



*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 may have life, and that more abundantly.*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### GATHERING MUSIC

*This Easter season, welcome to the joy and hope of the Resurrection!  
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.*

**CHORALE~INTROIT** *Christ lag in Todesbanden* Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

### +CALL TO WORSHIP

*adapted from* **Genesis 8:22**

Hear the word of the LORD in the promise of the rainbow:

**While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,  
Summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.**

This is the word of the LORD. Let us worship God!

### +HYMN no. 118

***The Day of Resurrection!***

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION *(please be seated)*

**God of grace, we praise you for all your mysterious ways, and thank you for  
all your blessings in our lives. Here in these days of eternal life, we ask that  
we may see our lives as they are, and also as you would have them be. We  
ask your forgiveness for our failures to speak to others of your saving power  
in our lives. We pray for willingness to grow in your Spirit: to let our joy be  
known, even in the face of apathy and disdain; and to hold forth hope, even  
in the face of cynicism. Help us to trust that your love goes with us through all  
our successes and failures, even beyond death itself. In all things, grant us the  
perseverance to become what you mean us to be, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord, who has prepared a place for us and in whose strong name we pray...**

### SILENT PRAYER AND ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

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

**SUNG RESPONSE:** *chorus of no. 119:*

***Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

### +THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*please turn and share the Peace of Christ with your neighbors*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION no.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: Genesis 8:6-12**

### ANTHEM

Psalm 16: a metrical setting in our hymnal no. **165**

**SECOND LESSON: John 20:24-29**

### SERMON:

**Vital Signs**

Rev. Mary Speers

### +HYMN no. 370

*Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

### OFFERTORY

*Versus II of Cantata 4 "Christ lag in Todesbanden"*

J.S. Bach

Den Tod Niemand zwingen kunnt  
Bei allen Menschenkindern,  
Das macht' alles unser Sünd,  
Kein Unschuld war zu finden.

*No one could conquer death  
Among all mortal children,  
Our sin has caused all this,  
No innocence was to be found.*

Davon kam der Tod so bald  
Und nahm über uns Gewalt,  
Hielt uns in seinem Reich gefangen.

*In that way death came so suddenly  
And took power over us,  
Kept us imprisoned in his realm.*

Hallelujah!

*Hallelujah!*

Trans. Bruce MacIntyre

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

**Loving God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our trust in you. You alone know our hearts, and you more than any human being love us. May this act of giving draw us closer to you, and spread a table of bounty before all who come closer to you through our sharing, in Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: 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

*Hymnal p. 16: "debts"*

### +HYMN no. 122

*Thine Is the Glory*

### +CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

### MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH

*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 musicians offer their music to the glory of God.*

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

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Helene Ogurek by her friends and family**

**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: Vince Peterson and the choir; the ushers; the lectors; the communion elders; Ben Ha for today's refreshments; Mary Cusack (Communion 'bishop'), Isabel Morales (Sunday School 'bishop') and Kristin Miller-Lynch (coffee hour 'bishop').

**The Book of Remembrance** is open to remember dear departed members of Union Church: today, 3/30—Helene Ogurek; 4/6—Dorothy Simmons; 4/13—Mildred Anderson; 4/20—Laurel Cogan; April 27—Mary Nell Norstrand; 5/4—Mildred (Sue) Watson; May 11—Clara Yagian; 5/18—Edith Jensen; 5/25—Charles Masterson.

**Continue to pray for our planet and for peace;** for all living in the midst of war, poverty, natural and economic disaster; for prisoners, those recently released from prison, and all who work and pray with them, especially the Church of Gethsemane. Also we pray for and stay in touch with: Milford Anderson, Bill Louisa, Iris Norstrand, Dolores Cleary, Evelyn Riccio, Carolyn Ramsay, Emile Serposs, Nazik David, Barbara Briggs, Amanda Silverman, Helen Kretiv; Barbara, Dale's family, Arabella, Eleanor, Craig and family, Lorrie, Steve, Rachel, Cathy, James, Jenny, Nick, Andrea, Arthur, Sharon, Dale, Dana, Paul, Jon, Bud, Jane, Rick, and Kendra.

**Community-Supported Agriculture:** see Elder Michele DiBartolo about this new program.

**Session Members, The next stated session meeting is Monday, April 28, at 7pm.**

**This Week or Monthly**

**The Bay Ridge Festival of the Arts,** which began over 40 years ago at Union Church, opens today, March 30, through Sunday, April 6, at Good Shepherd Church, 4<sup>th</sup> Ave at 75<sup>th</sup> Street,

**Sunday, March 30, 1-4 pm: Choir rehearsal for Vivaldi's *Gloria***

**BRUCA Open House this Saturday, April 5, 10am to 2pm.** Spring schedule: [www.bruca.org](http://www.bruca.org)

**Playgroup** spring term is starting. Call the office or visit [www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org).

**Sunday, April 6, 4 pm: Union Church Concert: Elena Antimova, piano, in recital,** including Beethoven's *Waldstein* Sonata. Come for a wonderful hour of music, and support this promising candidate for Master of Music from Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music. Admission is free with a freewill offering at the door to benefit music at Union Church.

**Midweek Bible study, 11am Wednesdays at Redeemer-St John's Lutheran Church** 939 83<sup>rd</sup> Street in Dyker Heights. The group will be studying different characters from the Bible, using *Peculiar Treasures* by Frederick Buechner as a springboard. To join the carpool ask Rev. Speers.

**Yoga** meets two days a week: **Monday and Wednesday 6:45-8:15.** Call Kristin Miller 745.6596

**As of this month, our newsletters** will be available on our brand new **website, [www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org).**

**If you would like to save the church postage and/or save a tree** and have us send your newsletter by email, please email the office: [ucoffice@earthlink.net](mailto:ucoffice@earthlink.net). **We are now equipped to send you a PDF version of our newsletter, downloadable and printable,** and newsletters beginning with fall 2007 will also be filed on the newsletter page of the website.

**Looking to the Future**

**Saturday, April 19, 12-3 pm: Rehearsal with orchestra for Vivaldi's *Gloria***

**Sunday, April 27** at 11am: **Vivaldi's *Gloria*** in worship with choir, soloists and chamber orchestra

**Sunday, May 18 at 4 pm: Pops Concert: the Mel-O-Chords Sing the Beatles** in the last Union Church Concert of the 2007-08 season.

Welcome to the  
**Union Church of Bay Ridge**

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

[www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org)



**March 30, 2008**

**Parish House, Bay Ridge-Union Center for the Arts (BRUCA) and Office**

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