

# Church on the Hill

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

**June 4, 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

## Trinity Sunday

**BOLD** – Congregation responds

\* – Congregation Stands

### Prelude

Symphony No. 3 (VI. "What Love Tells Me")

Gustav Mahler (arr. David Briggs)

### 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

Merciful and Just God, we gather here this morning, each of us with many concerns on our hearts. Our hearts are concerned with systems of injustice which strip people of their dignity and their very lives. Help us to be those who would seek peace with justice, who would fight for those who are oppressed, offer voices for the voiceless, and dignity for all humankind. Be with us this day and guide our steps toward a more just world in your name. **Amen.**

### Call to Worship

Welcome this day to a celebration of God's magnificent creation! **Thanks be to God the Creator who has loaned to us such a beautiful planet.** Welcome this day to a recognition of God's redeeming love! **Thanks to God the Redeemer who has given us God's only Son as our Example and Teacher, our Savior and Redeemer!** Welcome this day to the joy of God's Holy Spirit of truth and power! **Thanks to God the Sustainer who walks with us every day, guiding and guarding our steps. Amen.**

## \* Hymn No. 2

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

### Prayer of Confession

**We confess this day, O merciful God, that we have not always acted in just ways nor sought justice for our friends and neighbors. We have found it easy to turn our backs on problems rather than seeking to be a solution to them. We have heard of the many ways in which you have demonstrated peace with justice through the ministries of your Son, yet we have given only sporadic attention to them. Forgive us, Lord. Heal our selfishness and brokenness. Cause us to be witnesses to your great love as shown to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

This is the good news: Christ died for us that we might have life. We are called to give our lives to ministries of justice. God is with us in this and all righteous endeavors. Thanks be to God. Amen.

### Anthem

I am Alpha and Omega

John Stainer

Soloist- Brianna Barnhart

*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord  
Which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*

*Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God of Hosts,  
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;  
Glory be to Thee  
O Lord most High.  
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

Doris Cosmatos

Acts 2: 42-47

p. 886

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

"Family Matters"

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<sup>†</sup> Church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

<sup>†</sup> *The word "catholic" means "universal,"  
referring to all followers of Christ worldwide.*

**Anthem**

O Taste and See

R. Vaughan Williams  
Soloist- Brianna Barnhart

*O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:  
Blest is the man that trusts in him.*

**\* 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.***

## The Communion Service

### Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty to give thanks to you at all times and in all places, O Lord our Creator, almighty and everlasting God! You created heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty. You have given us life and being, and preserve us by your providence. But you have shown us the fullness of your love in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation. For the precious gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to you we praise and bless you, O God. With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore your glorious name singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world. In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices. Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break and the cup which we bless may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into Christ our Lord. And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf, and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole Church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!



## The Communion—Words of Institution

*(We partake of the Bread.)*

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

*(We partake of the Cup.)*

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

## Thanksgiving after Communion

Brothers and sisters, since the Lord has now fed us at his Table, let us praise God's holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving! Bless the Lord, O my soul, **and all that is within me, bless his holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, **and do not forget all his benefits—**

Who forgives all your iniquity, **who heals all your diseases,**

Who redeems your life from the Pit, **who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

The Lord is merciful and gracious, **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

He does not deal with us according to our sins, **nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, **so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

As far as the east is from the west, **so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his children, **so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him,**

Who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, and will also give us all things with him. **Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord, from this time forth forevermore. Amen.** *(From Psalm 103, with additions)*

## 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**

Out of the Depths

*Out of the depths I cry to you on high:  
Lord, hear my call.  
Bend down your ear and listen to my sigh,  
Forgiving all.  
If you should mark our sins, who could stand?  
But grace and mercy dwell at your right hand.*

**\* Hymn No. 638**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

**\* Benediction**

**Response** (please be seated)

Sevenfold Amen

**Postlude**

Voluntary in D Minor

Henry Purcell

## About the Music

“I am Alpha and Omega” by John Stainer (1840-1901) is an anthem for Trinity Sunday – in our Reformed tradition, the first Sunday after Pentecost. The text is a combination of Revelation 1:8 (“I am the Alpha and the Omega...”) and the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy...).

“Oh Taste and See” is based on Psalm 34:8. This is a Psalm of David and perhaps the phrase “taste and see” is the most significant in the verse. Commentators have pointed out that this phrase calls for the reader to test the goodness of God for themselves – you cannot know God through the experience of others but only by “tasting” for yourself. An added point is that “tasting” is not a passive act – the taste is not simply given to you. You must be active and choose to engage with God. R. Vaughn Williams (1872-1958) composed this piece for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

## Announcements

### **CHILDREN’S DAY**

Please join us as we celebrate Children’s Day on June 11th. The children, led by Jeanne Sarran, will participate fully in the worship service at 10:30 am. Please come and support them. There will be a special coffee hour in their honor following the service. All are welcome!

### **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. The program will conclude for the summer with our Children’s Day 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](http://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 Bennett

Diane Blagburn

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
- Ginny Chan
- Emerson Chen
- Margret Dougherty
- Adriene Toy

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