

...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

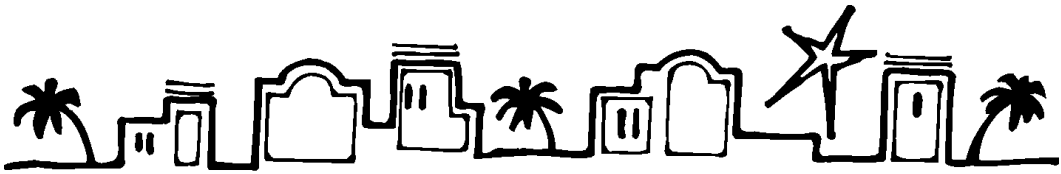
Christmas Eve 2008



Midnight Communion

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP: THE CHRIST CANDLE

from Little Gidding by T.S. Eliot

What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from... ...leader lights the large white Christ candle...
And all shall be well and
All manner of thing shall be well
When the tongues of flame are in-folded
Into the crowned knot of fire
And the fire and the rose are one.
You have come, Lord Jesus. (*after a brief silence, let us sing...*)

+CAROL no. 48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Loving God, you draw over every day the restful veil of night: enfold us in your heavenly peace. Lift from our hands our cares and tasks, and all through the night bear in your bosom the weight of our burdens and sorrows, that in this night of wonder we may feed upon your love and power, for it was in the night that you gave to us your very self in Jesus Christ our Lord...

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

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

+GLORIA: *Gloria in excelsis Deo!* (Glory to God in the Highest!) chorus from Hymnal no. 23

+THE PEACE

please turn and offer the Peace of Christ to your neighbors

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✚CAROL no. 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

STATION AT THE CHRISTMAS CRÛCHE

A PROCLAMATION FROM THE PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE: Isaiah 9:2-7

ANTHEM

Gaudete

from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE BIBLE: Luke 2:8-20

A CHRISTMAS STORY FROM NOWADAYS: *The Plastic Angel*

by Ann Weems

OFFERTORY

The Shepherd's Pipe Carol

John Rutter

✚DOXOLOGY fourth verse of Hymnal no. 56 ("The First Nowell")

*Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,*

And with his blood our life hath bought: Nowell, Nowell...born is the King of Israel!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jesus our life, with the wise men of old we offer our gifts to you. May this Christmas be more than opening presents: this Christmas, may we open our hearts and minds to your Presence. Be born in us today: guide our faith from infancy to maturity; lead us beyond the concerns of the moment to those of eternity. Renew our spirits, and strengthen us to be your body in your world, through the indwelling power of your Holy Spirit. AMEN.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

COMMUNION CAROL no. 5 verses 1 and 2

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

with responses as in the *Hymnal* p. 13

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal p. 16: "debts"

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION

please dip your bread in the common cup, then form a circle around the table in readiness for.....

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

When you light your candle, please hold the lit candle upright, and tip the unlit candle towards it

✚CANDLELIGHT CAROL no. 60

Silent Night, Holy Night

✚BENEDICTION

...and let the whole church say, **Alleluia! Merry Christmas!**

MORE CHRISTMAS MUSIC

✚All may stand; Unison prayers are in bold.

Please extinguish your candles and give them to the ushers as you leave. God bless you!

Poinsettias donated by:

Lorraine Green & Charles Scheffold
Marie Nelson
Olive and Dan Reich
Arthur and Betty Samuel
Eleanore Skoldberg
Alan and Joyce Smith
Shirley Tuccillo
Ruth Ward
Lillian Warren
The Ramsays
Mary Speers
The Van Royens
The Van Royens

In loving memory of or in honor of:

Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Our Loved Ones
Our Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Our Loved Ones
Loved Ones
John Ward
Ed Adamski
Loved Ones
In Honor of Mary Chamberlain
In Honor of Paul B. Douglass Sr.
In Memory of Carole Lamb

Announcements

Visitors, welcome! Because it is late there is no coffee hour tonight, but if you would, please sign the guest book in the back of the Sanctuary so that we may get to know you better.

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember: 12/28—Friends of Union Church; 1/4—Olive Buerk; 1/11—Emma Kirk Beck; 1/18—Edward Norstrand; 1/25—Leinda Mouacdie.

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

Continue to pray for peace; 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: Paul Douglass and the Van Royen family; Diget and Ginny and the Moore family, Theresa and the Attara family, Vince and the Peterson family, the Boyle family, the Cleary family, Art Samuel and Mary Chamberlain, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Barbara Briggs, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also Ed, Mark and Audrey, Helen, Wendy, Sally, Kevin.

Give food for free on line: visit www.freerice.com and www.thehungersite.com

Holiday Food Bank: The food collection box is on the table in the Sanctuary vestibule.

This Week and Ongoing

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: January 5 is the next planned date.

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

The Rest of Advent and Christmas at Union Church: Thanks to Vince Peterson and all choir members who have arranged their holiday travels to be with us this evening. Bruce MacIntyre will lead us in Lessons and Carols December 28, and we celebrate Epiphany (Three Kings) with Communion on January 4, 2009. Thanks to Olive for the poinsettia bower!

The next Taizé service is February 5th. (the first Thursday of January is New Year's Day)

Plain Living and High Thinking January 10: Budget process meeting 9am-12:30pm in the Parish House, and the inevitable Dismantling of the Greens, until next year, in the Sanctuary. All hands are appreciated for one or the other of these unlovely, necessary tasks.