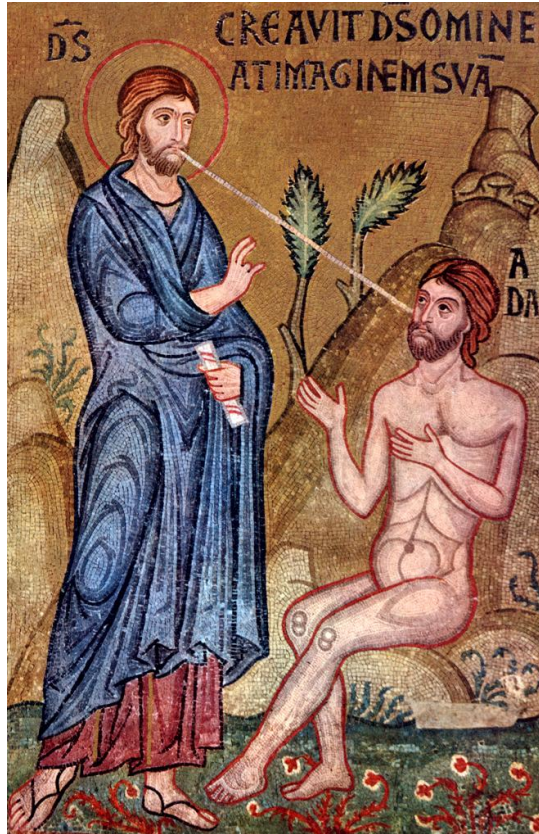


Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

www.ucbr.org



The Sixth Day: Vanderbilt Lectionary Project. Art in the Christian Tradition

April 20, 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

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

An ancient song of Creation (excerpt, from the LXX addition to Daniel)

Let the whole creation bless the Lord:

(response) **Praise and exalt our God forever.**

Bless the Lord, each drop of dew and flake of snow,

Bless the Lord, nights and days, light and darkness, **(response)**

Bless the Lord, O springs of water,

Bless the Lord, O seas and rivers, **(response)**

Bless the Lord, O you whales,

Bless the Lord, all you who swim in the depths of the sea, **(response)**

Bless the Lord, O mountains and hills,

Bless the Lord, and all that grows from the earth: **(response)**

Bless the Lord, all birds of the air,

Bless the Lord, beasts of the wild, flocks and herds, **(response)**

O let all who dwell on the earth bless the Lord,

Bless the Lord, all people everywhere:

Let us bless the Lord, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer:

Blessed are you, O God, in all the heavens: praise and exalt our God forever.

+HYMN no. 455

All Creatures of Our God and King

PRAYER OF PREPARATION *(please be seated)*

A traditional Native American prayer

O Great Spirit, whose voice we hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear us. We come before you as your children. We are small and weak; we need your strength and wisdom. Let us walk in beauty, and make our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. May our hands respect the things you have made, and our ears be sharp to hear your voice. Make us wise, so that we may know the things you have taught your people, the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. We seek strength not to be superior to our brothers and sisters, but to live in harmony with ourselves and all of your creation. Help us to be ever ready to come to you, so when life fades as a fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame...

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: **Genesis 2:4b-9,15**

ANTHEM

All in the April Evening

Tynan/Robertson

SECOND LESSON: **John 14:1-14**

SERMON: **Your Spirit's Home**

Rev. Mary Speers

+HYMN no. 272

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale

OFFERTORY

In the Garden (a 19c. Sunday parlor song by the Rev^d. C. Austin Miles)

+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, plant your seeds of love for 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 no. 376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

+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 in gratitude to God; please bear in mind that the musicians are also offering their music in gratitude to God. What's the best way to let church musicians know you appreciate them? Sit up front and sing out in all the hymns!

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

Genesis 2:4b-9,15 NRSV

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the LORD God formed an earth creature from the dust of the earth, and breathed into its nostrils the breath of life; and the earth creature became a living being. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the human being whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the human being and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

John 14:1-14 NRSV

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸ Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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.

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; The Vuignier family 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, 4/20—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; Jenny, Rachel, Barbara, Arabella, Eleanor, Lance, Craig and family, Lorrie, Steve, Cathy, James, 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

Midweek Bible study, 11am Wednesdays at Redeemer-St John's Lutheran Church 939 83rd Street in Dyker Heights. The group is exploring 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.**

The Union Church 2008 Directory is in production. You will be receiving a printout of your information as it will appear in the directory. Please add/change/delete anything you want to.

Please indicate on this printout if you would like to have your newsletter come by email, even if you have already told the office so, just to make sure.

Looking to the Future

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 of their twins Erica Kay and Justin James McMenemy.

Sunday, April 27 at 12:30pm (weather permitting) **congregational photo for the website and garden project** in the afternoon. Contact Ruby Moy: unionchurch@earthlink.net.

Sunday, May 4 at 12:30pm: Sunday School meeting: all teachers, regular and substitute.

Sunday, May 4 at 4pm: Mary Cusack sings a solo with the Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble at the gospel group's anniversary concert, 85 S. Oxford St. (near BAM). Be there or be square!

Tuesday, May 6 at 7pm: Taizé evensong: prayer, song and silence led by Vince Peterson.

Sunday, May 11 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 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