

Church on the Hill

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

December 17, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Kimberley Trinidad — Guest Preacher

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude Improvisation on “Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland” 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

Gracious and eternal God, as we faithfully look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus the Christ, fill our hearts with joy and peace. Let your mighty presence surround us. Bless us we pray! **Amen.**

Advent Candle Lighting

Joy

Angela and Tommy Brunjes

Call to Worship

(From Psalms 16)

I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; **even at night my heart instructs me.** I keep my eyes always on the Lord. **With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.** Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body will also rest secure, **because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.** You make known to me the path of life; **you fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

* Hymn No. 138

Savior of the Nations, Come

Prayer of Confession

Dear Lord, forgive us when we become distracted by the busyness of the season and forget about the gift of your son Jesus, the real reason why we celebrate Christmas. We confess that we allow stress to take hold and lose focus of the joy that we have in being loved by you. In this Advent season, help us to be centered upon our savior and redeemer. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's 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.*

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

Matthew 2: 1-12

p. 783-784

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Mystery of Joy"

Rev. Kimberley Trinidad

* 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

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from Him
Who freed us from our sin,
Who loved us all and shed His blood
That we might saved be.*

*Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is to come;*

*Rejoice in heaven,
All ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth,
All ye saints below,
For Christ is coming soon!*

*E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their all!*

*** 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

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

*“Comfort, comfort now my people;
Tell of peace!” So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
Mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim
That God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever!*

*** Hymn No. 136**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus Est Natus

(Sung in Latin)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, rejoice!

At this time of grace and longed-for blessing,

Love faithfully offers a song of praise.

Postlude

Concerto in D Minor (II. Grave-Fugue)

Vivaldi (Arr. J.S. Bach)

Music Notes

This Sunday’s two anthems highlight the power of our Advent season. The scriptural references tell the story.

George Frederic Handel’s (1685-1759) *Messiah* was initially an Easter work premiering in April of 1742 and has become a staple of the Christmas season – especially the first section; often called the “Christmas portion”. “*And the Glory*

of the Lord” is the first choral piece in the Oratorio. The scriptural reference is Isaiah 40:5. In a previous Advent note, we briefly discussed the prophecy of Isaiah in our preparation for celebrating the birth of the Messiah.

We often hear about “watchful waiting” during Advent. But perhaps that seems a bit strange since we know what happens – we know the story of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Messiah. As an Advent anthem “*E’en so Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*” offers a different perspective on this season. The music is by Paul Manz (1919-2009) with lyrics by his wife Ruth Manz (1919-2008). The work was composed when their three-year-old son was seriously ill and they believed that the end was near. In Ruth’s words, they put matters in the hands of the Lord and prayed, “Lord Jesus, quickly come” – he did eventually recover. The scriptural reference is Revelation 22 – a book with full knowledge of the life of Jesus. If you look through the Advent section of our hymnal you will find Isaiah references as well as other Old Testament scriptures but also hymns drawing from Matthew and Luke.

In this Advent season, we reflect on the prophecy of the Old Testament as well as our understanding of the prophecy embedded in our Apostles’ Creed, “He will come again to judge the living and the dead.”

Yes, we still watchfully wait.

Announcements

CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

Children at Worship will be held today, Sunday, December 17th, and will then be on a break until January 7th.

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 will be closed Saturday, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30th, and will reopen on January 6. 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

The Family of Randy Eastman

Alison Friedman

Adam Gonzalez

The Greer Family

Rudy Jakob

Mary and Norman Kansfield

Susan Laurita

Donna Lemay

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Kathy Mendler-Murphy

Paul Mobius

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**

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- Nancy Gessner (VP)
- Victor Han (VP)
- Rhoda Jabbour
- Sarah White

Deacons

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- 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

