

Church on the Hill

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

November 19, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Carlos Rivera — Guest Preacher

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Improvisation on “Simple Gifts”

Sean Cotty

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

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. **I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.** The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. **And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.** Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion. **Declare his deeds among the peoples.**

* **Hymn No. 376**

We Gather Together

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your

will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem

Thanksgiving!

John Ness Beck

*For seedtime and harvest and the good will of men,
We give thanks to God the Father once again;
For shelter in winter, for the thaw in the spring,
Our praise and thanksgiving to the Lord now we bring.
For those we have loved who have gone on before
Through that shining bright celestial door;
For all who shall follow in their place,
We implore Thy continuing saving grace.
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.*

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

Ernest Mendler

Genesis 12: 1-3

p. 8

1 Timothy 6: 17-19

p. 966

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Financial Stewardship: What's the Point?”

Rev. Carlos Rivera

*** 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

Let Us With A Gladsome Mind

Alan Ridout

*Let us with a gladsome mind,
Praise the Lord for he is Kind:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*Let us blaze his name abroad,
For of gods he is the God:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*He with all commanding might,
Filled the new made world with light:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*He the golden tressed sun
Caused all day his course to run:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*The horned moon to shine by night,
Mid her spangled sisters bright:
For his mercies shall endure,*

Ever faithful, ever sure.

*All things living he doth feed,
His full hand supplies their need:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*** 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

Now Thank We All Our God

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who, from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*** Hymn No. 381**

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated) Amen (from "Let Us With A Gladsome Mind")

Postlude

Plein Jeu

Louis Marchand

Music Notes

Last Sunday, the choir sang Mozart's somber *Ave Verum Corpus* and John Ness Beck's *Offertory*. This week, as we approach Thanksgiving, we offer somewhat more exuberant anthems.

Since we turn again this week to Beck (1930-1987) for his anthem *Thanksgiving*, perhaps a few words of introduction are in order. Beck only began serious work in music after leaving military service. Having earned a B.A. in English from The Ohio State University he returned to earn a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Arts in music, concentrating in composition. He flourished as a composer and as an arranger of choral music and his work is notable for its popularity and accessibility. Today's work uses an early American tune – *A Gift to be Simple*. In the final verse he puts the words of the Doxology to this traditional melody; perhaps allowing us to hear this standard element of our service in a new way. The anthem *Let Us with a Gladsome Mind* was offered on May 21st and our Note for that Sunday concentrated on the role of John Milton (1608-1674) in crafting the text of the hymn of that name (no. 59 in our hymnal). Our anthem version uses the same text. So today we turn to the source material for text, Psalm 136. Our anthem cites the entire Psalm as text but that attribution is not very helpful. The majority of the verses are a song of praise to God for leading and protecting Israel. The only verses related to the hymn and our anthem are 4-9 in which the psalmist recounts God's creation of the heavens, earth, light, sun, moon, and stars. Our affirmation, "For his mercy shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure" is nowhere in the Psalm. However each of the 26 verses ends with the declaration, "...for his steadfast love endures forever."

Announcements

INTRODUCTION

Carlos Rivera serves in his home church Harvest Fields Community Church as an associate Pastor. He has over 30 years of experience working in senior financial positions in community development-related nonprofit organizations. He is the founder of Leviticus 25 Financial Ministries and is working on a devotional book on biblical generosity. He holds an MBA from Baruch College in New York and a Master in Divinity at New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

The White Christmas Service on December 10, 2023, will once again be led by our children. All children ages 6 to 13 are invited to join the Sunday class, now through Dec. 10th at 10:30 AM, to prepare for this service. In addition, younger children are invited to participate in the pageant as well. There will be two whole group practices on Sundays November 26th, and December 3rd at 11:30 AM. All children are welcome and encouraged to be a part of this special service.

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

Katie and Clayton Buckley

The Cappellano Family

Richard D.

Thomas Degnen

Gabriel DeMelo

Lucas Ditta

Jim Doliner

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



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
Amanda Sudolsky, Office Administrator: office@churchonthehill.org

Phone: (718) 358-3671
Email: office@churchonthehill.org
www.churchonthehill.org



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.



CHURCH HILL
ON THE

White Christmas

December 10, 2023

This Advent season, we are pleased to be partnering with **BORDERS OF HOPE, LA JORNADA, and P.S. 116** to provide gifts for children, teens, and adults in our local communities.

Due to space considerations, gifts will not be brought up to the chancel during the White Christmas service. Instead, we will be collecting gifts each Sunday at the back of the Sanctuary and during designated drop-off times from now until December 10th.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- **Purchase a gift(s) on our Amazon Gift Registry** and select "Gift Registry Address" when checking out, so the gifts are delivered directly to the church.
- **Give a monetary donation** in-person at church, by mail, or online via *Tithe.ly*. For checks, please include "White Christmas" in the memo, and when using *Tithe.ly*, select "**White Christmas**" in the Fund drop-down menu.
- **Pick up a White Christmas gift tag** during Sunday Worship or during one of the times listed below. Purchase your toy (which should not exceed \$15) and please attach the gift tag onto it. Then, drop-off the new unwrapped toy during Sunday worship or in the church office, Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10am-2pm, Tuesday/Thursday 1-4pm. (Call church office before stopping by.)



To learn more information about our partner organizations, visit our website at churchonthehill.org/whitechristmas



CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

DECEMBER 2023



THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED NOT TO ASK FOR DONATIONS TO THE SANCTUARY DECORATIONS THIS YEAR BUT STILL WANTS TO HONOR OUR TRADITION OF HONORING THOSE WE REMEMBER AND APPRECIATE AT CHRISTMAS. THIS YEAR WE ARE ASKING THAT YOU DONATE TO ANY OF THE CHURCH FUNDS (MUSIC, FOOD FOR KIDS, COMMUNITY CONCERT, SANCTUARY TECHNOLOGY, ETC.) AND AS IN THE PAST INDICATE THAT YOUR DONATION IS IN MEMORY OF/IN APPRECIATION OF/IN HONOR OF SOMEONE YOU CHOOSE. THESE DONATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BULLETIN ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION OF \$_____ TO THE
_____(FUND).

GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY OF + IN APPRECIATION OF + IN HONOR OF
(CIRCLE ONE)

ALL GIFT MENTIONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN A SPECIAL INSERT IN THE CHRISTMAS BULLETIN. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "CHURCH ON THE HILL", WITH THE NAME OF THE FUND YOU WISH TO DONATE TO IN THE MEMO. GINNY CHAN WILL BE ACCEPTING DONATIONS AFTER CHURCH DURING ADVENT. IF YOU'D LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE ONLINE, PLEASE VISIT OUR TITHE.LY PAGE. THE DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN THE BULLETIN IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17.