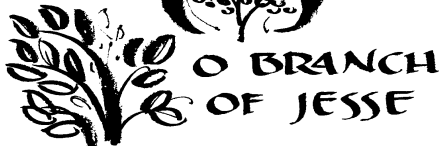


*Welcome to the*

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard



*December 6, 2009*

Chapel, Parish House and Office

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

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



## Second Sunday in Advent

*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—and all shall be well; all manner of thing shall be well.*

### 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.*

**INTROIT Hymnal** no. 9 v. 2     *This Advent, for the candle-lighting liturgy we shall be using the ancient Advent “O Antiphons,” antiphonal prayers all beginning in **O!** together with this twelfth-century hymn, which is based on them.*

**SECOND ADVENT CANDLE**     *after the candle is lit, we say this “antiphon:”*     The LoPorto Family  
**O RADIANT DAWN**, splendor of eternal light, Sun of Justice:  
Come, shine in every dark corner, warm all who are cold or hungry or nearing death.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**     *after a brief silence, let us sing...*

**✦ADVENT HYMN IN PROCESSION** no. 13

*Prepare the Way*

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**God of the future, you are coming in glory to fill your world with goodness. We confess that in all our preparations for another Christmas, we are still unprepared for you. Where we might be opening our hearts and our lives to receive you, we are busy filling them up, as though we did not really believe you were coming. Help our unbelief: give us grace to leave open our unfilled places, so that when our guest comes, they become places of honor, and we are ready with a joyful welcome in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord...**

#### SILENT PRAYER

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

**✦GLORIA:** *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

chorus from no. 23 (a French carol)

**✦THE PEACE**

*please remain standing and offer the Peace of Christ to your neighbors*

#### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

tune: TRURO no. 8 (verse 3, adapted)

*Fling wide the portals of our hearts! Make each a temple, set apart*

*From earthly use to heaven's employ, adorned with prayer, and love, and joy...*

**FIRST LESSON**      **Malachi 3:1-4**

**ANTHEM**              *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Owen

**SECOND LESSON**    **Luke 3:1-6**

**SERMON**             **A Hope for All**

Rev. Speers

✦**HYMN** no. 449

***My Lord, What a Morning!***

**OFFERTORY**

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

**Holy One, you who are complete in Yourself and the source of all power and grace, place within us the spirit of your holy child Jesus, fill us with such love and awe and delight that we become a blessing to everyone we meet, and send into your world through us the abundant life we have through the one who was, and is, and is to come, Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*God's offering to God's people*

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING and INTERCESSION**

*new Hymnal p. 13*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** "*debts*"

*new Hymnal p. 16*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

✦**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*Please come to the table and dip the bread in the cup*

**PRAYER OF RESOLUTION** *we sing the first four lines, from Psalm 103*

***Hymnal** no. 597*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul*

***And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!***

*Bless the Lord, O my soul*

***And forget not all God's benefits.***

**God our help: we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your holy child Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Christ, and pledge ourselves to serve you and the world you so love, even as in Christ you have served us. AMEN**

✦**HYMN IN RECESSION** no. 501 (*a French carol melody*)

***Bread of Heaven***

✦**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.*

✦*all who would like to may stand; **Unison prayers are in bold.***

## **Malachi 3:1-4 NRSV**

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See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

## **Luke 3:1-6 NRSV**

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In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

### 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:** the Abdenour family, Vince Peterson and the choir, the preparers of 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 December theme is "Boxing Day"**, from the English custom of bringing boxes of food to the hungry on the day after Christmas. Bring anything that comes in a box! Instant mashed potatoes, pasta, mac-and-cheese, cereal, etc.

**The Book of Remembrance** is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, 12/6—Nancy Gatto; 12/13—Andrew Stutz; 12/20—Jean Dangman; 12/27—Josephine Coury; 1/3—Olive Buerk; 1/10—Emma Kirk Beck; 1/17—Edward Norstrand; 1/24—Leinda Mouacdie; 1/31—Virginia Villano.

**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; 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 the family and friends of Nellie; Donna, Janet, Geraldine, John and the Vandermarcq family, Mary, Jane, Helen, Sally.

### This Week and Ongoing

**Poinsettia orders are due in the office December 13** (\$10 each, make sure to say in honor/memory of whom—you can give extra!). Forms are on the back table in the Sanctuary.

**Today at 4pm** is the second string quartet concert: the Avalon String Quartet, playing quartets by Hadyn and Bartok. Tickets \$20 for this world-class string quartet.

**Sunday December 13 in 11am worship is Gifts Sunday: Pledges for 2010 and multicultural children's books for the Church of Gethsemane.** Don't wrap please; they need to match each book to a particular child. African American themes are especially needed.

**Then Sunday December 13 at 3pm**, community Lessons and Carols service at St Andrew's Roman Catholic Church, Ridge Boulevard and Senator Street.

**Sunday, December 20: 11am family-friendly Manger Service with animal blessing, 4pm our Union Church Sing-It-Yourself *Messiah* (sing along with the choir), and 6pm Manse Christmas party, buffet supper, carols and cheer. Bring your friends!**

**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 tomorrow, December 7, at 7pm** in the Parish House.

**Taizé Evensong first Tuesdays**, next at 7pm **January 5**, Parish House Chapel, 8101 Ridge Blvd.