

Church on the Hill

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

November 12, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Pamela Holmes — Guest Preacher

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Romanze from “Eine Kleine Nachtmusik”

Mozart

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

Prayer of Invocation

O God, we thank You for every seat that has been filled here today. For each mind and heart that fills the presence of this room, we thank You. We come today asking that you will allow your Holy Spirit blow through this place. From Heart to Heart- from Breast to Breast. That we O God, will be able to worship You in spirit and in truth. Allow us O God to receive all that you have for us. Help us O God, to remember your love, your grace, and your mercy. Show us the way and fill us with courage, strength, and wisdom. We humbly thank you for all that you have done, all that you are doing, and all that you will do. Blanket us with Your peace today. Let it fuel our faith. Let it fill our hearts and may hope accompany us through the journey in the days to come and may Your abiding presence be with us all the days of our lives. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

We gather today to worship the One who created us, the one who calls us, the One who equips us, the one who lives us and the ones who saves us. **Let us rejoice and sing praises to the Lord.** Let us act as true worshippers, for the Lord our God is good. **Let us exalt You O God, and**

praise your name. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us worship that we may make your deeds known among all the people and sing praises to your glory and holy name. **Let all of our hearts seek and rejoice.**

* **Hymn No. 3**

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sins. You alone know how often we have wandered from your ways, wasted your gifts, and forgotten your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us, and help us to live in your light and to walk in your ways. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem

Offertory

John Ness Beck

*With what shall I come before the Lord,
And bow myself before the God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
With ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O man;
He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice and kindness,
And to walk humbly,
Walk humbly with your God?*

Prayer of Illumination

Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive your Word, reveal to us the good news, and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Scripture Readings

Victor Han

Esther 4:14

p. 388

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

God Wants to Use What You Have Hidden On Your Shelf

Rev. Pamela Holmes

*** 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

Ave Verum Corpus

Mozart

(English translation)

Hail, true Body, born

Of the Virgin Mary,

Having truly suffered, sacrificed

On the cross for mankind,

From whose pierced side

Water and blood flowed:

Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet]

In the trial of death!

* **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

Write These Words in Our Hearts

*Write these words in our hearts,
We beseech you, O Lord.*

* **Hymn No. 532**

Be Thou My Vision

* **Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

*Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life:
Comfort in sorrow, courage in the strife;
Then, when your voice shall make our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.*

Postlude

Sonata in A Major k. 331 (III. "Rondo Alla Turca")

Mozart

Music Notes

The text for *Offertory* (John Ness Beck, 1930-1987) is taken from Micah 6:6-8. At the beginning of the chapter, the Prophet imagines something like a

courtroom with the Lord bringing charges against Israel before the mountains, the hills, and the strong foundations of the earth. God begins in v. 3, "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!" God then recounts things he has done for Israel. Our anthem begins with v.6 when, in Micah's vision, Israel asks, what is it that God wants? Will lambs, oil, and even firstborn be enough? Can God ever be satisfied? God responds: there is no mystery – Israel has been told what is required; what is good. What else is there but "...to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) composed a setting of the 13th-century Eucharistic chant *Ave Verum Corpus* (Hail, True Body) in 1791, about six months before his death. The chant is a meditation on the presence of Jesus in the Communion elements and on the redemptive significance of suffering for the faithful. Mozart did not include the complete text of the chant which concludes with the lines, "O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus, O Jesus, son of Mary, have mercy on me. Amen."

Announcements

INTRODUCTION

A native of New York, New York, Pamela Holmes, is a Reverend at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, and a Chaplain for the Fire Department of New York City. Pamela graduated from Connecticut College with a Bachelor's in Government, and American History; The Graduate School of Political Management (at George Washington University) with a Master's in Campaign Management and Princeton Theological Seminary with a Masters in Divinity.

Pamela has an extensive professional background as a Director, Manager, Grant Writer, Planner and Relationship Builder including: planning and coordinating organizational affairs, legislative and government analysis, policy and development, grant writing, partnership building and case assessment, youth services as well as working with students in academia.

When it comes to faith Pamela is a committed Christian dedicated to serving the church. Over the years, she has worked in various churches in a number of capacities where she exemplified pastoral leadership. Additionally, she has traveled extensively preaching and practicing ministry in a variety of churches including venues outside of the United States (South Africa, India, Israel, and Palestine).

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY & FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

November 19th is Stewardship Sunday. We ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge to our church. By pledging you help us plan for the fruitful use of our resources next year. Pledge cards are being mailed out and will also be available in the rear of the sanctuary.

After worship on Sunday, November 19th, there will be a fellowship lunch. All are invited to share in this gathering. Featuring Yoon Ryo's Famous Vegetable Soup!

QUEENS COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT

The Queens Community Children's Choir will be having its fall concert on Saturday 11/18 at 2 pm in the sanctuary at COTH. The theme of the program will be jazz standards. Joining the QCCC will be guest artists Evan Swanson (piano), Tina Lama Engelbert (bass), and Jared Decker (drums). They will present a collection of original material, jazz standards, and sacred tunes all with a modern jazz flavor. As always, this program is free and open to the public. There will be a gala reception to follow in Gessner Hall.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

First Reformed Church of College Point is holding its annual Food Drive. A list of items they're asking for can be found on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. Monetary donations are gratefully accepted as well. The final day for any donations is November 12th.

CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

The Fall session of the Sunday Program for children ages 6 to 13 is ongoing. 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

The Family of Lynn Lauterbach

Donna Lemay

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Kathy Mendler-Murphy

Paul Mobius

Rev. Bob Perless

Iris and Ralph Prager

Patrick Sullivan

Ed Surujballi

Virginia Young



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.



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
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