

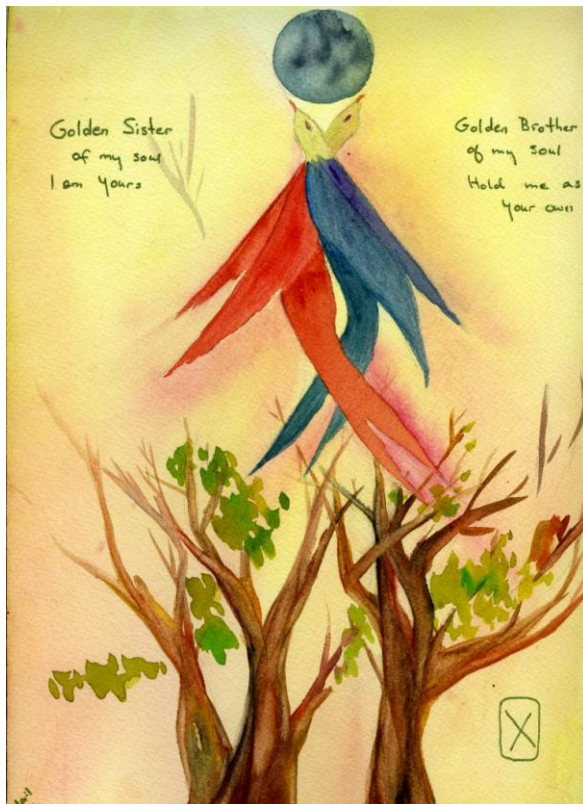
Welcome to the

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

[www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org)

## Sunday after Ascension; VII Easter



Painted prayer by Lynn Penney

### 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](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

*adapted from Psalm 68:4*

Sing to God, all God's people!

**Sing praises to God's name!**

Lift up a song to the one who rides upon the clouds,

Whose name is the LORD:

**Exult before your God, all God's people!**

### +HYMN no. 141

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION** *(please be seated)*

**O Lord our God, you are always more ready to bestow your good gifts upon us than we are to seek them, and are willing to give more than we desire or deserve. Help us so to seek that we may truly find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who sees all and loves us most tenderly, and in whose strong name we pray...**

### SILENT PRAYER OF SELF-EXAMINATION

#### 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 1:1-11**

Ruth Ward

**ANTHEM**

*Bound for Jubilee*

Joyce Eilers

**SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 1:15-23**

**SERMON: A Bad Hair Day**

Rev. Mary Speers

**+HYMN no. 313**

***Come Down, O Love Divine***

**OFFERTORY**

*My Lord Will Come Again*

David Haas

**+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.**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER** *God's Offering to God's People*

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING and INTERCESSION**

*Hymnal p. 13*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** "*debts*"

*Hymnal p. 16*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*Please come to the table and dip the bread in the cup*

**PRAYER OF RESOLUTION**

*an Appalachian melody*

*(the opening four lines, from Psalm 103, are sung call-and-response, Hymnal no. 597)*

*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.***

**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 brings 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 no. 157**

***Jesús Es Mi Rey Soberano/Our King and Our Sovereign***

**+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. 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.**

## Acts 1:1-11 NRSV

**I**n the first book, Theóphilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This’, he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ <sup>7</sup>He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

## Ephesians 1:15-23 NRSV

**I** have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## 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 communion elders; Ruth Ward for serving as lector and 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, 5/4—Mildred (Sue) Watson; May 11—Clara Yagian; 5/18—Edith Jensen; 5/25—Charles Masterson; 6/1—John Ward; 6/8—Laura Cramer; 6/15—Ruth Cranstoun; 6/22—Madeline Stutz; 6/29—Estelle McKay; 7/6—Alice Johnston; 7/13—Jennie Thompson; 7/20—Warren Dean; 7/27—David Alekel.

**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; Eleanor, Marion and David, Jenny, Rachel, Barbara, Arabella, Lance, Craig and family, Lorrie, Steve, Cathy, James, Nick, Arthur, Sharon, Dana, Paul, Jon, Bud, Jane, Rick, and Kendra.

**Community-Supported Agriculture:** see Elder Michele DiBartolo about this new program.

**Session Members, The rescheduled session meeting is Monday, May 20, at 7pm.**

## This Week or Monthly

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

**Today, 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!

**This 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!!!**

**Midweek Bible study, 11am Wednesdays at Redeemer-St John's Lutheran Church** 939 83<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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

**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 and Others

**Monday, May 20 at 7pm: rescheduled session meeting, replaces 4/28 AND 6/7.**

**Shall the Picnic be on June 1 or June 8? Let's take a straw poll in worship today.**

**Art and Spirituality, Thursdays in June:** no experience or "talent" necessary! see Lynn Penney,

**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)**