

Welcome to the

Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

April 26, 2009

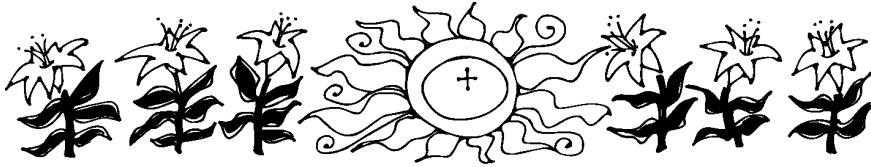


Parish House, Bay Ridge-Union Center for the Arts (BRUCA) and Office
8101 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11209

718.745.0438 www.ucbr.org www.bruca.org 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



Third 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 Psalm 133

Behold how good it is

When kindred dwell together in unity!

It is like the dew of Hermon, dew falling on the mountains of Zion:

God has blessed us with everlasting life. Alleluia!

+HYMN IN PROCESSION no. 116

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!

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 release from our grudges, our prejudices, our fears—from all the things that separate us from one another and from you. We pray for willingness to grow in your Spirit. In all things, grant us patience and perseverance to work for your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Prince of Peace, 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: Acts 4:32-35

ANTHEM

Hinneh Mah Tov (Psalm 133) from The Chichester Psalms Leonard Bernstein

SECOND LESSON: Luke 24:36b-48

SERMON:

What Happened to Peace?

Rev. Mary Speers

✚HYMN no. 440

In Christ There Is No East or West

OFFERTORY

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sy Miller and Joy Jackson, 1955

✚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 (insert)

He Lives!

✚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.

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

Acts 4:32-35 NRSV

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Luke 24:36b-48 NRSV

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you: that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
by Eddie Norstrand, in loving memory of Mary Nell Norstrand**

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, 4/26—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: the family and friends of the Parente family (formerly of Bay Ridge), Arabella Meadows-Rogers, the family and friends of Malcolm Tannahill, the Boll-Gamaliy family, Art Samuel and Mary Chamberlain, Iris Norstrand, Emile Serpos, 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, 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 tomorrow and on the fourth Monday of each month at 7pm in the Parish House.

Upcoming Happenings and Opportunities

Today: Autism Awareness Festival on Third Avenue! Join Isabel Morales after church in representing Union Church, do good *and* have a good time, on Third Avenue in the 90s.

Parents' and Young Children's potluck playtime Next Sunday, May 3 after worship in our playgroup space. Jennifer Segna is coordinating; 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!**

Didn't get enough Gospel last Sunday? Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble spring concert **next Sunday, May 3** at their home church in Ft Greene (near BAM) at 4pm. See Mary Chamberlain.

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.

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 **next Tuesday, May 5.**

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.

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.

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.