

Welcome to the
Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

April 19, 2009

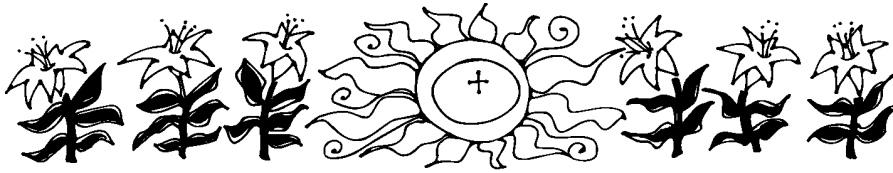


Drawing by Tana Cadena

Union Church Parish House and Office
8101 Ridge Boulevard at Eighty-First Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209
www.ucbr.org www.bruca.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



Second Sunday Of Easter

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

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

adapted from Isaiah 25:6-8

On this mountain the LORD will make a feast for all peoples:

God will swallow up death forever!

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces:

And the disgrace of the people God will take away from all the earth,

For the LORD has spoken.

+HYMN IN PROCESSION no. 118

The Day of Resurrection!

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

Loving God, 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. We pray for deliverance from fear, rage, cynicism—from all the things that keep us from you. We pray for willingness to grow in your Spirit. Help us to trust that your love has as many forms as do your children, and that it abides with us through all our successes and failures, even beyond death itself. In all things, grant us the perseverance to become what you always meant 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: **Luke 24:13-16, 28-35**

ANTHEM

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

ST FLAVIAN, Hymnal no. 505

SECOND LESSON: **John 20:24-31**

SERMON: **An Accessible God**

Rev. Mary Speers

+HYMN no. 370

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

OFFERTORY

All in the April Evening

Hugh S. Robertson

+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 IN RECESSION no. 122

Thine Is the Glory

+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 but this is not required; the musicians offer their music to the glory of God.

Luke 24:13-16,28-35 NRSV

Now on that same day, two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

John 20:19-31 NRSV

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the religious authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Anointed One, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Sheep and Lambs

Katharine Tynan Hinkson (1861 - 1931)

All in the April evening
April airs were abroad;
The sheep with their little lambs
Passed me by on the road.

The sheep with their little lambs
Passed me by on the road;
All in the April evening
I thought on the Lamb of God.

The lambs were weary and crying
With a weak, human cry.
I thought on the Lamb of God
Going meekly to die.

Up in the blue, blue mountains
Dewy pastures are sweet;
Rest for the little bodies,
Rest for the little feet.

But for the Lamb of God,
Up on the hill-top green,
Only a cross of shame
Two stark crosses between.

All in the April evening,
April airs were abroad;
I saw the sheep with their lambs,
And thought on the Lamb of God.

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.

Many thanks to all worship leaders: Vince Peterson and the choir for music (and for a splendid day last Sunday!); the preparers of today's refreshments; Maryellen Van Royen (Communion 'bishop'), Kristin Miller (coffee hour 'bishop') and Michele DiBartolo (Sunday school 'bishop').

The Book of Remembrance is open to remember: today, 4/19—Laurel Cogan; 4/26—Mary Nell Norstrand; 5/3—Mildred (Sue) Watson; 5/10—Clara Yagian; 5/17—Edith Jensen; 5/24—Charles Masterson; 5/31—Laura Cramer.

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: our Executive Presbyter, Arabella Meadows-Rogers (surgery for pancreatic cancer tomorrow), the family and friends of Malcolm Tannahill, the Boll-Gamaliy family, Art Samuel and Mary Chamberlain, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serposs, Milford Anderson, Nazik David, Amanda Silverman, Bill Louisa, Helen Kretiv; also the family and friends of Jaye and Violet, the Vandermarcq family, the Johnson family, Donald (Jr.) and Grace Zarou, Bob and Louise, Helen and Paul, Ed, Mark and Audrey, Helen, Wendy, Sally.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the annual Easter offering of the World Council of Churches; Union Church joins with the rest of the Presbyterian Church USA in this worldwide mission effort.

Session meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7pm in the Parish House; next is April 27.

Upcoming Happenings and Opportunities

RESURRECTION! Easter Gospel Extravaganza! **Free Concert 4pm today** with the Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble! Bring your friends! Celebrate Orthodox Easter in an *unorthodox* way!

Fortnightly Tuesday Bible Study meets every other Tuesday at 7pm in the Parish House.

The group continues with the letters of Paul in the New Testament **this Tuesday, April 21.**

Wednesday midweek Bible Study, 11am at Redeemer-St John's Lutheran church, 939 83rd St.

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: **May 4** is the next meeting. Want to join Isabel in representing Union Church at a local Autism Awareness event on Third Avenue next Sunday? Ask her after church. A great excuse to play hooky but Isabel will put you to work!

Yoga continues on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 in the Sanctuary. Each class is \$15, pay as you go; wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel and a yoga mat if you have one.

Parents' and Young Children's potluck playtime Sunday, May 3 after worship in our playgroup space. If you have friends, neighbors, relatives with young children whom you would like to include in the invitation, please let Jennifer Segna know; her email address is jonesy_veve@hotmail.com. A great way to help young parents and children get to know each other, and introduce them to the **most fabulous playgroup and yoga room in Bay Ridge!**

Mothers' Day is May 10. Remember mothers in prison and their children this Mothers' Day, and come to church to get your origami flower from JusticeWorks and the Church of Gethsemane.

Want to learn more about the Bible and enrich your own worship experience? Consider taking **one morning of Sunday school, one Sunday between now and the second week of June.**

Sunday School preparation is a wonderful experience for YOU, no matter how many children come to class on your Sunday. Michele DiBartolo is the Sunday School bishop, and is looking forward to showing you how great and user-friendly our curriculum is.