Great God of mercy, who freed us all from bondage in Christ Jesus, deliver us from the bondage of self, and from all our dependency on shrines and idols. Illumine our path and give us the willingness to follow it, even when it becomes steep and unlovely, for it is step by step that we reach the mountaintop, and step by step that all in bondage are led to freedom. Teach us not to grumble or blame, but to trust, praying as one body in the strong name of Jesus, to whom we are pledged and in whom we are saved...

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 Exodus 24:12-18

ANTHEM

SECOND LESSON II Peter 1:16-21

SERMON You Never Walk Alone Rev. Speers

★HYMN no. 340 *Eternal Light, Shine In My Heart*

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal p. 16: "debts"

★HYMN no. 400 *Pues Si Vivimos/While We Are Living*

★CHARGE AND BLESSING ...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.

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.

Plan to stay for the Annual Congregational Meeting today, March 6, after worship. There are important matters to be voted on and all members of Union Church are urged to remain for the meeting. Copies of the 2010 Annual Report are available for you on the back table.

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

March is Women's History Month and Latin American History Month. Look for contributions from women and the Spanish diaspora in our worship services, and invite all your family and friends to our Spanish-themed choir concert, 4pm on Sunday, April 3!

Many thanks to all leaders: Vince Peterson and the choir, the preparers of 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, 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, 83rd St between 7th and 10th Aves in Dyker Heights, Tuesday evenings supper 6-7, study 7-8pm. The group resumes March 1. See Rev. Speers for details.

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 (75th Street) between 6th and 7th Avenues, at 7:30pm.

This is the last Sunday in Epiphany, the Season of Light. Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Lent.

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

Taizé Evensong Wednesday, April 6 at 7pm in the Sanctuary (first Wednesdays).

Maunder Thursday is April 21: Union Church Passover Seder reenactment of the first Lord's Supper, with dinner and communion, 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Mark your calendars: Easter is April 24.

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