

Church on the Hill

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

December 5, 2021

10:30 A.M.



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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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

PRELUDE Improvisation on "Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland"
Sean Cotty

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

John the Baptist proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." **And the people went out to him and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.** And John said, "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. **He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.**" **We light the first Advent candle to remind us to keep awake and be ready. We light the second Advent candle to remind us to change our ways.**

— *The first two candles are lit* —

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

* Hymn No. 138

Savior of the Nations, Come

*Savior of the nations, come,
Show yourself the Virgin's son.
Fill with wonder, all the earth,
That our God chose such a birth.*

*Not by human power or seed
Did the woman's womb conceive;
Only by the Spirit's breath
Was the Word of God made flesh.*

*Christ laid down his majesty,
Passed thru dark Gethsemane;
Though he left his Father's home,
Christ now sits on God's own throne.*

*Christ in glory, intercede
For your creatures' suffering need;
Let your resurrecting power
Soon complete the victory hour.*

*Praise to you, O Lord, we sing;
Praise to Christ, our newborn King!
With the Father, Spirit, one,
Let your lasting kingdom come.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON/WISDOM FOR LIFE

Anthem Prepare the Way of the Lord William Rowan

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord!

Prepare the way!

Make straight his path.

Every valley shall be exalted,

Every hill made low;

And the crooked shall be made straight,

And the rough places plain.

And the glory of the Lord

Shall be revealed,

And all mankind shall see it,

Shall see it together.

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

Dorien Day

Malachi 3: 1-4

Luke 3: 1-6

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Making Room for God”

Rev. Doug Estella

*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

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Praetorius

*Lo! How a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.*

*It came, a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.*

*To shew God's love aright, she bore men a Saviour,
When half spent was the night.*

***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.***

THE COMMUNION SERVICE (SEE INSERT)

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.**

RESPONSE

Write These Words in Our Hearts

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

*Hymn No. 136

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh:
Awake and listen for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of Kings.*

*Let every heart be cleansed from sin,
Make straight the way for God within,
And so prepare to be the home
Where such a mighty guest may come.*

*For you are our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without your grace we waste away
Like flowers that wither and decay.*

*To heal the sick, and stretch out your hand,
And make the fallen sinner stand;
Shine out, and let your light restore
Earth's own true loveliness once more.*

*To you, O Christ, all praises be,
Whose advent sets your people free;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore!*

*BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Puer Nobis"

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

Susan Brooks

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

Jeni Pollack

Joseph Ragusa

Neal Seltzer

The Family of Patrick Symes

Sandy Westen



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
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