

Church on the Hill

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

December 31, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Kimberley Trinidad — Guest Preacher

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Improvisation on “Auld Lang Syne”

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

Come Holy Spirit Come! Speak to us in new ways. Be the mighty wind that stirs us up and brings us to new life. Come Holy Spirit Come! We wait for your wisdom and love with grateful hearts. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

(From Psalms 145)

The Lord is good to all; **he has compassion on all he has made.** All your works praise you, Lord; **your faithful people extol you.** They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, **so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, **and your dominion endures through all generations.**

* **Hymn No. 150**

What Child Is This?

Prayer of Confession

Lord as we look back upon this year, fill us with hope instead of regret. Forgive us for taking our eyes off of the prize, which is you. Forgive us when we forget that you are our source, and that all we have comes from you. Renew us oh Lord, revive us, and shower us with your love and mercy. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem

Carol of the Star

Donald Moore

*A star, a shining star led wise men on their way
To find that Bethlehem town where lay a holy babe.
Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.
A star, a guiding star, led them from above.
To seek a tiny babe, surround Him with their love.
Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.
A star, a mighty star, did shine o'er all the earth.
To welcome Him with joy, proclaim his wondrous birth.
Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.*

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

Steve Sarran

Philippians 3: 12-16

p. 955

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

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

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Donald Busarow

*Gentle Mary laid her Child Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the Undefined, 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 Undefined, 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.***

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

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.*

*** Hymn No. 152**

Angels We Have Heard On High

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

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.*

Postlude

March (from "The Nutcracker Suite)

Tchaikovsky

Music Notes

If our anthem *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* sounds familiar to you it might be because of the music and the words. The music tune is listed as *Piae Cantiones* but the full title is *Piae Cantiones ecclesiasticae et scholiasticae veterum episcoporum* which roughly translates to "pious ecclesiastic and school songs of the ancient bishops." This was a collection of 74 songs compiled in 1582 in the town of Turku; then the capital of Finland. The particular song tune from the collection used here is *Tempus adest floridum* which translates to "Eastertime has come"; although we know it as "Good King Wenceslas." Music for Easter

used for a secular carol (the story of Wenceslas), and then for a sacred Christmas hymn – the adaptability of music has almost no limits. As for the words, in addition to your Bulletin, you will find them in the hymnal at #156. The hymn/anthem starts by describing the birth of a seemingly unremarkable child. But in verse two, angels, shepherds, heaven's star, wise men, and glory surround the child making clear that this is the Son of God. Verse three reminds us that this is a human child but the fulfillment of prophecy and he is to be praised in all the earth.

The Carol of the Star has words and music by Donald Moore (1946-). The text places the “star” at the center of the birth story; first leading the wise men, then the angels, before shining “o’er all the earth.” The anthem uses a changing interplay between the women’s and men’s voices to add drama to the telling of the story. The addition of the phrase, “Venite adoremus Domium” (come, let us worship the Lord) adds a level of majesty to the carol.

Announcements

CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

Children at Worship will return on 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 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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- 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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