

# Church on the Hill

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

**May 5, 2024**  
**10:30 AM**



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

**Rev. Sally Ann Castle — Interim Minister**  
**Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

**BOLD** – Congregation responds

\* – Congregation Stands

**Prelude**

Improvisation on “Lobe Den Herren”

Sean Cotty

**Welcome**

**Votum**

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

**Sentences of Scripture**

**Call to Worship**

Easter people, Jesus chose you and calls you friend! **We abide in Christ because Christ abides in us.** Jesus made a home among us to show us how to love. **We abide in Love because Love abides in us.** Jesus invites us in and beckons us to come to the Table to know the joy that comes when we love one another the way God loves us. **We abide in Joy because Joy abides with us.** Easter people, Jesus welcomes you home! **We come to make our home with God and one another, bound together by Love and enlivened by Joy. Amen.**

**Prayer of Invocation**

Loving God, we enter this space today with grateful hearts and songs of praise. We know that you are a Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God, the Everlasting One and Proclaimer of Peace. Guard our hearts and minds from the distractions of this world: all the busy-ness of our to-do lists and things left undone, all the elements of consumer culture that would have us look at our neighbor to see what they have that we don't, all the things that pull our attention from you. Guide us in this time of worship to center our lives in you, to remember your great love for us, and to be encouraged in our love of one another. All this we pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

\* **Hymn No. 77**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Prayer of Confession**

God Who Opens, we confess that we are often the ones to leave doors closed. We are often the ones who build up the walls and break down the

bridges. We are the ones who want to define who people are as for us or against us, as worthy of love or not. But you continually have torn down the walls and built bridges. You have continually drawn the circle wider. You have continually erased the lines we define ourselves by. God, may we be open to your Spirit doing new things in our lives. May we be open to your people, who may not define themselves by the labels of the past. May we remember that the most important identifier is our love, and if we love one another, we are living as you have commanded us. Call us deeper into your ways of love that always open more doors, that lead us to inclusion over exclusion, and that center our thoughts and actions in the heart of your love. Amen.

## Kyrie

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

## Words of Assurance

Know this: when everything else passes away, love remains. Love will never leave us. There is nothing you can do, no place you can go, where love will not be with you, where love will not find you. God madly loves you, and will search for you to the ends of the earth. Surrender yourself to God's love, and be full of all the hope and joy and peace that is found in Christ Jesus. You are forgiven, loved, and restored. **Amen.**

## Anthem

Easter Anthem

William Billings

*Hallelujah! The Lord is risen indeed!*

*Now is Christ risen from the dead,*

*And become the first fruits of them that slept.*

*Did he rise? Hear it, ye nations! Hear it, O ye dead!*

*He rose, He burst the bars of death And triumphed o'er the grave.*

*Then I rose, Then first humanity triumphant*

*Passed the crystal ports of light, And seized Eternal Youth.*

*We all immortal hail. Heaven all lavish of strange gifts to us,*

*Thine's all the glory, our's the boundless bliss.*

## Responsive Psalter Reading

Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvelous things! God's right hand and holy arm have gotten the victory. **The Lord has**

**declared victory, and has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.** The Lord has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. **All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!** Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! **With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the Ruler, the Lord!** Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell in it! **Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.** The Lord will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

\* **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.*

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Epistle Reading**

1 John 5: 1-6 (p. 991)

Jim Nicholas

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

**Gospel Reading**

John 15: 9-17 (p. 878)

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

\* **Hymn No. 22**

Come, We That Love the Lord

**Sermon**

“Love, Joy and Peace”

Rev. Sally Ann Castle

\* **Affirmation of Faith**

Belhar Confession

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people, and that in a world full of injustice and enmity; we believe that God is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.**

*Sing to the Lord a song of praise, A wonderful, marvelous song.  
Sing to the Lord with joy in your heart, A wonderful, marvelous song.  
Alleluia, amen.*

*Come, come rejoice,  
As you sing you will lift up your voices  
In praise and thanksgiving to God.*

*Sing all of the heavens, Sing of the glory of God  
Sing all of the earth rejoice!  
Sing of the glory The marvelous glory of God.*

*Sing a new song With the lute and the harp.  
Make melody With the sound of the lyre.*

*It is good to give thanks to the Lord, To sing praises,  
Rejoice and be glad For the Lord is our God.*

## Offering

### \* Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## Prayers of Intercession

### ***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. 768

I Come with Joy

**Sacrament of Holy Communion for the Season of Easter**

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the Lord of Easter be with you! **And also with you!** Open your hearts to God, beloved of the Lord. **We lift them to the One who fills our lives with joy and wonder.** Children of Easter, sing praises to God. **Our voices unite in thanksgiving to the One who walks with us in this life.**

You opened your hands, pouring creation's glory into the emptiness of chaos, God of beginnings. The sun, moon, and stars became the mirrors of the light of your face, shining down upon all that was crafted. Shaping us in your divine image, you stood beside us, pointing out all the good you offer to us. But we found comfort in sin's shadows, fear and doubt claiming us as friends, and we turned our backs on you. Through our ancestors in the faith, Sarah and Samuel, Hannah and Hosea, you demonstrated your faithfulness, your longing to welcome us into your embracing arms of love. But we did not recognize them, and clung to the vain words spoken to us by temptation. So, you sent your child to us, to show us what love truly is, that we might have this hope offered to us in Jesus. So, with little children who delight in your joy, and with older folks who trust in your promises, with our sisters and brothers throughout all time, we join our voices in praising your name:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of grace and beauty.**

**All creation joins in singing your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes so we may be like him. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, Holy and Righteous God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Author of Life. In the Word become flesh, you call us to repent and turn to you. In the Light of the world, our eyes are opened so we can see you standing with us. In scarred hands and feet, we see the power of sin and death destroyed by your grace and hope, so we can reach out and embrace that life which is ours forever with you. As we gather around the Table to remember, as we give thanks for the life which was given for us, we speak of what we do not always understand – the mystery of faith.

**Christ walked to Calvary to die for us.**

**Christ strode from the tomb to raise us to life.**

**Christ will come and stand among us, to lead us home.**

In this moment, and in this place, pour out your Spirit upon us, and on the gifts of the bread and cup which have been prepared for us. As we take

the bread from your scarred hands, may we reach out to mend the broken of our world. As we drink from the cup, open our hearts and eyes, so we may see those the world overlooks, so we may stand with them in every moment and place. And when our journey has ended, when at last all is revealed to us, we will take our places around the wedding banquet in heaven, joining our sisters and brothers in singing our thanks and joy to you, God in Community, Holy in One, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

## Sharing the Elements

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. **Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer After Communion

**God, your love crafted the table at which we feasted today. Your love connects us whether we are nearby or miles apart. Through your love, we grow closer to you and our neighbor. May the bread and cup refresh our souls and renew our relationships, and may we know that we are part of this table for eternity. Amen.**

Easter Season Communion Liturgy by Rev. Thom Shuman

### \* Hymn No. 146

(paraphrase of Psalm 98) Joy to the World!

### \* Sending Forth

Children of God, as we go from here to grow the kingdom of God, may we do so in love. **As we go from here to share the love of God with all whom we meet, may we do so, knowing that God loved us first, God loves us still, and God always will...** May you feel the love of God in your heart, may you know Jesus' commandment to love in your mind, and may the Holy Spirit guide and inspire your mouths, hands and feet along that journey. **Amen.**

### \* Benediction

**Response** (please be seated)      Easter Anthem (final portion)      William Billings

*Then I rose, Then first humanity triumphant*

*Passed the crystal ports of light, And seized Eternal Youth.*

*We all immortal hail. Heaven all lavish of strange gifts to us,*

*Thine's all the glory, our's the boundless bliss.*

### Postlude

Trumpet Tune

Jeremiah Clarke

# Announcements

## CONCERT

Join us at 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 11th for the Queens Community Children's Choir's Spring Concert! The concert will take place in the COTH sanctuary, and there will be a reception to follow in Gessner Hall. The children will be joined by guest artists Abram Korsunsky and friends. The musical pairing will be Disney songs and Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto. What do these two have in common? Come find out!

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Save the date: The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on **May 19th**. More information to come!

## COFFEE HOUR

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

## BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study- **Tuesday at 7 pm on Zoom**. Week 2- "Your People will Be My People" (Ruth 1:16 CEB) Check the Weekly Email for Zoom information. *Context: Putting Scripture in Its Place* by Josh Scott. **Exploring the Chapter behind the Verse**. *Context* looks at verses we know by heart but may not know the people, places, and times that give them meaning. Josh Scott delves into these well-known Scripture verses, exploring their true meanings by examining them in their original biblical context. Through this process, he unveils fresh and enlightening interpretations that are often missed when these Scriptures are taken out of context.

## CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

Children at Worship is ongoing! The class is for children ages 6-13. During the service, the children will process out and be led to Room 2-E.

## 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](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)*

Karin Bennitt

The Bermudez Family

Diane Blagburn

Katie and Clayton Buckley

The Cappellano Family

Richard D.

Thomas Degnen

Linda Diez

Lucas Ditta

Joanne Dunckhahn

Alison Friedman

Michael Gittens

Adam Gonzalez

The Greer Family

Bob Iovale

Rudy Jakob

Mike Kenny

Dolores Koncharlski

Gessa Markantonis

Donna McLernon

Mary Moder

Lillian Mukai

Iris and Ralph Prager

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.