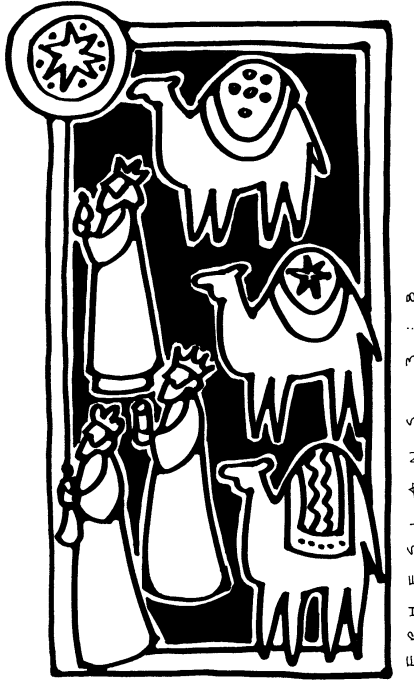


Welcome to your spirit's home...

Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

January 4, 2009



TO BRING TO ALL
the NEWS OF THE
BOUNDLESS RICHES
of C·H·R·I·S·T

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 EPIPHANY SUNDAY

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

Isaiah 60:1,3

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising!

+HYMN no. 66

We Three Kings

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, you sent a star to guide the world to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed its light. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted your news to be good. We have failed to remember the birth of Jesus, and have refused his peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our dullness, and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait, rise up and follow the star, and hear anew each day the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the 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 OF CHRIST

please exchange the Peace of Christ with your neighbors

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION from WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET 8.8.7 *Hymnal* no. 69 v. 2

Sung as a prayer, the first 6 measures only:

***Thou heavenly brightness, Light divine! O deep within my heart now shine,
And make Thee there an altar!***

FIRST LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

ANTHEM *This Christmas Night (1970)* lyrics: Mary Wilson; music: Malcolm Williamson

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 3:1-12

SERMON: A Light to the Nations Rev. Speers

+ HYMN no. 64 *De Tierra Lejana /From a Distant Home*

OFFERTORY *King Jesus Hath a Garden* Traditional Dutch

+DOXOLOGY no. 592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jesus our Light, with the wise men of old we offer our treasure 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 SUPPER *God's Offering to God's People*

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING and INTERCESSION

Hymnal p. 13

THE LORD'S PRAYER "debts"

Hymnal p. 16

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

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

THANKSGIVING AFTER THE COMMUNION no. 597 *sung and spoken*

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.

Let us pray:

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 RECESSIO (*insert*)

Cold December Flies Away

+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 music to the glory of God.*

Matthew 2 1:12 NRSV

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Ephesians 3:1-12 NRSV

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. ¹³I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Olive Reich
in loving memory of Olive Buerk

Announcements

Visitors, welcome! Please join us after worship for refreshments and conversation, and please sign the guest book in the back of the Sanctuary so that we may get to know you better.

Today is the second anniversary of Vince Peterson's first worship service with us!

Many thanks to all worship leaders: Vince Peterson and the choir; Malcolm Tannahill and the ushers; the Smith-Greissman family for today's refreshments; Mary Cusack (Communion 'bishop') Kristin Miller (coffee hour 'bishop') and Michele DiBartolo (Sunday school 'bishop').

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember: 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

Post-Holiday Food Bank: People are still hungry, and the food banks still need food. 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: tomorrow, January 5, is the next.

Plain Living and High Thinking Next Saturday, 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.

Fortnightly Tuesday Bible Study meets January 13 at 7pm in the Parish House.

Wednesday midweek, midday Bible Study resumes January 14

Yoga continues on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 in the Sanctuary. 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.

Looking to the Future

Program and Mission Committee meets 6:30 pm January 12 in the Parish House

January Union Church Concert 4pm Sunday January 16: Duo Nova Antigua

Newsletter deadline (for Feb-March including most of Lent) January 17

Session meets January 26 at 7pm in the Parish House

Annual Congregational Meeting with election of officers Sunday, February 1

The next Taizé evensong service is February 5th.

Lent begins at the very end of February this year.

Sunday March 1: First Sunday in Lent, special worship with guest Mieke Vandersall of Presbyterian Welcome; Mary Cusack to sing