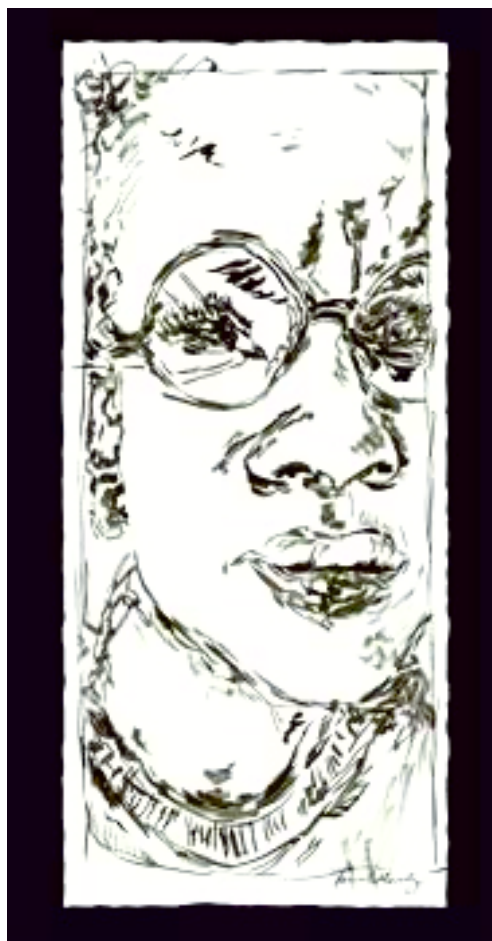


Church on the Hill

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

March 31, 2024

10:30 AM



Where?

By Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Luke 24: 1-12

| A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Rev. Sally Ann Castle — Interim Minister

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Easter, Resurrection of the Lord

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Wolsey's Wilde
Brandiswhiere's Triumphant Return
Soloists - Emily John (Harp), and Simon Walsh (Flute)

William Byrd
Sylvia Woods

Welcome

Votum

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

Sentences of Scripture

Call to Worship

Yesterday we thought death had won. Yesterday we thought all was lost. Yesterday we thought Christ was gone. **But not today. Today we know that love has won. Today we know that hope is real. Today we know that Christ is here.** We have a reason to hope. **We have a reason to sing!** Alleluia! **Alleluia!** Christ is risen today. **He is risen indeed!**

* Hymn No. 234

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Call to Confession

In the Gospel of Luke, the women come to the tomb, and to their surprise, instead of finding Jesus, they find angels. The angels tell the women, "Jesus is not here," and when that answer is met with confusion, the angels say, "Remember what he told you." Remember. It's one of the words Jesus used at his last supper, and it's one of the first words we hear at the empty tomb. Remember. I think this call to remember is why we need the prayer of confession and these words of forgiveness every single week. It's not enough to hear of God's grace once. We need to hear it over and over again, week after week. We need to be reminded that God's grace and mercy will never run out. So friends, let us run to God like the women ran to the tomb. Let us tell the truth of our lives so that once again we can be reminded that our God is a God of grace, mercy, and

love. Let us pray so that we can remember. Join me in the prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession

The stone is rolled away! **We assume it is a mistake.** The angels say, "He is not here!" **We assume their news is fake.** The women tell the story, **but we do not want to hear it.** Peter runs to the tomb, **but we do not understand.** Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb is nothing more than a prank. **Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths and still holding tight to death.** Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive and well in the world. **Teach us to see what you see. Unravel the threads of our unbelief. Amen.**

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Words of Forgiveness

The angels tell the women, "Remember what Jesus told you." So, church, remember this: You are seen. You are forgiven. You are held in God's grace. All of this is true. Grace and mercy abound for you. *Remember this. Amen.*

Anthem

O Filii et Filiae

Ivo Antognini

(Sung in Latin)

Ye sons and daughters of the King,

Whom heavenly hosts in glory sing,

Today the grave hath lost its sting.

Alleluia!

On this most holy day of days,

To God your hearts and voices raise

In laud, and jubilee, and praise.

Alleluia!

Prayer of Illumination

Open up our minds that the mystery and joy of Easter might feel within reach. Open up our hearts that we might believe the unbelievable. And like Peter, in this hearing, may we move closer to you. God of the empty

tomb, we are hungry for your good news. Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts we listen and we pray, Amen.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24: 1-12

Vincent Han

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

*** Hymn No. 678**

In the Bulb There is a Flower

Sermon

"And I Hope"

Rev. Sally Ann Castle

Affirmation of Faith

We may weep through the longest nights. We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers. We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more. But today, we are a people of hope. We believe in new beginnings. We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death. We believe that Jesus abides among us, healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world. We believe that a tomb could not hold him. We believe that the sun does rise. We believe that Peter was there with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed. We believe that the story is not over yet, for God is among us. Today we are a people of hope.

Duet

The Fog is Lifting

Carl Nielson

Soloists - Emily John (Harp) and Simon Walsh (Flute)

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.**

Anthem

Christ Our Passover

William Macfarlane

*Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:
Therefore let us keep the feast.
Not with old leav'n, neither with
The leaven of malice and wickedness,
But with the unleavened bread
Of sincerity and truth.*

*Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more:
Death hath no more dominion over Him.
For in that He died, He died unto sin once:
But in that He liveth, He liveth unto God.
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin:
But alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Christ is risen, is risen from the dead:
And become the first fruits of them that slept.*

*For since by man, for since by man came death:
By man came also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam, for as in Adam all die:
Even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

*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.*

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.**

* **Hymn No. 247**

The Day of Resurrection

* **Benediction**

* **Response**

Hallelujah Chorus (from "The Messiah")

G.F. Handel

Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!

Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world is become

The kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ!

And he shall reign for ever and ever!

King of kings and Lord of lords!

King of kings and Lord of lords!

And He shall reign forever and ever!

Forever and ever!

Hallelujah!

Postlude

Fugue in G Minor ("The Great") BWV 542

J.S. Bach

Announcements

NEXT SUNDAY

April 7th, 2024 - Second Sunday of Easter
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Wandering Heart: "Here's My Heart"

Focal Scriptures: John 21: 1-19

Theme Connections: Though Peter's story does not end with the conclusion of the gospels, we finish our series with Peter's encounter with the risen Christ. In this final week, we come full circle with Peter. He has

dropped his nets, walked on water, professed his faith, been rebuked, received foot washing, denied Jesus, and run to the tomb. And now, Jesus once again meets him at the shoreline where Peter is casting his nets. Jesus offers abundant nourishment and also a new command: "Feed my sheep." Then he turns to Peter and asks three times, "Do you love me?" It's as if Jesus says, "Here's my heart," which washes over Peter's three denials like a healing balm. No matter how far we wander, may we entrust our hearts to God. No matter if our faith is strong or weak, what we can give is our love.



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CONCERT

On Saturday, April 6th, our brilliantly talented Director of Music, Sean Cotty, will present an organ recital dedicated to the masterworks of J.S. Bach. This highly anticipated concert will take place at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary of COTH. There will be a gala reception to follow in Gessner Hall. Don't miss it! Invite your friends and neighbors!

BIBLE STUDY

Last Lenten Bible Study- Tuesday, April 2nd at 7 pm on Zoom - Psalm 19 - *Hands Pause, Spending Lent with the Psalms* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell

Check the Weekly Email for Zoom information!

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





alleluia!

Christ has Risen!

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

Richard D.

Thomas Degnen

Gabriel DeMelo

Lucas Ditta

Joanne Dunckhahn

Alison Friedman

Michael Gittens

Adam Gonzalez

The Greer Family

Bob Iovale

Rudy Jakob

Mary Kansfield

The Family of

Rev. Norm Kansfield

Mike Kenny

Susan Laurita

Donna Lemay

The Liao/ Lin Family

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Donna McLernon

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

Yvette Sanford

Trevor Sealy

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



E A S T E R S U N D A Y
Wandering Heart: "And I Hope"

Easter Morning

I cannot stay away on Easter Morning.

Like Peter,

I would run if I could.

Stop the car,

pump my arms,

take the church steps two at a time,

all to know—

Did it happen?

Did it really happen?

Is evil no match for love?

I'd slide down the center aisle.

I'd grab the mic to ask

the angels,

the heavens,

the children,

Were the stories true?

And in response, the choir would sing, "Alleluia."

The children would flower the cross.

The preacher would tell me the stone was rolled away.

The people would pass the peace,

and welcome strangers,

and make room in the pews.

And with faith over doubt,

I would hope.

For I imagine that all of that ordinary holiness

would be enough for Peter,

and it would be enough for me.

CHURCH HILL
ON THE

Easter Donations 2024



Music Fund

**In Appreciation of Sean Cotty and our magnificent
Choir**

By Angela Brunjes

**In Appreciation of The Search Committee for their
hard work and dedication**

By The Chan Family

**In Memory of My Parents Dorothy and Joseph
Altmann**

By Doris Cosmatos

In Appreciation of Emerson Chen and Michael Chan

By Nancy Gessner

In Memory of Elaine and Matthew

By Gerald Good

In Loving Memory of John and Jayne Halley

By Susan Lowe

**In Memory of Our Parents - Mildred and Charles
Iovale, Ernest A. Mendler and Eileen Mendler**

**In Memory of Our Siblings - Mary Ann Mendler
Sullivan, Richard Iovale**

By Jean and Ernest Mendler

In Memory of Glenda N. Burke

By James A. Nicholas

In Memory of The Tomasi Family

By The Pearlman Family

In Memory of Anne and Robert Ross

By Peggy Ross and Peter Millock

In Appreciation of Buck Kellaway

By Jeanne and Steve Sarran

In Memory of My Parents

By Joyce Tambini

**In Appreciation of Sean Cotty, the Choirs, and All
the people who help to keep COTH running
smoothly**

By Adriene and Bill Toy

Food For Kids

In Appreciation of Buck Kellaway

By Sally Ann Castle

In Memory of Dad/ Grandpa Harvey Moder

In Honor of Mom/ Grandma Mary Moder

By Sally Ann Castle and Nora Castle

**In Appreciation of Victor Han, Nancy Gessner,
Rhoda Jabbour, and all the hardworking volunteers**

By Dana Chan

In Memory of My Parents Arnold and Betty Gessner

By Nancy Gessner

In memory of Judith Kellaway

By Buck Kellaway

In Memory of Gar Jing and Alice Lee, Francis Kwong

By Betty and Christina Kwong, Emily Lee

In Memory of David E. C. Krsnak

By The Krsnak Family

In Memory of My Husband, Harvey Moder

By Mary Moder

In Appreciation of Buck Kellaway

By Steve and Jeanne Sarran

Queens Community Children's
Choir

**In Appreciation of Sean Cotty,
Rhoda Jabbour, and the Sarrans**

By The Chan Family

**In Appreciation of Mr. Sean, Ms.
Rhoda, and Ms. Jeanne**

By Lexy and Junie Chan

**In Appreciation of Ginny Chan, Jeanne Sarran, and
Coffee Hour Volunteers**

By Rhoda Jabbour

Church Carillon Bells

In Memory of My Son William

By Irma Schubert

Sanctuary Decorations

In Memory of Michael's Brother, John E. Gittens

By Michael and Margaret Gittens

