

Church on the Hill

A Congregation of the
Reformed Church in America
167-07 35th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11358

October 22, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Andrew Springer — Guest Preacher

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Reverie

Debussy

Welcome

* **Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

Votum

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

Sentences of Scripture

Philippians 4:12

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty and loving God, you have given us eyes to see the light that fills this room; give us the inward vision to behold you in this place and receive your truth. You have made us feel the morning wind upon our limbs; help us to sense your presence and feel your love as we bow in worship of you. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised!** Our help is in the name of the Lord, **who made heaven and earth.** We will give thanks to you, O Lord, with our whole heart; we will tell of all your wonderful deeds. **We will be glad and exult in you; we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.** Our hearts are ready, O Lord, our hearts are ready! **We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!**

* **Hymn No. 60**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left

undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Friends, hear the good news. In Christ Jesus, our sins have been forgiven.

Anthem

O Be Joyful

Albert, Prince Consort

*O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands:
Serve the Lord with gladness,
And come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord He is God;
It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves;
We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
And into his courts with praise;
Be thankful unto him and speak good of his name.
For the Lord is gracious,
And His mercy is everlasting;
And his truth endureth from generation to generation.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.*

Prayer of Illumination

Lord, whether we take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story, we humbly pray that the Holy Spirit come into this place and into our hearts, revealing your truth to us, in this passage we are about to hear. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Romans 8: 26-39

Sue Nicholas

p. 919-920

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* **Confession of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed (RCA contemporary version)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 Creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 And born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 Was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 The holy catholic[†] Church,
 The communion of saints,
 The forgiveness of sins,
 The resurrection of the body,
 And the life everlasting. Amen.**

[†] The word "catholic" means "universal," referring to all followers of Christ worldwide.

Anthem

Great and Glorious

Franz Joseph Haydn

*Great and glorious is the Lord in majesty,
 Glorious in power eternal, mighty and loving Father;
 Praise Him for all His exceeding greatness.
 Great and glorious, mighty in awful majesty,
 Let all extol Him, all extol Him forevermore.
 Praise ye the Lord, for it is good
 To sing praises unto our God.
 Praise to Thy name, Thy holy Name forevermore.
 God is nigh to all that call, truly upon Him;
 The Lord upholdeth all who fall
 And gently He up-raiseth all who are bowed down.
 The might and loving Father in power eternal,
 Eternal Lord.*

*Great and glorious; call upon Him, mighty and loving,
Glorious ever in majesty, glorious ever in majesty.*

*** Doxology**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom and the power
And the glory, forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response

All Things Come of Thee, O Lord

*All things come of thee, O Lord,
And of thine own have we given thee.*

*** Hymn No. 506**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

Inscription of Hope

Z. Randall Stroope

*I believe in the sun even when it is not shining,
And I believe in love even when there's no one there.
But I believe in God even when he is silent,
I believe through any trial there is always a way.
May there someday be sunshine, May there someday be happiness,
May there someday be love, May there someday be peace.*

Postlude

Trio Sonata No. 4 (III. Un poco Allegro)

J.S. Bach

Music Notes

O *Be Joyful* by Albert, Prince Consort (1819-1861) (Albert was the husband of England's Queen Victoria) uses as text Psalm 100 – introduced simply as “A psalm; for thanksgiving.” Although short – the Psalm has only 5 verses – it contains significant messages. First, “...all ye lands:” The Psalmist calls the whole earth, not just the nation of Israel, to praise God. We are asked to come before God not with fearfulness and trembling but rather with “gladness” and “with a song.” In fact, the definition of “psalm” is “sacred song.” Singing is not the only way to worship, but in the Psalms, it is considered the preeminent means of praise. (Perhaps a good reason to consider joining the choir!)

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), the composer of *Great and Glorious*, is considered as the “father” of the symphony and the string quartet and was widely celebrated as a composer in his time. He was also a friend and mentor of Mozart, who dedicated quartets to him, and a tutor of Beethoven. Towards the end of his life, a performance of perhaps his greatest choral work, *The Creation*, was arranged for him and was conducted by Antonio Salieri. Quite a musical resume. In today's anthem, there is a small example that shows Haydn's attention to combining the text with music. Approximately two-thirds through the piece the choir will quietly begin a new section – “God in nigh to all that call...” As the section develops the baritones will drop out and the top three voices will each sing twice, “the Lord upholdeth all who fall.”

“Upholdeth” drives the phrase and every time it is sung the phrase climbs. It is followed by, “and gently He upraiseth all those who are bow-ed down,” and in each case the voices descend. Each phrase contains a rise – upholdeth and upraiseth – and an opposite – fall and bow-ed down. In what might appear a simple phrase, Haydn shows why he deserves his reputation as a great composer.

Announcements

INTRODUCTION

Andrew Springer is a journalist, producer, entrepreneur, and first-year seminarian at Yale Divinity School. He's been active in the church his whole life and has spent the first part of his career working for ABC News and NBC News. Recently, he launched his own startup focused on bringing the news to young people through Snapchat and TikTok. He lives in New Haven with his partner Anthony and their rescue pup Porkchop.

CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

The Fall session of the Sunday Program for children ages 6 to 13 has started. During the service, the children will process out and be let to Room 2-E.

COFFEE HOUR

Please join us for coffee hour after the service, downstairs in Gessner Hall.

OFFERING

If you feel called to give, offering plates are located in the rear of the sanctuary, where you can leave your offering upon entry or exit of the sanctuary.

BARGAIN BOUTIQUE

The Bargain Boutique is open on Saturdays from 10 am- 1 pm. Donations are accepted on Saturdays only. *We are unable to accept: Electronics, TVs, Furniture, Textbooks, and Large Toys/Stuffed Animals*

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Be sure to sign up for our email list to keep up with the latest Church on the Hill happenings through the weekly email and the Beacon. A sign-up form can be found on **churchonthehill.org**

Prayer Requests

If you would like to add a loved one to the prayer list, or if your loved one no longer needs to be on the prayer list, please contact the church office at office@churchonthehill.org

Karin Bennett

The Bermudez Family

Diane Blagburn

The Cappellano Family

Richard D.

Thomas Degnen

Gabriel DeMelo

Lucas Ditta

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Adam Gonzalez

The Greer Family

Dot Hulse

Rudy Jakob

Mary and Norman Kansfield

Susan Laurita

Lynn Lauterbach

Donna Lemay

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Kathy Mandler-Murphy

Paul Mobius

Rev. Bob Perless

Iris and Ralph Prager

Patrick Sullivan

Ed Surujballi

Virginia Young



Nancy Gessner, Victor Han, **Vice Presidents**
Nancy Gessner, **Clerk**

Consistory & Staff

Elders

Linda Diez
Nancy Gessner (VP)
Victor Han (VP)
Rhoda Jabbour
Sarah White

Deacons

Ginny Chan
Emerson Chen
Jerry Lutz
Adriene Toy

Sean Cotty, Music Director: sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org

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The sanctuary is looped for the hard of hearing. In order to connect to the system, please sit in the north set of pews (on your right when you enter the sanctuary) and set your hearing device to the "T" setting.