

Welcome to your spirit's home...

Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York

Restoration Sunday

November 15, 2009



Chapel, Parish House and Office

8101 Ridge Boulevard at Eighty-First Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209

www.ucbr.org ❖ unionchurch@earthlink.net ❖ 718.745.0438

The Reverend Mary Barrett Speers, Pastor ❖ Vince Peterson, Minister of Music
Ed Huml, BRUCA Program Director ❖ Jody Levine, Playgroup Director and Administrator

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

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

from Psalm 24

The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof:

The world and those who dwell therein;

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in God’s holy place?

Those with clean hands and pure hearts: they will receive the LORD’s blessing.

✦HYMN no. 267

All Things Bright and Beautiful

PRAYER OF PREPARATION *(please be seated)*

Most loving and gracious God, for the way on which you lead us, for the abundant life you give us, and for the hope of the Resurrection promised us in Jesus, we thank you. For your gifts of life and love, of labor and rest, we praise your holy name. Forgive us that too often we are ungrateful while your goodness surrounds us; that we feel pity only for ourselves while your love is for all your children; that we despair while your strength is near at hand. Tear down the walls that isolate us, make strong the ties that bind us, and help us to walk together with joy in all your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

SUNG RESPONSE no. 576 *a Gloria ordinarily follows the Assurance. This one is from Taizé:*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest...Alleluia, Alleluia.

✦THE PEACE OF CHRIST

please exchange the Peace of Christ with your neighbors.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

Elder Joseph Lynch

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hymnal #322 *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me...melt me, mold me, fill me, use me...

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 49:8-16a

ANTHEM Give Alms of Thy Goods

Christopher Tye, 16c.

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 6:19-24,31-33

SERMON Talking Back to Money

Rev. Speers

+HYMN no. 333

Seek Ye First

OFFERTORY Sing to the Lord

Alice Parker, 20c.

+DOXOLOGY no. 592 and **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

You call to us to seek you, O Christ, and to find new ways to share our joy with people everywhere. We offer our selves and our substance to do your work in the world, asking that you follow our offerings with your blessing, and keep us always in the guidance of your Holy Spirit. 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

blue hymnal p. 16: "debts"

+HYMN IN RECESSION no. 391

Take My Life

+CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING MUSIC *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 artists offer their work to the glory of God.*

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Eleanore Skoldberg,
in loving memory of Ernest Skoldberg, Jr.**

**The single rosebud blooms to the glory of God
in honor of the birth of Grace Brooklyn Segna, November 5, 2009.**

Isaiah 49:8-16 NRSV

Thus says the Lord:

In a time of favour I have answered you,
on a day of salvation I have helped you;
I have kept you and given you
as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land,
to apportion the desolate heritages;
⁹saying to the prisoners, 'Come out',
to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.'
They shall feed along the ways,
on all the bare heights shall be their pasture;
¹⁰they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.
¹¹And I will turn all my mountains into a road,
and my highways shall be raised up.
¹²Lo, these shall come from far away,
and lo, these from the north and from the west,
and these from the land of Syene.

¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the Lord has comforted his people,
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

¹⁴But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me,
my Lord has forgotten me.'
¹⁵Can a woman forget her nursing-child,
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget,
yet I will not forget you.

¹⁶See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are continually before me.

Matthew 6:19-24,31-33 NRSV

Jesus said,

‘**D**o not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² ‘The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; ²³but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴ ‘No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

³¹ ‘Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.’

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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 worship leaders: Vince Peterson and the choir, the Van Royen family for today's refreshments; Maryellen Van Royen (Communion bishop) and Kristin Miller (coffee hour bishop).

All of us enjoy the Coffee Hour at the close of worship. Most of us do a lot for the church (we're a small church). No matter how much else you are doing, **you too can sign up for at least one coffee hour per season**, and make the Program and Mission committee really happy.

Food collection season is upon us, and Jennifer Segna's November theme is "Cornucopia", which means "horn of plenty." Give thanks to God by bringing canned goods to share.

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, 11/15—Ernest Skoldberg, Jr.; 11/22—Dorothy May and Frances Freeman; 11/29—Beatrice Goddard.

Prayer List requests should come to the church office by telephone **718.745.0438**.

Continue to pray for the restoration of creation; for all living in the midst of war, poverty, natural and economic disaster, especially the people of San Juan, Puerto Rico; for prisoners and all who watch and pray for them, especially the Church of Gethsemane. Continue to pray for/stay in touch with: Vince Peterson, New York City Presbytery, Arabella Meadows-Rogers, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Donna, Janet, Geraldine, John and the Vandermarcq family, Mary, Jane, Helen, Sally.

This Week and Ongoing

Today is Restoration Sunday, the opening of the stewardship season, a month in which we reflect on how we use and care for all the resources God gives us in preparation for making our pledges on **GIFTS SUNDAY, December 13**.

Community Thanksgiving eve services Wednesday, November 25: all are invited to any of these: Christ Episcopal, 73rd and Ridge, service with choir 7:30pm; Redeemer-St John's Lutheran Church, 939 83rd St, 7:30pm; Leif Erikson Day School, 1037 72nd St., community feast 5:45pm (\$5-\$3 plus one canned good per person) and worship at 7pm.

Advent is almost upon us! Highlights: Sunday, Nov 29 (Thanksgiving Sunday) is the first Sunday in Advent. Saturday, Dec 5 is Wreath-making. Sunday afternoon at 4pm, Dec 6, is the second string quartet concert. Sunday December 13 at 3pm, we are invited to a community Lessons and Carols service at St Andrew's Roman Catholic Church; and our Manger Service with animal blessing, our Union Church Sing-It-Yourself *Messiah* (sing along with the choir), and Manse Christmas party are all at various times on Sunday, December 20. Watch for details!

Bible Study meets 7-8pm every other Tuesday in the Parish House. Next date: this coming Tuesday, **November 17**.

Yoga classes meet Wednesday 6:45-8:15pm in the Parish House Chapel.

Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs meets first Mondays at 11am in the Sanctuary, except for holidays: next meeting Monday, January 4 (no meeting in December).

Next Session meeting Monday, December 7, at 7pm in the Parish House.

Taizé Evensong first Tuesdays, next at 7pm **Dec 8** in our Parish House Chapel, 8101 Ridge Blvd.