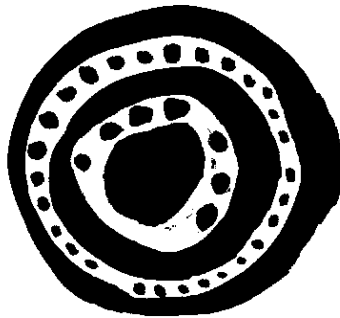


Welcome to the

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Eightieth Street and Ridge Boulevard  
[www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org)

## First Sunday after Trinity



*consider  
the lilies  
of the field*



## May 25, 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

*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.*

### CHANTED INTROIT (choir and congregation)

“introit” is Latin for “entrance”

***Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,  
and all these things will be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia!***

### ✚CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from **Isaiah 49**

Let all the earth sing praise to our God.

**We sing for joy and rejoice in God's presence!**

Our compassionate God comes with mercy for all.

**We sing for joy and rejoice in God's presence!**

Let mountains sing out and the heavens exult.

**We sing for joy and rejoice in God's presence!**

Let oceans and rivers proclaim their delight.

**We sing for joy and rejoice in God's presence!**

Our saving God brings redemption and life.

**We sing for joy and rejoice in God's presence!**

### ✚OPENING HYMN no. 276

***Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Holy God, the universe is your holy temple; your creatures receive life from you; none can live apart from you. Source of all power and might, source of redeeming grace and goodness, remove from us all fear that closes our eyes to the face of Christ in our neighbor, all complacency that closes our ears to your call to change. Make us secure in your unconditional love, so that we freely turn from the wrong, and toward the right, trusting in your good will and the guidance of your Spirit, that we may live in love with all your children as we follow Jesus, to whom we are pledged 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. AMEN.**

**+RESPONSE** no. 576: *Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest...Alleluia!*  
sung as a canon, once in unison, then twice more: soprano, tenor, alto, bass: total of 3 times.

**+THE PEACE OF CHRIST** *please exchange 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:** **Isaiah 49:8-13**

**ANTHEM** *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* words: Civilla Martin; music: Charles Gabriel, 1905

**SECOND LESSON:** **Matthew 6:24-34**

**SERMON** **How Can I Keep from Singing?** Rev. Speers

**+HYMN** no. 279 *Lord of Our Growing Years*

**OFFERTORY** *How Can I Keep from Singing?* Robert Lowry, *Bright Jewels for the Sunday School*, 1869

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

**Almighty God, you whose Holy Spirit comforts and defends us, and who with the eternal life of Jesus have given us all things: help us, we pray, with all our gifts to yield ourselves unto you, so that with our whole selves we may truly serve you, and in your service find our deepest joy, through Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord, whose spirit is alive in us, his body. 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"*

**+CLOSING HYMN** no. 407

*Quando el Pobre/When a Poor One*

**+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!*

### 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, in 8½ X 11 format, along with the regular bulletins.

**Many thanks** to all leaders: Vince Peterson and the choir; the ushers; the DiBartolo 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, 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, and natural and economic disaster, especially the people of Sichuan Province and Myanmar; for all who are persecuted for their faith, especially the Christians of Zimbabwe; 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: Rachel, Bill and Dolores Cleary; Milford Anderson, Bill Louisa, Iris Norstrand, Evelyn Riccio, Carolyn Ramsay, Emile Serposs, Nazik David, Barbara Briggs, Amanda Silverman, Helen Kretiv; Luis, Suzanne, cancer survivors, Eleanor, Marion and David, Jenny, Barbara, Arabella, Lance, Craig and family, Lorrie and family, Steve, Cathy, James, Nick, Arthur, Sharon, Paul, Jon, Bud, Dan, Rick, and Kendra. Finally, because we know we should, we pray for whoever is plantnapping the lilies of the field in our neighborhood.

### This Week or Monthly

**Midweek Bible study, 11am Wednesdays at Redeemer-St John's Lutheran Church** 939 83<sup>rd</sup> Street in Dyker Heights. There are 3 more meetings before the June 18 potluck picnic. You are invited to this social event even if you have not been participating in the discussions! 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 745.6594

**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.

### Looking to the Future

**Strawberry Fields Picnic will be June 8.** It's "potluck," meaning each household brings one dish, enough to serve 6, and sodas/juice for 6, and it all works out. Bring your own folding chairs, extras to share if you can. Plates, ice, cups, napkins will be provided. The picnic, shared with sister Bay Ridge churches, takes place in Shore Road Park near the 79<sup>th</sup> Street playground; if it rains, we move inside to the Parish House gym. It's casual and fun and a great way to include family and friends in church fellowship.

**Art and Spirituality, Thursdays in June:** no experience or "talent" necessary! see Lynn Penney or call her at 917.538.9752 to register for this four-week evening miniseries, \$15 materials fee per week, pay as you go, 6:30-8:00 pm June 5, 12, 19, and 26 (come any day or all days).

**Sunday, June 15: Fathers' Day and Last Day in Sanctuary until Homecoming September 14!**

**Joe and Evan Lynch are Cyclones "bishops":** this year, for all you who have never been able to go in July, our annual outing to the ballpark will take place in August! Call **718.745.6594**