

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

November 16, 2008



Restoration Sunday

Union Church 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

adapted from Psalm 85

Come, behold the works of the LORD! who makes wars cease to the end of the earth,
Who breaks the bow, who shatters the spear, who burns the chariots with fire!
“Be still,” says the LORD, “and know that I am God.”
God is exalted among the nations; God is exalted in the earth. AMEN.

✚HYMN no. 559

We Gather Together

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

Creator of the World, you restore us this day through the word spoken, the word sung, the Word made flesh in Jesus Christ. You fill us with the warmth and light of your love, and breathe into us the breath of life. Help us now, trusting in your love, to unburden our hearts. Yes, we have set aside your commandment to love one another. We have mistrusted your trust in us. We have belittled our talents or hidden them in fear. Faithful God, forgive us. Send your Spirit among us, that we may live here and now in the joy of your kingdom, 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 sung Glory to God 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

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:

Judges 4:1-9

Mary Cusack

PSALM ANTHEM

SECOND LESSON:

Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON

Chariots of Iron

Rev. Speers

✚HYMN no. 422

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

OFFERTORY

✚DOXOLOGY no. 592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Blessing and honor and glory and power are yours, O God. Grant that we may praise and serve you with the songs of our lips, the service of our lives, and the gifts of our treasure, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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. 519

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

✚CHARGE AND BLESSING

...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; artists offer their work to the glory of God.

✚all who would like to may stand; **unison prayers are in bold.**

Judges 4:1-9 NRSV

¹The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. ²So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. ³Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

⁴At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. ⁶She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. ⁷I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'" ⁸Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.' ⁹And she said, 'I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.' Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh.

Matthew 25:14-30 NRSV

¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless servant, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
by Olive, Dan, and the Reich family, in loving memory of Rev. William Gray Tolley**

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: the Sunday School teachers; Vince Peterson and the choir; Bruce MacIntyre for today's refreshments; Malcolm Tannahill and the ushers; 'bishops' Mary Cusack (Communion) Kristin Miller-Lynch (coffee hour), and Michele Di Bartolo (Sunday School).

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember: 11/16—Rev. William Gray Tolley; 11/23—Dorothy May and Frances Freeman; 11/30—Beatrice Goddard.

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

Continue to pray for/stay in touch with: Theresa and the Attara family, Vince and the Peterson family, the Cleary family, Art Samuel, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Barbara Briggs, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Helen, Wendy, Sally, Michelle, Kevin. Please call the office to make changes to the prayer list.

Warren Gatto is engaged! Letters of congratulation may be sent to him and Shin Oh Kang, his fiancée, at 6614 17th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11204 or wgatto@aol.com.

Give food for free on line: www.freerice.com and www.thehungersite.com are fun, interactive sites where you can take a vocabulary quiz and donate rice for each correct answer (no charge), or just keep clicking repeatedly, not even a quiz, and give food for free that way. Any other sites like that please email unionchurch@earthlink.net and if we can we'll publish them!

Holiday Food Bank: canned goods, especially tuna fish and plastic-jar peanut butter, are most welcome. Think portable, easy to store, not requiring pots and pans (or even can openers). The food collection box is on the table in the Sanctuary vestibule.

This Week and Ongoing

BRUCA has a special gift-making workshop starting tomorrow, Nov 17, through Dec 16. Call 718.745.0438 to sign up!

Bible study at Redeemer-St. John's Lutheran Church, 939 83rd St, every Wednesday at 11am.

Tuesday evening fortnightly Bible study next meeting 7pm this Tuesday, November 18, in Rev. Speers's study, Union Church Parish House, one block south at 8101 Ridge Boulevard. The group is concentrating on *lectio divina* of the Psalms.

Support group for parents of children with special needs first Mondays, 11-1: call Isabel Morales 800.405.8818 if you or a friend would be interested (the next one is December 1).

Yoga continues on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 in the Sanctuary. No experience or advance registration is needed for this gentle, restorative class. Each evening is \$15, pay as you go; wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel and a yoga mat if you have one.

Session meeting fourth Mondays: next is Nov 24, at 7pm in the Parish House.

Looking to the Future

Advent is just around the corner! The first Sunday in Advent is Thanksgiving weekend, Nov 30. Advent plans include wreathmaking Sat, Dec 6, Gifts Sunday with Stewardship Dedication Dec 14, Conrad Susa's chancel opera *The Wise Women* 4pm Dec 14, the Union Church Manger Service 11am Sunday, Dec 21, the Manse Christmas Party and carolling after worship Dec 21, and our "midnight" Christmas Eve Communion service with carols, candles, and choir, 10:30pm Wed, Dec 24.