

Church on the Hill

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

February 4, 2024

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Sally Ann Castle — Interim Minister

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Sicilienne

J.S. Bach (arr. Widor)

Welcome

Votum

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

Sentences of Scripture

* **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.***

* **Call to Worship**

(Isaiah 6:8)

It is by grace that we are who we are: **people who are called by Jesus, yet fearful to follow.** It is by God's grace that we can become followers: **people who are fearful, yet gifted with courage beyond wonder.** It is with God's grace that we become who we might be: **people who step out in faith, sharing the good news generously.**

* **Hymn No. 358**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Call to Reconciliation

It is so simple to say, yet so difficult to live out - 'do not be afraid!' Yet, whatever fear burdens us, God will lift from our souls. Whatever foolishness we have uttered, God whispers mercy to us. Whatever wrong we have done, God's forgiveness is poured out upon us. I invite you to join with me as we pray to the One whose love is constant in every moment, in every place, of our lives.

Prayer of Confession

God of wonder and joy, we look in the mirror and do not see holiness reflected back. We long to be sisters and brothers with others, but don't

want to be an intrusion in our friends' lives. We yearn to be more compassionate, yet it is often spite and malice we offer to someone else. We are so busy listening to those internal voices, that we have trouble hearing the cries of loneliness coming from those around us. Forgive us, God who longs to be enthroned in our hearts. You call us to different lives, so we might make a difference for all who hurt. You invite us into your kingdom, so we might show the others the way. You challenge us to take a risk by following Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, so we might become your children once again. Amen.

(Silence is observed)

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

The One who alone is Holy became wholly human so we might see the face of grace. The One who is seated in the heavens endured the cross so we might see the face of salvation. This is our good news: we are forgiven! **By God's grace, with God's grace, we are who we are meant to be: forgiven, restored, called people. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

Isaiah 40: 21-31

Maya Sanislo

p. 582-583

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Mark 1: 29-39

p. 813

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to you, O Christ.

Anthem

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Sebastian Temple (arr. Tom Fettke)

Make me a channel of your peace.

*Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.
Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved, as to love, with all my soul.
Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.
Amen.*

Sermon

“Humility and Sacrifice”

Rev. Sally Ann Castle

*** 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.

Prayer of Dedication/Offering

God who alone is holy, we offer our gifts, our lives, our compassion, our service to others, and to your creation. Bless all that we offer, so that we might be blessings of hope, peace, and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*** 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.***

Anthem

Grant Peace, We Pray

Felix Mendelssohn

*Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord,
In our time peace, oh, send us!
For there is none on earth but Thee,
None other to defend us.
Thou only Lord, canst fight for us.*

Litany of Welcome and Blessing for Interim Ministry, February 1, 2024

Elder VP: Today we begin a new segment of our faith journey here at Church on the Hill as we welcome Pastor Sally Ann Castle, who will serve with us during this time in the life of our congregation. In the coming days, let us support each other by our continued presence as we worship together, our sharing in the means of grace, and our prayers for each other.

All: May God strengthen our community and relationships with power and new insight. May God grant us patience, a sense of humor, and the courage to speak the truth in love. May God help us to work together in harmony. May the Holy Spirit be among us as we seek to discern God's will for our congregation.

Pastor: I have been chosen as your interim pastor, to be God's servant among you during this special time of transition and discernment. I pledge to you my commitment as a minister of the Gospel among you. I will pray

for you, listen to you, assist you in the tasks of this interim period, encouraging and challenging you as we move through this time together.

Elder: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the power of the Holy Spirit so that you may perform them with strength and compassion. Amen.

All: And we, members of Church on the Hill, receive you as a sister servant of Christ. We pledge our partnership as we continue to use the gifts God has given us to carry out the many ministries of the Gospel in this place - in worship, education, witness, service, and stewardship. We will pray for you and encourage you, striving to live together in the peace and unity of Christ as we move through this time together.

Pastor: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the power of the Holy Spirit so that you may perform them with strength and compassion. Amen.

Elder: As all of life is an interim, help us to value this time together as a reminder that our work is not in vain and our Lord will unite all things at last in glorious fulfillment of God's promises. By these mutual statements of commitment - from you and from us - we welcome you as our pastor for this interim.

Pastor: May God bless us and lead us as we embark on this interim journey, and may we view this as a time of learning and growth as God's Spirit instructs and prepares us for the future mission and ministry of the church in this place.

All: Lord, enable us to live our days in praise of your glory. Amen.

* **Hymn No. 768 (verses 1-3)**

I Come With Joy

Holy Communion for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: May God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Beloved of God, lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the One who knows us and loves us.

Leader: Beloved of God, give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: Our praise is continually offered to our Hope, our Trust, our God.

In that time when there was only you, you walked in the midst of chaos, shaping all that is good and beautiful. In that place where there was only your Love, you stretched out your hands scooping up the dirt off earth's

floors, shaping us in our image, breathing Spirit into our lungs. In that silence where there was only your Hope, you called us to be your people, God of glory and wonder. But the world sang its seductions; sin called us to follow its despair, death blinded us to the life you offered.

And so, pouting and stamping our feet because you would not give us our way, we turned away going down another path. You would not pay attention to our foolish tantrums, nor would you leave us in the grasp of death and sin, trusting that if we encountered the grace wrapped in your holiness, we would turn to you in joy.

And so, believing that you have reached out and called us to service with you, and touched our lips with songs of hope, we join our voices with those who, in every time and in every place sing of your ways forever:

**People: I bind unto myself today
your power, O God, to hold and lead,
your eye to watch, your might to stay,
your ear to hearken to my need,
your wisdom, O my God, to teach,
your hand to guide, your shield to ward,
your living Word to give me speech,
your heavenly host to be my guard.**

(The Breastplate of St. Patrick)

Holy are you, Sanctuary of our hearts, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Word of joyous grace. In that time when we had lost our way, he called to us, so we could follow him into your joy. In that time when all hope had died, he touched our lips with the bright fire of your love. In that time when death's cold grip wrapped tightly around our hearts, he came, to surround us with your love. While we cannot understand the mysteries of your wonder and grace, when we are called to Christ's side we can only cry, 'here we are, we will follow' even as we hope for that faith which was his.

People: We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, in all the churches of the whole world, and we bless you, for by means of your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

(Francis of Assisi)

In this time of silence, Spirit of God, may this bread which is broken become our wholeness. In this time of grace, may this cup which is poured touch our lips with healing. In this time when we feel the brush of your fingertips caressing us, may we believe that your justice and peace are to be shared

with all people; that our hearts can bear the burdens of others; that we may bring joy to the lonely and suffering. Then, when our journey is ended, and we have followed you into eternity, we will gather around your Table in that silence, which is only your grace; in that place, which is only your heart; in that time, which is only your love, God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

Distribution

Leader: The Bread we break is the Bread of Life.
The Cup we Share is the Cup of Promise.
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Communion liturgy (c) Thom M. Shuman

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

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

O God of Every Nation

*From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
From trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
From pride of race and nation and blindness to your way,
Deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray!*

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

Sevenfold Amen

Postlude

Trio Sonata No. 4 in E Minor (III. Un poco allegro)

J.S. Bach

The Four Chaplains:



"Not for my safe return,
that wouldn't be fair.
Just pray that I shall do my
duty...
never be a coward...
and have the
strength, courage and
understanding of men.
Just pray that I shall be
adequate."

-Chaplain Poling

to his father before boarding the Dorchester

Announcements

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Please join us today, Feb, 4th, for a fellowship luncheon after the service. All are invited to meet and mingle with Rev. Sally Ann and other members of the congregation. A pizza lunch will be prepared by Larry Molino!

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study books are available for pickup at Church following the service for \$10— See Nancy Gessner.

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.

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



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.

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

Adam Gonzalez

The Greer Family

Rudy Jakob

Mary Kansfield

The Family of Rev. Norm 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



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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