

Church on the Hill

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

June 18, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Dr. Prophet F.W. Hood — Guest Preacher

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude Improvisation on “We Shall Overcome” 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

In the midst of continual change, God remains steadfast in God's love for us. God is creating something new, a new heaven and a new earth. Each day offers newness of hope and faith. Let us open our hearts and spirits to God's creative word for us, that we may learn, grow, and serve as effective witnesses to God's love and power. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

The Lord is continually creating something new. **We are part of that creation; renewed, redeemed, beloved.** Through all this change, God is with us. **Though we struggle and doubt, yet God is faithful.** Praise be to God who continually blesses us. **Let our hearts, our voices, and our spirits sing God's praises. Amen.**

* **Hymn**

We Shall Overcome

*We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome someday!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome someday!
We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,*

*We'll walk hand in hand someday!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe,
We'll walk hand in hand someday!*

*We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace someday!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall live in peace someday!*

*We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
We are not afraid today!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We are not afraid today!*

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we come before you this day as those who are often afraid to confess all the many ways in which we have disappointed and betrayed You. You have given us continual opportunities to serve and love others, but we have withdrawn into lives of selfishness and greed. We have turned our backs on others in need. We have denied the gifts you have given us. Where can we turn now that we have run from you? Your voice calls to us to come home, to come to you unafraid, to receive forgiveness and healing. Open our hearts this day to receive these magnificent blessings. Help us understand the many ways in which you love us, and help us share that love with all those whom we meet. For we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Even though we have turned away from God, yet God is faithful to us. We are beloved of God and recipients of God's love and blessings. Rejoice, children of God! For God's mercies are ever before us. Amen.

Anthem

Lord, Make Me Thine Instrument

David Stanley York

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is doubt, let me sow faith.
Where there is despair, let me sow hope.
Where there is darkness, let me sow light.
Where there is sadness, let me sow joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console,
To be understood, as to understand,
To be loved, as to love,
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying, that we are born to eternal life.*

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

Ernest Mendler

Acts 3: 1-10

p. 886

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Becoming One”

Dr. Prophet F.W. Hood

*** 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

The Ground

Ola Gjelo

(Sung in Latin)

The Heaven and Earth are yours.

Hosanna in the Highest.

He who comes in the name of Lord is blessed.

Hosanna in the Highest.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

Grant us peace.

*** 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. 692**

Faith of Our Fathers

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

Father, the Watches of the Night are O'er

*Father, the watches of the night are o'er;
To light and life the soul has risen once more;
Blessed be Thou, who through the helpless hours,
Hast kept in deepest peace her slumbering powers.*

*Father, the watches of the day are here;
More than from those of the night have we to fear;
By rude cares troubled, by temptations pressed,
Through the day watches, Father, give us rest!*

Amen.

Postlude

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Richard Elliott

About the Music

“Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace” is subtitled “Prayer of St. Francis.” Indeed, this text is widely regarded as having been written by St. Francis (c.1182-1226). However, these verses show up nowhere in his writings. In fact, there is no record anywhere of this prayer until 1912. In addition to our version by David Stanley York, other settings of the prayer have been composed by, among others, Bing Crosby, Donovan, Patti Smith, John Rutter, and Sarah McLachlan.

Ola Gjeilo's (1978-) “The Ground” is part of a larger work; Sunrise Mass. Interestingly, although Gjeilo chose Latin for the text of the Mass, the section titles are in English. Gjeilo combines the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei components of the standard Mass into a single movement with the English title “Identity & The Ground.” Gjeilo later expanded “The Ground” section to the stand-alone work we offer this morning. Of “The Ground,” Gjeilo wrote, “The chorale,...is the culmination of the Mass, and...I wanted to convey a sense of having ‘arrived’ at the end...; to have reached a kind of peace and grounded strength, after the long journey of the Mass...” The work ends with a quiet setting of the plea for peace; Dona Nobis Pacem.

Announcements

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

On July 9th, during worship, Linda Diez will be ordained, and she and Sarah White will be installed as elders. Jerry Lutz will be ordained and installed as a Deacon. We express our immense gratitude to Elders Angela Brunjes and Irma Schubert for their faithful service!

COFFEE HOUR

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

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*

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

Karin Bennett

Diane Blagburn

Anna Marie Brennan

Glenda Burke

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Janet Fiala

Adam Gonzalez

Thomas Degnen

Lucas Ditta

Gregory Happ

Richard Iovale

Susan Laurita

Lynn Lauterbach

Christina Lee

Donna Lemay

Kathy Meyer

Paul Mobius

The Redfern family

Debi Romano

William Rudnick

Patrick Sullivan

Ed Surujballi

The Umana Family

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
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