

Church on the Hill

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

January 2, 2022
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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

PRELUDE Improvisation on Greensleeves Sean Cotty

VOTUM

SENTENCES

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

* Hymn No. 174

Angels from the Realms of Glory

*Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of Nations,
Ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Though an infant now we view him
He will share his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Every knee shall then bow down.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON/WISDOM FOR LIFE

Anthem *Love Came Down at Christmas* John Carter
Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine;

*Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.
Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine.*

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

Gerry Mendler

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

Revelation 21: 1-5

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The God of New Beginnings”

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 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* Donald Busarow

*Gentle Mary laid her Child Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the Undeiled, To the world a stranger.
Such a Babe in such a place, Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his favor.
Angels sang about his birth, Wise men sought and found him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.*

*Gentle Mary laid her Child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undeiled, But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth;
Hail! the King of Glory, Hail! the King of Glory!*

***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

Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty to give thanks to you at all times and in all places, O Lord our Creator, almighty and everlasting God! You created heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty. You have given us life and being, and preserve us by your providence. But you have shown us the fullness of your love in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation. For the precious gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to you we praise and bless you, O God. With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore your glorious name saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world. In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices. Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break and the cup which we bless may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into Christ our Lord. And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf, and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole Church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!



The Communion—Words of Institution

(We partake of the Bread.)

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

(We partake of the Cup.)

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Thanksgiving after Communion

Brothers and sisters, since the Lord has now fed us at his Table, let us praise God's holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving! Bless the Lord, O my soul, **and all that is within me, bless his holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, **and do not forget all his benefits—**

Who forgives all your iniquity, **who heals all your diseases,**

Who redeems your life from the Pit, **who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

The Lord is merciful and gracious, **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

He does not deal with us according to our sins, **nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, **so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

As far as the east is from the west, **so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his children, **so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him,**

Who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, and will also give us all things with him. **Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord, from this time forth forevermore.**

Amen. *(From Psalm 103, with additions)*

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 Angels We Have Heard on High

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Hymn No. 150 What Child Is This?

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping,
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?*

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherd guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary.*

*Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?*

*Good Christians, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.*

*Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary.*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.*

*Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary.*

***BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

POSTLUDE *Improvisation on Auld Lang Syne* Sean Cotty

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Year! New Members!

"Introduction to Church On The Hill" has been scheduled for January 9, 2022! The purpose of the class is to provide an orientation to the beliefs of the Reformed Church in America and to worship life here at Church On The Hill. The class will be led by Rev. Doug Estella. Look for more information in the January Beacon!

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

June Briese

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

Virginia Young



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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