

Church on the Hill

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

March 12, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Revs. William and Lynn Hanousek — Guest Pastors

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday in Lent

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Improvisation on Londonderry Air

Sean Cotty

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

Holy, creating, creative God, we sing from the depths of our sorrow. We sing from the abundance of our joy. We sing in voices separate and unique. We sing with one voice as your body. May the words of our mouths, whether in speech or song, and the meditations of our hearts, whether in prose or poetry, be pleasing in your sight. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Come, let us sing to Yahweh; **Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.** Let us come into the Divine presence with thanksgiving; **Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!** It is good to give you thanks, O Yahweh; **To sing praises to your name, O Most High;** to declare your steadfast love in the morning, **and your faithfulness by night,** to the music of the lute and harp, **to the melody of the lyre.** For you, O God, have made us glad by your work; **At the works of your hands we sing for joy.**

* Hymn No. 99

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you; you call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with pride, quarreling, and divisiveness. Holy God, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem For Love of You John Carter and Mary Kay Beall

*Kneel with me, here in sad Gethsemane;
All of this I gladly do for love of you.*

*Walk with me, up the hill to Calvary;
Every step I gladly take for your dear sake.*

*Cry with me on the cross of Calvary;
Wear the crown I gladly wore,
Bear the crown I gladly bore.*

*Die with me, here alone at Calvary;
All of this I gladly do for undying love,
For love of you.*

Prayer of Illumination

Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive your Word, reveal to us the good news, and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Scripture Readings

Maureen Saepia-Chen

Genesis 18: 22- 33

Luke 15: 1- 7

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "God of Wrath or God of Love?" Rev. William L. 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[†] 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.

Anthem

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

*God so loved the world,
That he gave His only begotten Son,
That who-so believeth in Him
Should not perish,
But have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son
Into the world to condemn the world;
But that the world through him might be saved.*

*** 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.**

Prayer Response Write These Words in Our Hearts

*Write these words in our hearts,
We beseech you, O Lord.*

* **Hymn No. 558** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

* **Benediction**

Response (please be seated) Lord, Dismiss us with Your Blessing

*Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace;
O direct us and protect us
Traveling through this wilderness.*

Postlude Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ J.S. Bach

Announcements

SEARCH COMMITTEE TOWN HALL

You are invited to a Search Committee "Town Hall" on Sunday, March 19th during coffee hour. The Search Committee will present an informal and brief overview of their search process and the status of the search, as well as answer questions. A Zoom link will be available. You are welcome to email your questions in advance to pastoralsearch@churchonthehill.org, by March 15th, please.

MUSIC NOTE

"For the Love of You: A Lenten Meditation" is a composition by the American husband and wife team of John Carter and Mary Kay Beall. Individually and as collaborators, they have over 500 credited works including musicals and a sacred opera.

"God so Loved the World," (John Stainer, 1840-1901) comes from *The Crucifixion: A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer*. The text is John 3:16-17. Among a variety of positions, Stainer served as organist at

Magdalen College (Oxford) and later at St. Paul's Cathedral (London). He was a prolific composer but, with the notable exception of *The Crucifixion*, his works are seldom performed today.

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.

LENTEN MISSION

As part of our Lenten observance, we partner with area organizations to support individuals in need, with a focus on food insecurity. All food and monetary donations will go to Food for Kids and the food pantry at First Reformed Church of College Point. If you choose to make a monetary gift, you can do so via Tithe.ly under Lenten Mission, or via a check with the memo Lenten Mission. You can also collect and donate food (you can find the list of foods on the flier on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or in our Weekly Email). Make it fun and a challenge! See if your house can collect an item a day for 40 days, or partner with some friends to gather 40 items, an item for each day of Lent!

COMMUNITY CONCERT AT COTH

Mark your calendars for a concert at COTH on **Saturday, March 18th at 2:00 pm** in the sanctuary. Croatian pianist Augustin Simat will present a recital of Romantic and Baroque works by Chopin, Liszt, Scarlatti, and Bach. As always, this program is free and open to the public. There will be a reception to follow.

QUEENS COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Queens Community Children's Choir has started its spring semester! The group meets on Thursdays (**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 register on the church's website or email our music director Sean Cotty at **sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org**.

BIBLE STUDY

The next Zoom Bible Study dates will be **March 14th and 28th at 7 pm**. We will discuss Chapter 4, Jesus Understands Feelings of Abandonment, and Chapter 5, Jesus Understands Physical Pain. The Zoom link can be found in the Weekly Email.

COFFEE HOUR

Please join us for coffee hour after the service, downstairs in Gessner Hall.

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.

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*

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

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Janet Fiala

Adam Gonzalez

Ariana Han

Thomas Degnen

Gregory Happ

Richard Iovale

Lynn Lauterbach

Christina Lee

Kathy Meyer

Marti and Tom Pearce

The Redfern family

Debi Romano

William Rudnick

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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