

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)



**May 3, 2009**

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

8101 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11209

718.745.0438

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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

*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. 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,  
through pastures green and golden, 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 34:1-6

**ANTHEM** *The Lord Is My Shepherd*

Timothy R. Smith

**SECOND LESSON:** John 10:11-16

**SERMON:** **The Good Shepherd**

Rev. Mary Speers

**OFFERTORY** Erika Lloyd, soprano

Brad Whiteley, accompanist

**✚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.**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE** *God's offering to God's people*

**✚HYMN** (*insert, to the tune* LAND OF REST, *hymnal* no. 522) ***You Satisfy the Hungry Heart***

**THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

with responses as in the *Hymnal* p. 13

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Hymnal* p. 16: "debts"

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE COMMUNION**

*please come to the table and dip your bread in the cup*

**PRAYER OF RESOLUTION** no. 597

*an Appalachian melody*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul:*

***And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!***

*Bless the Lord, O my soul:*

***And forget not all God's benefits.***

Let us pray:

God our help: we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your holy child Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who gives us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Christ, and pledge ourselves to serve you and the world you so love, even as in Christ you have served us. **AMEN.**

**✚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 for those who wish to worship or pray*

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

**Ezekiel 34:1-6 NRSV** *the prophet Ezekiel speaks to the rulers of ancient Israel*

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**T**he word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel: prophesy, and say to them—to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord God: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? <sup>3</sup>You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. <sup>4</sup>You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. <sup>5</sup>So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals. <sup>6</sup>My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them.

**John 10:11-16 NRSV** *Jesus speaks to his followers after healing a blind man*

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**I** am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

### **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:** Brad Whiteley (guest organist), Erika Lloyd, and the choir; Jennifer Segna for today's potluck playtime "coffee hour"; 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, 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, Art Samuel, 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, Bob and Louise, Ed, Mark and Audrey, Helen, Wendy, Sally.

**Session meets** June 1 (the fourth Monday, May 25, is Memorial Day) at 7pm in the Parish House.

### **Upcoming Happenings and Opportunities**

**Parents' and Young Children's potluck playtime today** after worship in our playgroup space.

A great way for young parents and children—and the rest of God's children—to get to know each other, in the **most fabulous playgroup and yoga room in Bay Ridge!**

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

**Mothers' Day is next Sunday, May 10.** Remember mothers in prison and their children on Mothers' Day, and get your origami flower from JusticeWorks and the Church of Gethsemane.

**Monday, May 11: Program/Mission 6:30pm, also deadline for June-July newsletter.**

**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, May 5.**

**Wednesday midweek Bible Study, 11am** at Redeemer-St John's Lutheran church, 939 83<sup>rd</sup> 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: **June 1** 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.

**Sunday, May 17 at 4 pm: Spring Pops Concert:** last concert of the 2008-2009 season!

**Sunday, May 31 Pentecost: WEAR SOMETHING RED IN HONOR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!!!**

**Sunday, June 14: Strawberry Fields Picnic in the park at 79<sup>th</sup> St and Shore Road:** Jane Feazell, picnic "bishop". Bring a picnic dish and juice or soft drinks to serve 6 (8 if you have a big family), *bring your own folding chairs*, outdoor games if you have them. Ice, plates, cups, forks, spoons and knives provided. Strawberry-themed items, including Union Church T-shirts, are particularly appropriate.

**Sunday, June 21: Fathers' Day and Last Day in Sanctuary until Homecoming, September 13**  
**Stay tuned for another big surprise event on Fathers' Day or thereabouts....**