

Church on the Hill

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

December 18, 2022

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. I. Douglas Estella — Guest Pastor

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday in Advent

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Improvisation on “Veni Emmanuel”

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

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Advent Candle Lighting

Love

Jim and Sue Nicholas

Call to Worship

(Psalm 80: 7, 17-19)

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

* Hymn No. 133

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

Anthem

The Yearning

Craig Courtney

*There is a yearning
In hearts weighed down by ancient grief
And centuries of sorrow
There is a yearning
In hearts that in the darkness hide
And in the shades of death abide,
A yearning for tomorrow.
There is a yearning,
A yearning for the promised One,
The First-born of creation.
There is a yearning
For the Lord who visited His own,
And by His death for sin atoned,
To bring to us salvation.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
Within our hearts, the yearning.
There is a yearning
That fills the hearts of those who wait
The day of His appearing.
There is a yearning
When all our sorrows are erased
And we shall see the One who placed
Within our hearts the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
Within our hearts, the yearning.*

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

Jim and Sue Nicholas

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Matthew 1: 18-25

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“When God Became One of Us”

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Lani Smith

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,

*And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim with watchful eye,
Veil their faces to his presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Lord most high!"*

*** 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

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.*

* Hymn No. 146

Joy to the World

* Benediction

Response (please be seated) Veni Emmanuel

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Postlude

Chorale No. 3 in A Minor (excerpt)

César Franck

Announcements

COFFEE HOUR

Please join us for a gala appreciation coffee hour after the service, in Rev. Doug Estella's honor, downstairs in Gessner Hall. You will be missed, Pastor Doug!

WHITE CHRISTMAS

Thank you all for your generous support of gifts for P.S. 116, Borders of Hope, and La Jornada. The people of Church on the Hill and the Nursery School Families have big hearts. If you wish to still make a donation, we are able to continue to accept gifts for La Jornada through December 25th.

FOOD FOR KIDS

We are starting up our collection of food for children at PS 116Q again! The bags of food are delivered to the school on Fridays for families who otherwise might go hungry over the weekend. A list of specific foods requested can be found in the weekly email, or if you prefer, monetary donations are always greatly appreciated.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

There is a collection box located by the entrance to the Church where we accept donations of boxed/canned goods throughout the year.

BARGAIN BOUTIQUE

The Bargain Boutique is open on Saturdays from 10 am- 1 pm. Donations are

accepted on Saturdays only. *No Electronics, No TVs, No Furniture, No Textbooks*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Check the weekly email tomorrow for all the happenings at COTH!

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. Send an email request to the church office at **office@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

Jeri Bird

Diane Blagburn

Hank Boeckmann

Rosina Cuticone

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Janet Fiala

Rita Gates

Ariana Han

Richard Iovale

Annie Jankowski

Andrew LaClaustra

Lynn Lauterbach

Christina Lee

Ernest Mendler

Kathy Meyer

Catherine Molino

Nina Proschel

The Redfern family

William Rudnick

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.



Consistory & Staff

Nancy Gessner, Victor Han, **Vice Presidents**
Nancy Gessner, **Clerk**

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- Angela Brunjes
- Nancy Gessner (VP)
- Victor Han (VP)
- Rhoda Jabbour
- Irma Schubert

Deacons

- Heather Allison
- Ginny Chan
- Emerson Chen
- Margret Dougherty
- Adriene Toy

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