

*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)



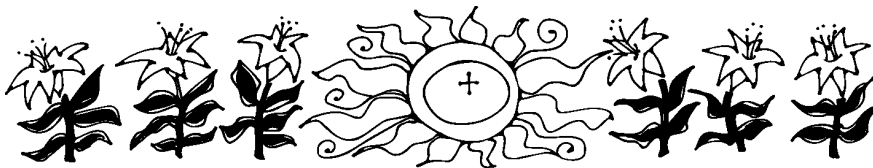
*May 10, 2009*

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



## Fifth 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:** *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

*adapted from Psalm 22:27,30-31*

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

**And all the families of the nations shall worship their Maker.**

Future generations will hear of the mighty deeds of the LORD,

**And proclaim deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying, "God has done it."**

#### ✚HYMN no. 111

***Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!***

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY *(please be seated)*

**God of peace and justice, we long for peace in the world, and in our hearts. We long for justice in government, for harmony in human relations. We long for the day when every family everywhere might live in peace without fear, enjoying the fruit of vine and tree. Yet we confess that the anxiety, fearfulness, mistrust, and even violence in our world are not absent from our own hearts. We are not willing to prune, to make the sacrifices true peace requires. Cultivate us with kindness; let mercy flow like sap in our hearts and our world, and graft us once again to the living Vine of Jesus Christ our Lord...**

#### 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 8:26-40**

**ANTHEM**

*Sicut Cervus*

*G.P. da Palestrina*

**SECOND LESSON:**    **John 15:1-8**

**SERMON:**              **It's the Network**

Rev. Mary Speers

**✚HYMN** no. 323

***Loving Spirit***

**OFFERTORY**

*In the Garden*    Vince Peterson, soloist

C. Austin Miles

**✚DOXOLOGY** no. 592 and **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God who gave us birth, we thank you that in Jesus you baptize us into eternal life. May we awaken, this new day, to new ways to love and serve you, bearing fruit in Christ. Use us, and these offerings, to your glory, and follow them with your blessing, through Jesus Christ our Risen 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—tune: EARTH AND ALL STARS*)

***Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!***

**✚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 8:26-40

*Luke continues his narrative of the early Church*

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**T**hen an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>37,38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## John 15:1-8 NRSV

*Jesus is speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper*

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**I** am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

## 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; Mary Q/Zack for 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, 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**.

**We note with sadness the death of Ruby Moy's mother** last Monday, May 4. Condolences may be sent to Ruby at 255 79<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. D7, Brooklyn, NY 11209.

**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: Ruby Moy and her family, 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

**Next Sunday please welcome Derrick McQueen** to our pulpit. His title: **Water Will Flow**.

Derrick is a board member of Presbyterian Welcome, a candidate for ordination, and a longtime friend of **Rev. Jo Tolley**. He is also a gifted musician and a great preacher:

"Be the blessing in the mirror. The world needs a blessing!!!!"

"Water ripples thru us and in us. Let the flow we learn ripple

out and effect the changes of the world." *(thoughts from Derrick McQueen)*

**Tomorrow, 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 will be in recess May 18, resuming May .

**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, and anything red, 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....**