

Church on the Hill

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

February 22, 2023

7:30 PM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Carlos Rivera — Guest Pastor

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in D major

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,

Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

Have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Invocation

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Teach us, Lord, to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn No. 538

I Need Thee Every Hour

Prayer of Confession

Righteous God, in humility and repentance we bring our failures in caring, helping, and loving, we bring the pain we have caused others, we bring the injustice in society of which we are a part, to the transforming power of your grace. Grant us the courage to accept the healing you offer and to turn again toward the sunrise of your reign, that we may walk with you in the promise of peace you have willed for all the children of the earth, and have made known to us in Christ Jesus.

(Silent prayers of unburdening and confession) Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Assurance of Pardon

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, Even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works that I know very well.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them. I come to the end – I am still with you.

Anthem

If You Search With All Your Heart

Craig Courtney

When you seek Me, you shall find Me

If you search with all your heart.

For I know the plans I have for you:

Plans of welfare, not of evil.

For I know the plans I have for you:

Plans of hope and a future.

I will bring you out of bondage

To the land I have prepared.

I will bring you out of bondage

I will bring you home to Me.

Prayer of Illumination

God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will.

Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; make our mouths speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill us with the life that is Christ within us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever,

Amen.

Scripture Readings

2 Corinthians 5: 20- 6: 10

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

This Is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

Homily

Return to Dust

Rev. Carlos Rivera

Anthem

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies' Sake

Richard Farrant

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake,
Lay not our sins to our charge,
But forgive that is past
And give us grace to amend our sinful lives;
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,
That we may walk in a perfect heart
Before thee now and evermore.*

Prayers of the People

Congregational Response

Merciful Lord

Hear our prayer.

Hymn No. 200

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Benediction

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy
you breathed into dust the breath of life,
creating us to serve you and our neighbors.

**In this season of repentance, restore to us the joy of our salvation and
strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence
for your mercy, in Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Go in peace.



Announcements

MUSIC NOTE

The Choir's anthems on this solemn evening are from very different periods. "Lord, for Thy tender mercies' sake" is a setting of Psalm 51 by the British composer Richard Farrant (c.1525 – 1580). The work includes an oft used structure of the period in which there are two themes, with the second theme being repeated. It is one of the favorite anthems of the Choir. Craig Courtney (b. 1954) is a living American composer and many of his compositions are staples of the Choir's repertoire. Our piece tonight offers this introduction:

"If You Search With All Your Heart was commissioned in memory of Brenda Jean Wassink, who was shot and killed at the age of 22 while working in Kansas City, three months before she was to be married. In the months following her death, Brenda's family and fiancé found themselves clinging to Jeremiah 29 11: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.'" (RSV) This anthem stands as a testament to God's sustaining mercy in our times of deepest grief and sorrow." Craig Courtney

WOMEN'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST

All women are invited to our annual Women's Communion Breakfast on Sunday, March 12th at 9:00 am. March is Women's History Month and our theme will be Church on the Hill Women's History. Don't miss it! Please RSVP in person to Ginny Chan or call the church office (718) 358-3671.

QUEENS COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Queens Community Children's Choir will be starting its spring semester soon! The group will meet on eight Thursdays (3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, and 5/11). Each class will take place at 5:00 pm in the music room at Church on the Hill. Children of all ages are welcome to join! Please either register on the church's website or email our music director Sean Cotty at sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org.

COMMUNITY CONCERT AT COTH

The next community concert will be Saturday, 2/25 at **2:00 pm** in the sanctuary. Sean Cotty, Kelsey Sheldon, and Steve Max will present a program of all French works. This will include cello, piano, and organ pieces by Franck, Debussy, Fauré, Duruflé, and Rameau. As always, this program is free and open to the public. There will be a reception to follow in Gessner Hall.

BIBLE STUDY

The next Zoom Bible Study date will be February 28th at 7 pm. We will discuss Chapter 3, Jesus Understands a Parent's Love. The Zoom link can be found in the Weekly Email.

CHILDREN AT WORSHIP - COTH'S CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Sunday Program for children ages 5 to 12 is ongoing. During the service, the children will process out and be led to Room 2-E.

FOOD FOR KIDS

We are making weekly deliveries of bags of food for children at PS 116Q! The bags are delivered to the school on Fridays for families who otherwise might go hungry over the weekend. A list of specific foods requested can be found in the weekly email, or if you prefer, monetary donations are always greatly appreciated.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

There is a collection box located by the entrance to the Church where we accept donations of boxed/canned goods throughout the year.

BARGAIN BOUTIQUE

The Bargain Boutique is open on Saturdays from 10 am- 1 pm. Donations are accepted on Saturdays only. *No Electronics, No TVs, No Furniture, No Textbooks*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Check the weekly email tomorrow for all the happenings at COTH!

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. Send an email request to the church office at office@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

Diane Blagburn

Glenda Burke

The Family of

Rosina Cuticone

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Janet Fiala

Ariana Han

Thomas Degnen

Gregory Happ

Richard Iovale

Lynn Lauterbach

Christina Lee

Kathy Meyer

The Redfern family

William Rudnick

Jimmy Schehr

Patrick Sullivan

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.



Consistory & Staff

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

Elders

- Angela Brunjes
- Nancy Gessner (VP)
- Victor Han (VP)
- Rhoda Jabbour
- Irma Schubert

Deacons

- Heather Allison
- Ginny Chan
- Emerson Chen
- Margret Dougherty
- Adriene Toy

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