

Church on the Hill

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

December 24, 2023
Worship Service 8:00 PM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Dr. Ian Rottenberg — Guest Pastor
Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

A Service of Lessons and Carols

The service of Lessons and Carols was developed in the late nineteenth century and first used at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, UK. The service is a re-telling of the story of the coming Christ. It follows a simple pattern: each lesson is told through a song and a Scripture reading. May you hear anew the story of the birth of Jesus as we listen, sing, and worship God this evening.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Away In A Manger

Gordon Schuster
Simon Walsh, Flute

Choral Prelude

In The Stillness

Sally Beamish

*In the stillness of a church
Where candles glow,
In the softness of a fall
Of fresh white snow,
In the brightness of the stars
That shine this night,
In the calmness of a pool
Of healing light,
In the clearness of a choir
That softly sings,
In the oneness of a hush
Of angels' wings,
In the mildness of a night
By stable bare,
In the quietness of a lull
Near cradle fair,
There's patience as we wait
For a new morn,
And the presence of a child*

Soon to be born.

Sentences

Prayer of Invocation

Welcome

*** Hymn No. 161**

Once in Royal David's City

Advent Christ Candle Lighting

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 Heaven and Earth Are Ringing Giovanni Gastoldi

*Heaven and earth are ringing;
Join in the angel's singing.
Sing noel for Christ is born.
Shepherds are told the story,
Soon rush to see the glory;
Look, the star is shining,
Bethlehem town outlining,
Heaven and earth are combining.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Anthem

The Snow Lay On The Ground

Leo Sowerby

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,

When Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum.

'Twas Mary, virgin pure of holy Anne,
That brought into the world the God made man.
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;
The ass and oxen shared the roof with them.
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Saint Joseph, too, was by to tend the child;
To guard him and protect His mother mild:
The angels hovered round, and sung this song,
Venite adoremus Dominum.

And thus that manger poor became a throne;
For he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host
To praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Second Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-9

*** Hymn No. 163**

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

Third Lesson

Luke 1: 26-38

Anthem

O Magnum Mysterium

Tomás Luis de Victoria

(Sung in Latin)

O great mystery,

And wonderful sacrament,

That animals should see the newborn Lord,

Lying in a manger!

O blessed virgin, whose womb

Was worthy to bear

The Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2: 1-7

*** Hymn No. 173**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2: 8-20

Anthem

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

*How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother,
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.
Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim their Lord and their Savior,
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.
Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
Child with his mother that first Christmas Day.*

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-11

*** Hymn No. 162 (verses 1-5)**

The First Noel, the Angel Did Say

Seventh Lesson

John 1: 1-14

Anthem

My Lord Has Come

Will Todd

*Shepherds, called by angels,
Called by love and angels;
No place but a stable.
My Lord has come.
Sages, searching for stars,
Searching for love in heaven;
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.
His love will hold me,
His love will cherish me,
Love will cradle me.*

*Lead me, lead me to see him,
Sages and shepherds and angels;
No place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.*

Homily

Anthem *O Holy Night* Adolphe C. Adam (Arr. John A Behnke)
Soloist- Maureen Saepia-Chen

*O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth
Long lay the world in sins and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees oh hear the angel voices.
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
Truly He taught us to love one another;
His Law is just and His Gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!*

Anthem *Still, Still, Still* Norman Luboff

*Still, still, still
One can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed,
The world is sleeping,
Holy Star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,*

Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.

Sleep, sleep, sleep

'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream,

Of the joyous day to come.

While guardian angels without number

Watch you as you sweetly slumber.

Dream, dream, dream,

Of the joyous day to come.

Candle Lighting (please remain seated during the passing of the light)

Hymn No. 164

Silent Night! Holy Night!

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.

Silent night! Holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight,

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! Holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light,

Radiant beams from thy holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Please extinguish your candles prior to exiting the sanctuary.

The loose offering collected will be given to our Deacon's Fund, which is used to help individuals and families in material need. If you feel called to give, offering can be left, upon entry or exit, in the plates located in the rear of the sanctuary.

We're so glad you joined us this evening for worship! May you be filled with the joy that God offers the world through his son Jesus Christ! May you know you're always welcome to worship and serve with us! Join us for our Christmas Day service tomorrow at our usual worship time of 10:30 am.



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

Consistory & Staff

Elders

Linda Diez
Nancy Gessner (VP)
Victor Han (VP)
Rhoda Jabbour
Sarah White

Deacons

Ginny Chan
Emerson Chen
Jerry Lutz
Adriene Toy

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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.



CHURCH HILL
ON THE



Christmas Donations 2023

Food For Kids

A Friend

In Appreciation of the unsung heroes of COTH past and present

The Bramble and Weed Families

In Memory of Our Dear Ones

Sally Ann and Nora Castle

In Memory of Dad/Grandpa Harvey Moder

In Honor of Mom/Grandma Mary Moder

The Chan Family

In Appreciation of the Search Committee's dedication and hard work

Michael and Margaret Gittens

In Memory of Michael's brother John E. Gittens

The Knese-Proschel Families

In Memory of William Knese

Mary Moder

In Memory of Harvey Moder

Steve and Jeanne Sarran

In Memory of Pastor Bob Perless

Irma Matzke, Peter Vesey

In Memory of Chris and Dorothy Heckel

Barbara Hoe

In Appreciation of the Food For Kids Volunteers

Music Fund

A Friend

**In Appreciation of the unsung heroes of COTH both past
and present**

Angela Brunjes

In Appreciation of My COTH Family

Dana Chan

In Appreciation of all of the hardworking volunteers

The Chan Family

In Memory of Pastor Bob Perless

Nancy L. Gessner and Family

In Memory of Arnold and Betty Gessner

The Good Family

In Memory of Elaine M. Good and Matthew Good

The Jabbour Family

In Memory of the Rev. Robert A. Perless

Emily Lee, Betty and Christina Kwong

In Memory of our Mom, Dad, and Grandparents

Jean and Ernest Mendler

**In Memory of Our Parents Ernest and Eileen Mendler, and
Charles and Mildred Iovale**

**In Memory of Our Siblings, MaryAnne (Mendler) Sullivan
and Richard Iovale**

Catherine and Larry Molino

In Memory of Eleanor Molino

Sue Nicholas

In Memory of Rev. Robert Perless

In Appreciation of Sue Perless

The Pearlman Family

In Memory of the Tomasi Family

Music Fund (cont.)

The Pearlman Family
In Appreciation of COTH

Adriene and Bill Toy
**In Appreciation of Sean Cotty, the choirs, and all the
people who help to keep COTH running smoothly.**

Carillon/ Church Bells

Irma Schubert
In Memory of Loved Ones

Community Concert Series

A Friend
**In Appreciation of the unsung heroes of COTH both past
and present**

Rhoda Jabbour
**In Appreciation of Junie and Lexy and the entire Chan
Family**

The Thorsen Family
In Appreciation of Sue and Jim Nicholas

Gabriel and Andrew Young
In Appreciation of Rhoda "Aunt Cookie" Jabbour

Queens Community Children's Choir

Lexy and Junie Chan
In Appreciation of Miss Rhoda

Rhoda Jabbour
**In Appreciation of Junie and Lexy and the entire Chan
Family**

The Thorsen Family
In Appreciation of Sue and Jim Nicholas

General Operating

Nancy L. Gessner
In Appreciation of the Search Committee

Eleanor Doyle
In Loving Memory of Catherine Martinez

Sanctuary Technology

A Friend
**In Appreciation of the unsung heroes of COTH both past
and present**

The Krsnak Family
**In Memory of David Krsnak, Dorothy and Chris Heckel,
and Edith and Joseph Krsnak**

Sanctuary Decorations

Brenda DeMelo
In Memory of Bill Knese and Bill Proschel

Norma Keller
In Memory of My Loving Family

Mary Moder
In Memory of Harvey Moder

Deacon's Fund

Jerry Lutz
In Appreciation of the Search Committee

*Thank you to Lexy, Junie, Mike, and Dana Chan for
beautifying our sanctuary.*