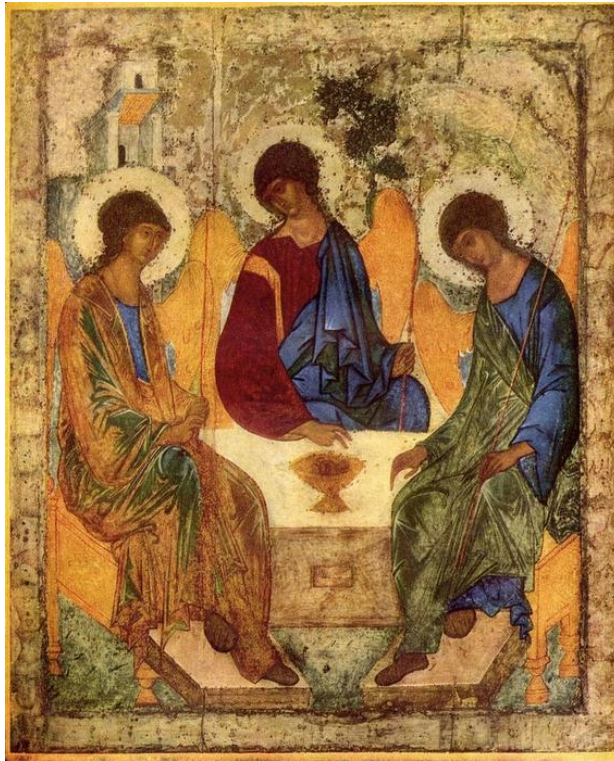


Welcome to the

# Union Church of Bay Ridge

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

## Fourth Sunday after Trinity



## June 15, 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 FOURTH 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.*

#### **+CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Psalm 116:5-7**

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous:

**Our God is merciful.**

The LORD protects the simple:

**When I was brought low, God saved me.**

Return, O my soul, to your rest,

**For the LORD has dealt bountifully with me.**

#### **+OPENING HYMN** *(insert)*

*This Is My Father's World*

#### **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

**Gracious God, you give us life; you rejoice and lament with each one of us; you hear the faintest cries of those who call to you; you know our needs before we ask. O Holy One, we need your help today. Save us, we pray, from mere gratitude. You are our father and our mother. You know well that we would rather worship you than do the things you want us to do; that we would rather lean on your providence than find a solution; that we would rather make an excuse than keep a promise. Truly “while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” But still we are grateful for your mercies. We humbly pray that you forgive us, show us once more the better way, and give us the strength to follow it, for we ask in the name of your dear son Jesus...**

#### **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: Genesis 18:1-15**

Ruth Ward

**ANTHEM**

*Sicut Cervus/As a Deer* (Psalm 42)

G.P. da Palestrina

**SECOND LESSON: Matthew 9:35-10:7**

**SERMON**

**The Impossible Mission Force**

Rev. Speers

**+HYMN no. 364**

*I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

**OFFERTORY**

*Sign Me Up!*

Kevin Yancey and Jerome Metcalfe

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

You call to us to follow you, O Christ, and to find new ways to convey our joy to people everywhere. We offer our substance and our selves to do your work in the world, asking that you follow our offerings with your blessing, and keep us always in the guidance of your Holy Spirit. **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. 433**

*There's a Spirit in the Air*

**+CHARGE AND BLESSING**

...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.**

## **Genesis 18:1-15, NRSV**

**T**he LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10</sup>Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup>The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup>Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

## **Matthew 9:35-10:7 NRSV**

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

<sup>10:1</sup>Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'

**Today's flowers are given to the glory of God  
by Alexander and Margret Cranstoun, in loving memory of Ruth Cranstoun**

**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; Mary Chamberlain 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, 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, Myanmar, and 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 recovering from surgery this week, or are making difficult medical decisions. We pray for a cure for 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**

**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 19 and 26 (come any day or all days).

**BRUCA has special offerings for the summer and is air conditioned!** Call the office or visit [www.bruca.org](http://www.bruca.org).

**Yoga** continues in summer: Mondays & Wednesdays 6:45-8:15. Call Kristin Miller 718.745.6594.

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

**Looking to the Future**

**Today is Fathers' Day and our Last Day in Sanctuary until Homecoming, September 14. Summer hours begin next week; worship is at 10am in our air-conditioned chapel, one block south at 8101 Ridge Boulevard.**

**The choir picnic** is 1pm today 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, July 20 at 10:30am.** Redeemer-St John's Lutheran Church will provide music; Rev. Harriet Wieber will preside; Rev. Speers will preach; Elizabeth Gorgas, a new member of our Union Church family, will dance. You bring folding chairs and a picnic lunch; ice and beverages provided. **This will be our worship for that day.**