

# Church on the Hill

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

**January 14, 2024**

**10:30 AM**



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

**Rev. Genciano Clotter — Guest Preacher**  
**Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**BOLD** – Congregation responds

\* – Congregation Stands

**Prelude** Improvisation on “We Shall Overcome” 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, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; **make known his deeds among the peoples.** Sing to him, sing praises to him; **tell of all his wonderful works.** Glory in his holy name; **let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.** Seek the Lord and his strength; **seek his presence continually.**

\* **Hymn No. 530**

Be Still, My Soul

**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**

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley  
Of the shadow of death, I fear no evil:  
For you are with me, you will comfort me.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life: and I will dwell  
In the house of the Lord forever.*

**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**

Helmut Beron

John 1: 1-5

p. 862

Genesis 1:1

p. 1

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

"Keep Your Word!"

Rev. Genciano Clotter

**\* 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<sup>†</sup> Church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

<sup>†</sup> The word "catholic" means "universal,"  
referring to all followers of Christ worldwide.

**Anthem** My Shepherd Will Supply My Need Isaac Watts (Arr. Virgil Thomson)

*My shepherd will supply my need,  
Jehovah is his Name.  
In pastures fresh he makes me feed  
Beside the living stream.  
He brings my wandering spirit back  
When I forsake his ways.  
He leads me for his mercy's sake  
In paths of truth and grace.  
When I walk through the shades of death,  
Thy presence is my stay.  
One word of thy supporting breath  
Drives all my fears away.  
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,  
Doth still my table spread.  
My cup with blessings overflows,  
Thine oil anoints my head.  
The sure provisions of my God  
Attend me all my days.  
O may thy house be my abode  
And all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest,  
While others go and come.  
No more a stranger or a guest,  
But like a child at home.*

**\* 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**

Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord

*Cast thy burden upon the Lord,  
And he shall sustain thee;  
He never will suffer the righteous to fall:  
He is at thy right hand.  
Thy mercy, Lord, is great  
And far above the heavens:  
Let none be made ashamed  
That wait upon thee.*

### \* **Hymn No. 638**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

### \* **Benediction**

**Response** (please be seated)

The Lord is My Shepherd (ending)

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life: and I will dwell  
In the house of the Lord forever.*

### **Postlude**

Prelude in G Major BWV 541

J.S. Bach

## Music Notes

It's a 23rd Psalm Sunday!

Howard Goodall's *The Lord is My Shepherd* was included in worship last May where we noted its history as the theme song for the British TV series *The Vicar of Dibley*. Today we highlight some of its musical characteristics. A lyrical soprano solo melody is then repeated by all sopranos with the other parts providing simple harmonies in the same rhythm, creating a flowing feel. When we get to "Yea, though I walk..." the feeling changes and the phrase, "I will fear no evil" is sung in unison; focusing the listener's attention on the power of the words. The main theme returns with a soprano solo and the work ends with a quiet affirmation that we will dwell in the house of the Lord, "forever"; or as written in our Pew Bible, "...my whole life long."

The lyrics for the version of the 23rd Psalm, *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*, are by Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Here's some Hymnal trivia. In the Authors/Composers Index, which individual is credited with the most works? Answer, Donald P. Hustad with 29. But to be fair, Don is the Hymnal Editor and perhaps has a leg up on what gets in the publication. Charles Wesley is next with 20 citations and Timothy Dudley-Smith has 19. Then comes our Isaac Watts with 18 including hymns such as: *Come, We that Love the Lord*; *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*; *Joy to the World! The Lord has Come*. This is no inconsequential hymn writer. While many of his works represented original poetry/songs, our anthem today is his reworking of psalm text. The music divides the text into four repeated verses. Watts's last phrase, "No more a stranger or a guest, But like a child at home," conveys a very different sense of comfort and safety than our Goodall version.

One more note: Music Notes will be on hiatus for a bit. We hope to return in late February.

## Announcements

### COFFEE HOUR

Please join us for coffee hour after the service, downstairs in Gessner Hall. This morning's Coffee Hour was prepared with love by the Congregational Care Committee.

### 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](http://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](mailto: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

The Family of Randy Eastman

Alison Friedman

Adam Gonzalez

The Greer Family

Rudy Jakob

Mary and Norman Kansfield

Mike Kenny

Susan Laurita

Donna Lemay

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Kathy Mendler-Murphy

Paul Mobius

Mary Moder

Marti and Tom Pearce

The Family of 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
- Jerry Lutz
- Adriene Toy

**Sean Cotty**, Music Director: [sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org](mailto:sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org)  
**Amanda Sudolsky**, Office Administrator: [office@churchonthehill.org](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)

Phone: (718) 358-3671  
Email: [office@churchonthehill.org](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)  
[www.churchonthehill.org](http://www.churchonthehill.org)





*Greetings Members and Friends,*

*A church family is constantly changing. It is right and important that we recognize these times of passage – of endings and beginnings. The search committee continues to work diligently on finding our next installed pastor.*



The consistory of Church on the Hill is pleased to announce that the Rev. Sally Ann Castle will begin an *intentional interim ministry* at COTH beginning on February 1, 2024. Interim ministry is intentionally a short-term relationship which is different from a traditional installed pastorate, and we wanted to clarify some of these differences.

*An installed pastor's purpose is to love the church, foster relationships with church members and to help grow the church on a spiritual level. This is a long-term relationship, with the understanding that both church and pastor move forward together, forging deep bonds.*

By contrast, an *interim minister's job is to love the church during an often difficult transitional period, where the congregation is grieving the absence of an installed pastor while looking uncertainly to the future. The interim pastor takes steps to help the church heal, while carefully moving it toward the day when a new pastor will arrive. It is necessarily a short-term relationship – usually only 6 to 12 months – which bridges the interval between the past and the future of the congregation.*

*Grace and Peace,  
Your Consistory*