

# Church on the Hill

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

**January 28, 2024**

**10:30 AM**



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

**Revs. William and Lynn Hanousek — Guest Preachers**  
**Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**BOLD** – Congregation responds

\* – Congregation Stands

## Prelude

Largo (from “Xerxes”) G.F. Handel  
Soloists- Maxfield Panish (violin) and Simon Walsh (flute)

## 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

God of power and might, you sent prophets to your people, calling us back to your covenant and teaching us your ways. In the fullness of time, you sent us your Son Jesus, teaching with such authority that our eyes were opened to see your ways anew. Open our hearts and minds that we may understand and proclaim your teachings for all to hear. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## Call to Worship

Put aside the distractions of this world's many gods. **Stand in awe before God's love.** Prepare to worship in sincerity and faithfulness. **The Lord Jesus and his God, we will serve, and his voice we will trust and obey, that generations to come may know their God.** Stand up and celebrate the good news this day so that others may set their hope in the living God. **We will not hide our thanks and praise, but tell of the glorious deeds of the Lord and all the wonders God has done for us.**

### \* Hymn No. 62

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

## Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we long to follow you, to walk in the way that you have shown us, to know your commandments and to practice them wholeheartedly. But we confess that we are easily distracted, lured away by our own interests and desires, enticed by the attitudes and practices of the world around us. Forgive us. Turn our eyes away from the things that distract us from your way — from the attitudes and behaviors that sidetrack us and from our desire to know you better and follow you more closely. Give us a hunger for your word and your ways. Show us where true life and happiness are found — in knowing and doing your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Trio

Sonata in C Major (III. Rondo: Allegretto)

Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach

Soloists - Maxfield Panish (violin) and Simon Walsh (flute)

## Prayer of Illumination

Open our eyes that we may see. Open our ears that we may hear. Open our hearts that we might accept your word for our lives. **Amen.**

## Scripture Readings

2 Kings 4: 1-7

John 2: 1-11

Sarah White

p. 291-292

p. 863

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"A Tale of Two Miracles!"

Rev. William Hanousek

\* **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<sup>†</sup> Church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

*<sup>†</sup> The word "catholic" means "universal,"  
referring to all followers of Christ worldwide.*

**Trio**

**Aria**

**Jacques Ibert**

**Soloists- Maxfield Panish (violin) and Simon Walsh (flute)**

**\* 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.**

**\* Hymn No. 609**

**Leaning on the Everlasting Arms**

**\* Benediction**



# Announcements

## INTRODUCTION

A native of Astoria, the Rev. Bill Hanousek has served churches in Hasbrouck Heights (New Jersey), Canarsie, The Upper East Side, and Queensboro Hill (Flushing). He was ordained in 1969. Bill has led worship at Church on the Hill in the past and with his good friend, The Rev. Bob Perless, competed in numerous NYC marathons.

The Rev. Lynn Hanousek graduated from New Brunswick Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1989. She has served churches in the Bronx, Yonkers, and Queensboro Hill. Pastors Bill and Lynn have been married 52 years and are blessed with three children and their spouses, 6 grandchildren, and 2 cats.

## MUSIC NOTE

Thank you to Maxfield Panish and Simon Walsh for the beautiful instrumental music this morning! Thank you as well to Jim and Sue Nicholas for leading us in song!

## SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for a Fellowship Luncheon on Sunday, Feb, 4th, after the service.

## QUEENS COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Queens Community Children's Choir is starting its Spring semester in March. The 8-week program runs from 3/7- 5/9 (no classes on 3/28 and 4/25). We will meet on Thursday afternoons from 5:00-6:00 pm in the Music Room. These rehearsals will culminate in a grand end-of-semester performance on Saturday, May 11th at 2 pm in the Church on the Hill sanctuary. All children are welcome.

## 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 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](http://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](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)*

Karin Bennitt

The Bermudez Family

Diane Blagburn

Hank Boechmann

Katie and Clayton Buckley

The Cappellano Family

Lucas Carnesechi

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

Mike Kenny

Susan Laurita

Donna Lemay

The Liao/ Lin Family

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Kathy Mendler-Murphy

Paul Mobius

Mary Moder

Marti and Tom Pearce

The Family of Rev. Bob Perless

Iris and Ralph Prager

Nina Proschel

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**

*Consistory & Staff*

**Elders**

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

**Deacons**

- Ginny Chan
- Emerson Chen
- Jerry Lutz
- Adriene Toy

**Sean Cotty**, Music Director: [sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org](mailto:sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org)  
**Amanda Sudolsky**, Office Administrator: [office@churchonthehill.org](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)

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**Interim Minister**  
**Rev. Sally Ann Castle**

Rev. Sally Ann Castle graduated *summa cum laude* from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in May 2016, receiving a Masters of Divinity degree and the Beardslee Prize for RCA History. She was ordained to the Office of Minister of Word and Sacrament by the Classis of Queens, Reformed Church in America on April 9, 2017. Her call is Specialized Ministry as an Intentional Interim Minister. Her passion is writing liturgy for contemporary worship settings.

As an Elder at the Church on the Hill in Flushing (COTH), she developed and implemented a Blue Christmas worship service to minister to grieving and despondent people during the holiday season. This service has been adopted by several other congregations in New York and across the nation. Responding to needs in our urban community, she helped initiate the Food for Kids program at COTH which provides weekend groceries for food insecure families.

In her ministry as a hospital chaplain in Far Rockaway, Queens, Sally Ann advocated for indigent and non-communicative patients. She also initiated Health Care Decisions Day, a program which educates patients and staff about advanced medical directives in order to encourage early informed decisions leading to a dignified death. This program is in its tenth year.

Sally Ann has also served as a nursing home chaplain in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, where she wrote and

led weekly worship services for an ecumenical congregation. For seventeen years she served as the Sunday School Superintendent at The Community Church of Douglaston where she focused on mission and intergenerational worship. The children led the congregation in mission outreach projects in Queens and internationally.

After graduating from seminary, Sally Ann completed additional training through The Interim Ministry Network to qualify as an Intentional Interim/ Specialized Transition Minister. In this capacity, she has exuberantly helped faith communities prepare well for their future, providing empathetic pastoral care during organizational change and spiritual and emotional transition.

January 21, 2024

Dear Members and Friends of Church on the Hill,

This is a time of change and transition for Church on the Hill. One Pastor leaves, a Transitional Pastor comes, then, eventually, the Transitional Pastor leaves and a new Pastor comes. A journey of change. But one thing remains steadfast.

The church is not a building or a denomination, it is you the people, the congregation who gathers here to worship and seek God's direction for your future. Many of you have long and deep connections to this place and to one another. In the midst of much change, that will never change.

I will begin serving as your Specialized Transitional Minister (STM) on February 1, 2024. What is a Specialized Transition Minister you may be wondering? After graduating from seminary, I completed additional training through The Interim Ministry Network (IMN) to qualify as an STM. As defined by IMN, STM "practitioners leaven their ministry with the profound ability to pastor well during change and emotional and spiritual upheaval. The task of the STM is to assist the local church in clarifying a vision for future ministry while maintaining pastoral ministry during the pastoral search process."

I joyfully anticipate helping COTH prepare well for its future, while providing empathetic pastoral care during this journey of organizational change and spiritual and emotional transition.

Together we will embark on a journey of discovery. Together we will examine the traditions, history,

*ministries, leadership, and outreach of COTH. Building on this rich history and heritage we will envision the future. Who are we? What is God calling us to do?*

*I am excited to shepherd COTH through this time of change and I look forward to meeting every person in the congregation. Please pray for me, the friends and members of COTH, and the greater community as we begin this journey together.*

*Grace and peace,  
Rev. Sally Ann M. Castle*



## **Tackle Hunger with Souper Bowl of Caring!**

Help us take care of our neighbors in need.

**Our collection will take place:  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024**

### **We will collect:**

Canned Foods: Soup, Vegetables, Tuna, and Beans.

Other food items: Peanut Butter and Jelly (16oz, plastic jars only), Cup of Noodles.

The food items will be donated to The First Reformed Church of College Point's Food Pantry and The Food for Kids Program, which helps feed children at P.S.116 over the weekends.

Monetary Donations will also be accepted. (Cash or Checks made out to Church on the Hill with the memo- Souper Bowl, or via Tithe.ly under the Souper Bowl fund)

**Help us to make a difference in the lives of others!  
Church on the Hill**