

# Church on the Hill

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

**December 19, 2021**  
**10:30 A.M.**



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**Rev. I. Douglas Estella – Stated Supply**

**Mr. Sean Cotty – Music Director**

**Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus**

## Welcome to worship at Church on the Hill!

We're so glad you have joined us this morning. Please read the following for more details about the worship service.

\*\* Please silence your cell phones prior to the service \*\*

The sanctuary and pews have been thoroughly cleaned in preparation for worship today. During the worship service, we ask that you continue to **wear your masks for the duration of the service.**

The congregation is invited to join in responses and the hymn singing—we ask that you **speak and sing at a conversational volume.** We have opened as many windows as possible in the sanctuary to increase ventilation. Please **do not attempt to open the windows that are closed.**

Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary; **on your way out of the sanctuary, you can place your offering in the plates.** At the conclusion of the service, **please wait to be dismissed** by the ushers, allowing us to clear any video equipment in the aisle.

We ask that you take your bulletin with you and do not leave it in the sanctuary. Bathrooms are available for use downstairs in Gessner Hall. There will be no coffee hour after the service.

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**BOLD** – Congregation responds

\* – Congregation Stands

**PRELUDE** Improvisation on "Once in David's Royal City"  
Sean Cotty

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH** (Based on Isaiah 35:1-10)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "**Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God!**" Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

**Everlasting joy shall be upon their head; they shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.** The Advent candle lit this morning symbolizes our yearning for wholeness, healing, and renewal. **O come, Healer of the nations!**

(All four candles are lit.)

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

\* Hymn No. 161

Once In Royal David's City

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:  
With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth, our Savior Holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew:  
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above,  
And he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and all gracious God, you have called us to glorify your name through our love for you and one another. **We confess that our praise is more on our lips than with our lives. We profess repentance while we resist change. We sing of love but curse our enemy. We pray your will be done but**

**insist on our way.** Have mercy upon us, tender God, and cleanse and forgive our selfish ways. May Jesus Christ, who came long ago, come once more into our lives. **Help us be at peace with you, ourselves, and one another as citizens of your kingdom which now is at hand.** (*Prayers of Silent Confession*) **Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON/WISDOM FOR LIFE

Anthem And the Glory of the Lord (*from The Messiah*) Handel

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
And all flesh shall see it together.  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

## 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 OF ILLUMINATION

O God, during this season of Advent, your Word announces the unfolding of future joy and renewed life. **Strengthen our**

**hearts to believe your advent promise that one day we will walk in the holy way of Christ, where sorrow and sighing will be no more.** Awaken us to your presence and your promises as your Holy Scripture is read and proclaimed. Amen.

Prayer Response

Let the Words of My Mouth

*Let the words of my mouth  
And the meditation of my heart  
Be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord,  
My strength and my Redeemer.  
Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Dana Chan

Micah 5: 2-5a

Luke 1: 39-45

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Doug Estella

Christmas Tableaux: Luke 2: 1-20

Dana Chan

*Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
'Round yon virgin mother and Child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

Anthem

How Lovely Are the Messengers *(from St. Paul)*

Mendelssohn

*How lovely are the messengers  
That preach us the gospel of peace!  
To all the nations is gone forth  
The sound of their words;  
Throughout the lands, their glad tidings.*

## **\*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.**

\*Hymn No. 155

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love,  
O Morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God and King, and peace to men on earth.  
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given;  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven!  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.  
  
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!*

## **\*BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE    *There's a Light A-Coming*      David Lantz, III

*There's a Light a-comin' to our darkness,*

*There's a Light a-comin' our way.*

*There's a Light a-comin' to our darkness,*

*Come, O Light and shine today.*

*There's a King a-comin' for His kingdom,*

*There's a King a-comin' to stay.*

*There's King a-comin' for His kingdom,*

*Come, O King, and show us the way.*

*Brighter than the rising sun,*

*The Son of God is near.*

*Free us from our human sin,*

*We wait for midnight clear.*

*There's a Joy a-comin' from the heavens,*

*There's a Joy a-comin' to the earth.*

*There's a Joy a-comin' from the heavens,*

*Come, O Joy, we long for Your birth.*

POSTLUDE                      Improvisation on "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Sean Cotty



## **Announcements**

### **SANCTUARY CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the Church Office, or given online via Tithe.ly. For checks, please make them payable to "Church on the Hill" and include "Sanctuary Christmas Decorations" in the memo. When using Tithe.ly, please select "Sanctuary Decorations" fund.

### **ADVENT BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. ESTELLA**

Our Zoom Advent Bible Study continues on the three remaining Tuesdays in Advent at 1:00 PM. (12/7, 14, 21). Just log on to ZOOM by clicking on the link on the email group or by entering the following on the ZOOM page: 875-9492-9853, Passcode COTH.

### **DEACON'S FUND**

A special offering will be taken during Advent to be placed in the Deacons' Fund. This is a special fund that provides financial support in emergency situations to our Church members and friends. If writing a check, please add "Deacons' Fund" as a memo and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the Church Office.

### **JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!**

Be sure to sign up for our email list to keep up with the latest Church on the Hill happenings. Add your name and email to the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or send an email to the church office at **office@churchonthehill.org**.

### **PRAYER LIST**

Please reach out to the church office if you would like to add a name to the prayer list. Email **office@churchonthehill.org**.

### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Check the weekly email tomorrow for all the happenings and ministries of Church on the Hill!

### **BARGAIN BOUTIQUE**

Keeping in mind the continued health and safety of church staff and members of our community, the Consistory at Church on the Hill has decided to close the Bargain Boutique until it is refurbished. We will not accept donations at this time.

## *Prayer Requests*

*If you would like to add a loved one to the prayer list,  
please contact the church office*

The Bermudez Family

Timothy Betjeman

Austin Bird

Diane Blagburn

Jane Brese

Susan Brooks

Angela Brunges

Ralph Carnesecchi

Rosina Cuticone

Lucas Ditta

Annie Jankowski

Lynn Lauterbach

Pat Lenox

Steve Lenox

Connie McKinstry

Jean Mendler

Tom Mendler

The Family of Eleanor Molino

The Family of Sandy Pasternack

Jeni Pollack

Joseph Ragusa

Neal Seltzer

Irene Sirotnak

The Family of Patrick Symes



### **Buildings & Grounds**

**Consistory Reps.:** Maureen Saepia-Chen & Victor Han

### **Christian Education & Youth**

**Chair:** Jeanne Sarran

### **Community, Mission & Outreach**

**Chair:** Heather Allison

### **Community Nursery School Board**

**President:** Ginny Chan

**Consistory Rep:** Rhoda Jabbour

### **Congregational Care**

**Chair:** Angela Brunjes

### **Finance**

**Chair:** Doris Krsnak

**Consistory Rep:** Margret Dougherty

### **Personnel**

**Chair:** Dana Chan

### **Worship & Music**

**Chair:** Irma Schubert

\*Chairperson is also Consistory Representative unless otherwise stated.



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.



*Consistory & Staff*

Dorien Day, **Vice President**  
Nancy Gessner, **Clerk**

**Elders**

Angela Brunjes  
Dorien Day, VP  
Victor Han  
Rhoda Jabbour  
Irma Schubert

**Deacons**

Heather Allison  
Dana Chan  
Margret Dougherty  
Maureen Saepia-Chen  
Jeanne Sarran

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