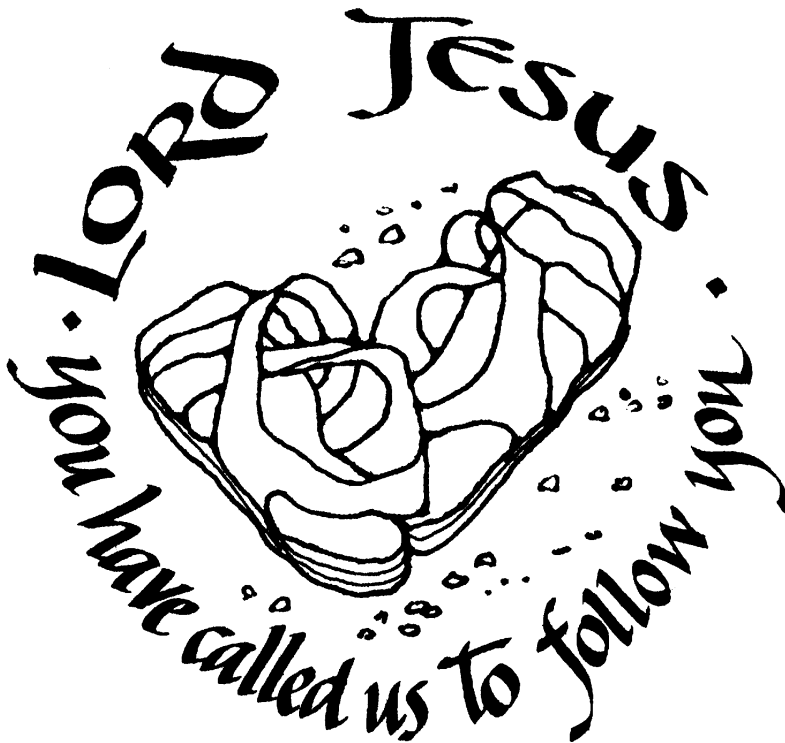


Welcome to the

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

## Third Sunday after Trinity



### June 8, 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**

### **THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

#### **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.*

#### **+FIRST LESSON and CALL TO WORSHIP**

*adapted from **Genesis 12:1-5a***

Now the LORD said to Abram,

**Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house  
To the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation,  
And I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse;  
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”**

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and his family with him,

**And they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.**

#### **+OPENING HYMN no. 345**

***Dear Lord and Father of Mankind***

#### **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

**Merciful God, you are kind to the unrighteous and the ungrateful, and send down your rain upon the just and the unjust alike. We can scarcely comprehend the scope of your forgiveness. We can hardly believe your amazing care for us. We confess the pride that hardens our hearts to forgiveness of others, and the fear 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...*

### SECOND LESSON: Romans 4:1-13,20-25

**ANTHEM** *Out of the Depths/Aus Tiefer Not* (Psalm 130, Hymnal no. 240) M. Luther/J.S. Bach

### THIRD LESSON: Matthew 9:1-13

### SERMON

**There's Something About Matthew**

Rev. Speers

## ✚HYMN no. 390

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

### OFFERTORY

*Will You Come and Follow Me?* (insert) John Bell: the Iona community

## ✚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 plant your seeds of love for 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"*

## ✚CLOSING HYMN no. 275

*God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years*

## ✚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 please rise; **unison prayers are in bold.**

## Romans 4:1-12,20-25 NRSV

**W**hat then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’

<sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. <sup>6</sup>So also [King] David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness irrespective of works:

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup>blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin.’

<sup>9</sup>Is this blessedness, then, pronounced only on the circumcised, or also on the uncircumcised? We say, ‘Faith was reckoned to Abraham as righteousness.’ <sup>10</sup>How then was it reckoned to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. <sup>11</sup>He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the ancestor of all who believe without being circumcised and who thus have righteousness reckoned to them, <sup>12</sup>and likewise the ancestor of the circumcised who are not only circumcised but who also follow the example of the faith that our ancestor Abraham had before he was circumcised.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

<sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ <sup>23</sup>Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him’, were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## Matthew 9:9-13 NRSV

**A**s Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup>And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?’ <sup>12</sup>But when he heard this, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’

### 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; Jane Feazell (picnic ‘bishop’); 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, 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, sickness, hunger, and natural and economic disaster, especially the people of Sichuan Province and Myanmar; for all who are faithful even in danger, 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. We pray for all who are facing surgery this week, or are recovering from it, or are making difficult medical decisions for themselves or for loved ones. We pray for a cure for breast cancer, cervical cancer, and all types of cancer. We pray for those known to us who have asked for our prayers: 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; for Arthur, Jaye, Bud, Luis, Suzanne, Eleanor, Marion and David, Jenny, Barbara, Arabella, Lance, Craig and family, Lorrie and family, Steve, Cathy, James, Nick, Sharon, Paul, Jon, Dan, Rick, and Kendra.

### This Week or Monthly

**Strawberry Fields Picnic today 1-4pm. Replaces the coffee hour!** It’s “potluck:” each household brings one dish, enough to serve 6, and sodas/juice for 6. Bring your own folding chairs, extras to share if you can. Plates, ice, cups, napkins provided. Where: Shore Road Park near the 79<sup>th</sup> Street playground; if it rains, we move inside to the Parish House gym. This is a great day of fun and fellowship for all ages with Bay Ridge Presbyterian churches, family, and friends.

**Tomorrow, Program and Mission Committee, last meeting until September, PH 6:30pm.**

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

**Yoga** meets two days a week: **Monday and Wednesday 6:45-8:15.** Call Kristin Miller 745.6594

**Newsletters** are available on our **website, [www.ucbr.org](http://www.ucbr.org).**

### Looking to the Future

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

**The choir picnic** is 1pm June 15 at the Samuel house. Bring a dessert (or vegan dish if you prefer).

**Summer Day Camp June 30 through August 8, 9-4: Redeemer-St John’s Lutheran Church, 939 83<sup>rd</sup> Street in Dyker Heights.** There are weekly and daily rates, and discounts available for extra siblings of weekly campers. Call **718.833.7700** forms and brochures on our back table.

**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**

**Midsummer worship in Owls Head Park: Sunday, June 20 at 10:30am.** More details later!