

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)



*Good Shepherd Window in north aisle of Union Church Sanctuary*

**April 13, 2008**

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

8101 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11209

718.745.0438

[unionchurch@earthlink.net](mailto:unionchurch@earthlink.net)

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

*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.*

### +CALL TO WORSHIP

**PSALM 23** KJV, in unison

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters; he restoreth my soul.  
He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for thou art with me:  
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### +HYMN no. 387

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

### 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, and while you  
are so radiantly with us, may we see our lives as they are, and also as you  
would have them be. Stay with us through all our successes and failures, even  
beyond death itself. In all things, lead us, teach us, bless us, and refresh us,  
that we may at last 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

### 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:**      **Ezekiel 34:25-31**      Bruce MacIntyre

**ANTHEM**      *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (ST COLUMBA, Hymnal no. 171)      ancient Irish air

**SECOND LESSON:**      **John 10:1-10**

**SERMON:**      **A Covenant of Peace**      Rev. Mary Speers

✚**HYMN** (*insert*)      ***Count Your Blessings***

**OFFERTORY**      *Messiah* nos. 20 and 21:      G.F. Handel  
*He Shall Feed His Flock*      Kelly Baxter Golding, alto  
*Come Unto Him*      Erika Gergel, soprano  
*His Yoke Is Easy*      The Choir

✚**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 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

✚**HYMN** (*insert*)      ***He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought!***

✚**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

...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 in gratitude to God; please bear in mind that the musicians are also offering their music in gratitude to God. The most welcome appreciation for the music would be...to join in!*

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

## **Ezekiel 34:25-31 NRSV**

**I** will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild animals from the land, so that they may live in the wild and sleep in the woods securely. <sup>26</sup>I will make them and the region around my hill a blessing; and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing. <sup>27</sup>The trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield its increase. They shall be secure on their soil; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke, and save them from the hands of those who enslaved them. <sup>28</sup>They shall no more be plunder for the nations, nor shall the animals of the land devour them; they shall live in safety, and no one shall make them afraid. <sup>29</sup>I will provide for them splendid vegetation, so that they shall no more be consumed with hunger in the land, and no longer suffer the insults of the nations. <sup>30</sup>They shall know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, says the Lord GOD. <sup>31</sup>You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, says the Lord GOD.

## **John 10:1-10 NRSV**

**V**ery truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

**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.

**Large print bulletins** are now available, thanks to our updated computer capabilities!

**Many thanks** to all leaders: Vince Peterson and the choir; the ushers; the lectors; the communion elders; Bruce MacIntyre 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, 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, Lance, Craig and family, Lorrie, Steve, Rachel, Cathy, James, Jenny, Nick, Andrea, Arthur, Sharon, 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*

**Program and Mission Committee** meets **tomorrow, April 14, at 6:30pm.**

**BRUCA classes began this week; it's not too late.** For the complete 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).

**Midweek Bible study, 11am Wednesdays at Redeemer-St John's Lutheran Church** 939 83<sup>rd</sup> Street in Dyker Heights. The group is 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** are available on our brand new **website, [www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org)**.

### *Looking to the Future*

**This Saturday, April 19:**

**9-10:30am: Reflective Saturday for April**

Creation-centered spirituality, "Stations of Creation" in the Union Church Sanctuary

**12-3pm: Choir rehearsal with orchestra for Vivaldi's *Gloria***

If you can read music, it's not too late—new visitors included. See Vince Peterson.

**Saturday, April 26 9am: Spring Gardening** (see Ruby Moy; bring gloves and hand tools)

**Sunday, April 27 at 11am: Vivaldi's *Gloria*** in worship with choir, soloists and chamber orchestra; welcoming of new members Karen and Jim McMenemy, reaffirmation of baptism

**Sunday, May 11 is Pentecost: wear something red in honor of the Holy Spirit!**

**Monday, May 12: Program/Mission 6:30pm, also deadline for June-July newsletter.**

**Sunday, May 11 Pentecost: WEAR SOMETHING RED IN HONOR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!!!**

**Sunday, May 18 at 4 pm: Spring Pops Concert: the Mel-O-Chords Sing the Beatles**

**Sunday, June 15: Fathers' Day and Last Day in Sanctuary until September 14!**

**Don't forget to visit [www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org)**