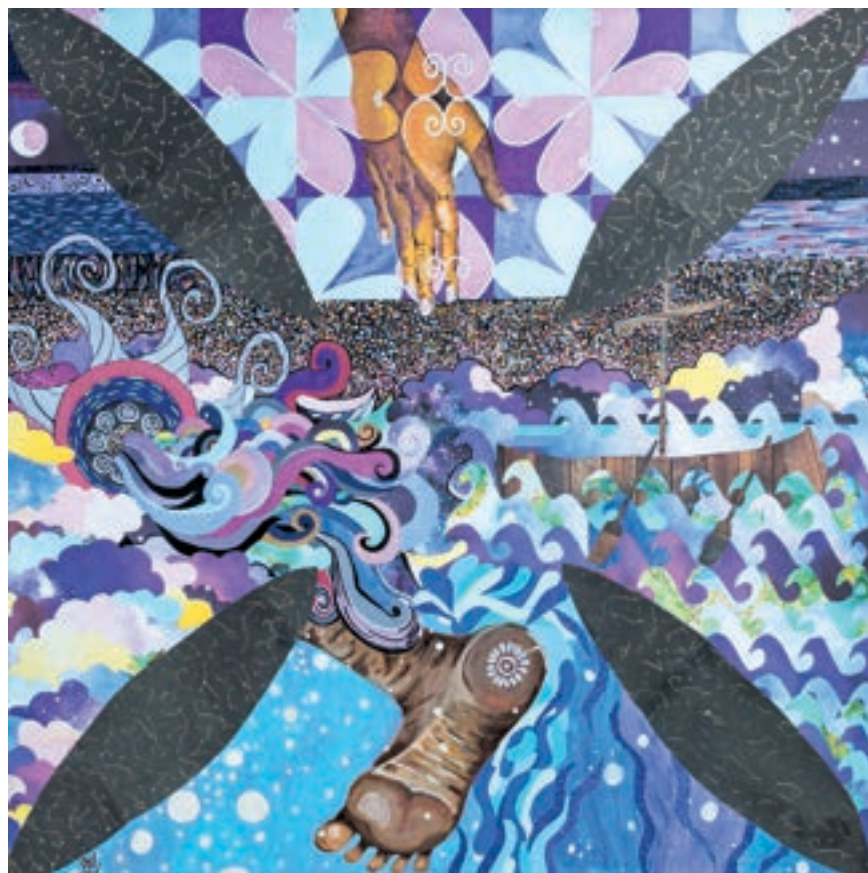


Church on the Hill

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

February 25, 2024

10:30 AM



Lift Off

By Nicolette Peñaranda

Inspired by Matthew 14: 22-33

| A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Rev. Justin Meyers — Guest Preacher

Rev. Sally Ann Castle — Interim Minister

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday in Lent

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude Violin Sonata No. 4 in D Major, Op. 1 No. 13 (I. Adagio)
G.F. Handel Maxfield Parish, Violin

Welcome

Votum

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

Sentences of Scripture

* Call to Worship

God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters, **the courageous and the fearful**, the hungry and the hopeful, **the impatient and the reserved**. God welcomes the young and the old, **the poets and the prophets**, the faithful and the tired, **the curious and the convicted**. Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea, **there is room for all to gather here**. This is God's house. **Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.**

* **Hymn No. 45** Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

* Call to Confession

In our scripture passage for today, Peter is out on a boat with the disciples when a storm hits. Instead of cowering in fear, Peter spots Jesus on the water and bravely crawls out of the boat to move closer to Christ. Friends, I think the prayer of confession is one way that we do the same; it's one way that we can crawl out of our boats. And here's what I mean: In the prayer of confession, we are honest about the storms that rage within and around us. In this prayer, we speak with honesty in an effort to move closer to God. This is our moment to crawl out of the boat. So friends, let's be like Peter. Join me in being courageous. Join me in truth-telling. Join me in prayer. It's time to get our feet wet. Let us pray together:

* Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, there are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you. Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, you could get out of the boat and walk on water like Peter, or fall to your knees and stay in one place. No matter what you do, Christ's love for you is unchanging. Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting, Christ is always walking toward you. So hear and believe this good news: God's love is stronger than any storms. On our best days, and on our worst days, we are seen, forgiven, and loved. God is always walking toward you. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Psalter (sung)

Psalm 22: 23-31

In the presence of your people I will praise your name

For alone you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Let us celebrate your goodness and your steadfast love;

May your name be exalted here on earth and in heaven above.

All who love you sing your praises and proclaim your power,

For alone you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

You have not ignored our suffering but have heard our cry;

May your power be exalted here on earth and in heaven above.

All who seek your rule will praise you and be satisfied;

For alone you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

All the peoples of the nations will bow down to you;

May your rule be exalted here on earth and in heaven above.

Solo Violin Sonata No. 4 in D Major, Op. 1 No. 13 (III. Larghetto)
G.F. Handel Maxfield Panish, Violin

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, there are days where the wind is loud. There are days where the rain tears through the trees and the storms of life beg for our attention. So just as you stilled the wind and the sea, still our wandering hearts. Quiet our restless minds. Reach out your hand to us and pull us into your Word so that we might hear, really hear, your message to us today. With one foot out of the boat, we pray, **Amen.**

Gospel Reading **Matthew 14: 22-33** Steve Sarran

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

* **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.***

* **Hymn for Lent** (see insert)

Into the Waters

Sung Response (verse 2)

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

***Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.***

*** Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in a God of abundance— a God who sees possibilities where I cannot, and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope. I believe in a God who comforts— a God who says, "Do not be afraid;" a God who joins me in life's deep waters. I believe in a God who invites— a God who says, "Follow me," and, "You will be fishers of people." I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently— a God of second chances and boundless mercy; a God who calls us by name. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Solo Violin Sonata No. 4 in D Major, Op. 1 No. 13 (IV. Allegro con brio)
G.F. Handel Maxfield Parish, Violin

Offering*** Doxology (verse 3)**

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

***O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.***

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving**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. 612 (verses 1-3, 5)**

How Firm a Foundation

*** Sending**

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news. **Amen.**

*** Benediction**

Postlude

Violin Sonata No. 4 in D Major, Op. 1 No. 13 (II. Allegro)

G.F. Handel

Maxfield Panish, Violin



Wandering Heart

*"Rescue me
from danger"*

Announcements

NEXT SUNDAY

March 3rd, 2024

Sacrament of Holy Communion

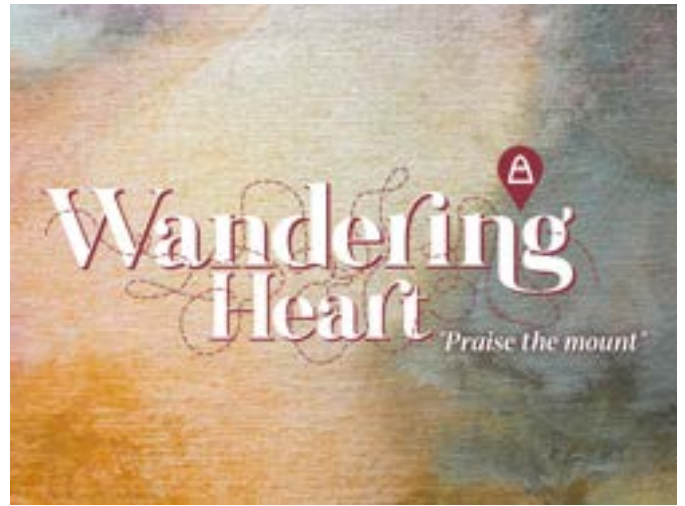
Wandering Heart: "Praise the Mount"

Focal Scriptures: Matthew 16: 13-20,
Psalm 19

Theme Connections: "**Praise the mount
of God's unchanging love...**" This lyric

represents Peter's mountaintop faith
moment. It speaks to spiritual euphoria

and feeling the closeness of God. In this story, Peter proclaims who Jesus is. He speaks with conviction. Peter claims his faith. If you had to speak your faith in one sentence or phrase, what would you say? When we have the courage to say, "This, I believe..." then that conviction has a ripple effect on others. When life gets rocky, we lean on mountaintop moments and our deepest convictions to see us through.



INTRODUCTION

Rev. Justin Meyers is the Executive Director of Al Amana Centre in Muscat, Oman working for peace, reconciliation, and understanding between people of different religions and cultures. Before going to Oman, he lived across the street from the Church on the Hill.

MUSIC NOTE

Thank you to Maxfield Parish for the beautiful violin playing this morning. Thank you as well to Maureen Saepia-Chen for leading us in song!

SOUPER BOWL

Arden Beron first introduced Souper Bowl to Church on the Hill in 2011, and since then we have collected 1,962 canned food items and \$6,790 in cash, which has been contributed to various food banks and soup kitchens over the years. In 2024 we will be accepting donations the entire month of February. Small contributions add up!

BIBLE STUDY

Lenten Bible Study- Tuesday, Feb 27th at 7 pm on Zoom

Second week of Lent - Psalm 27: Faces

Pause, Spending Lent with the Psalms by Elizabeth F. Caldwell

The invitation to pause with the Psalms began on Ash Wednesday with Psalm 51. Each chapter helps readers to connect an image drawn from a psalm, such as paths, faces, blessing, tables, waiting, thanksgiving, listening, being alone or abandoned, and hands, with their own lives. At the close of each chapter, readers are invited to try a different prayer practice to help them continue to reflect on the theme and psalm each day. This intentional engagement—without feeling burdensome—opens just enough space and time for a creative spiritual practice to flourish, sustaining the life of faith during the Lenten season in ways that can make a difference in God's world.

Check the Weekly Email for Zoom information!

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. Thank you to Annette and Emma Berger for putting together today's Coffee Hour!

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* Find us on Instagram @cothbargainboutique for a fun look inside the Boutique and to find out about special sales and hidden gems!

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 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

Joanne Dunckhahn

Alison Friedman

Michael Gittens

Adam Gonzalez

The Greer Family

Rhoda Jabbour

Rudy Jakob

Mary Kansfield

The Family of Rev. Norm Kansfield

Mike Kenny

Susan Laurita

Donna Lemay

The Liao/ Lin Family

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Christian Mender

Kathy Mender-Murphy

Paul Mobius

Mary Moder

Lillian Mukai

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

Amanda Sudolsky, Office Administrator: office@churchonthehill.org

Phone: (718) 358-3671
Email: office@churchonthehill.org
www.churchonthehill.org



THESECONDSUNDAYINLENT
Wandering Heart: "Rescue me from danger"

Rescue Me

I'd rather not need rescue.
I'd prefer a five-step plan
and a quick-fix solution.
I'd prefer stubborn insistence
over honest vulnerability,
because rescue requires
asking for help.
Rescue names
the rising water.
Rescue sees
the tired, treading feet.
Rescue feels
the swell of the wind
and the rain at a slant.
But when the floor falls out
and the world is on fire
and my small hands
cannot fix the hurt welling in me,
the prayer that slips out
is rescue
rescue, rescue me.

A poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Into the Waters

HERZLIEBSTER JESU 11.11.11.5

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Music by Johann Crüger, 1640



In - to the wa - ters, tim - id and un - stead - y
But then the windshift and I let my gaze break
Safe in the boat I won - der where the fault lies
Grace for the jour - ney, grace for all my fail - ings



Bare feet find pur - chase in the wa - ter's ed - dies
Fear starts to drag me un - der - neath the lake's waves
Was it the storm or my own reck - less de - sire
Grace when I'm sink - ing, grace when storms as - sail me



Eyes fixed on Je - sus while the storm is ra - ging
In my dis - tress I cry out to my Sa - vior,
To have con - trol or prove my - self as a - ble
Faith in my - self and faith in God's pro - vis - ion



And waves are break - ing
"Save me from dan - ger!"
Rath - er than faith - ful
Not my am - bi - tion