

Church on the Hill

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

August 27, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Dr. Ian Rottenberg — Guest Preacher

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude Concerto in D Minor (II. Largo e spiccato) Vivaldi (arr. J.S. Bach)

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

Loving God, we call on your name to be with us in worship and to make known your holy presence among us. May our worship be worthy of your goodness and beauty. Set apart this time to restore our hearts and minds.
Amen.

Call to Worship

(Psalm 138)

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; **I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;** for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul. **All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

* **Hymn No. 358**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Prayer of Confession

God, you see into each of us and know us fully as creatures in need of your constant care. We confess that we have neither heard your word nor

followed your will. We have failed through things that we have done, and things that we have left undone. Give us ears to hear your wisdom, and renew us in your strength. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem

Thy Mercy, Jehovah

Benedetto Marcello

*Thy Mercy, Jehovah, is in the heavens:
Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.
Thy righteousness standeth like as the strong mountains
Thy judgements are a great deep.
O Lord, thou preservest both man and beast:
How great is thy mercy O Lord most high.
With thee is the fountain of life, and in thy light shall we see light*

Prayer of Illumination

Loving God, we pray that your light will enter our lives through the reading of Holy Scripture. Enlighten our minds and fill our hearts through your wisdom and grace. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Helmut Beron

Exodus 1: 8- 2: 10

p. 43

Matthew 16: 13-20

p. 798

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"A God Who Rescues"

Rev. Dr. Ian Rottenberg

*** 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

Cantique de Jean Racine

Gabriel Fauré

*O divine word above our hope and consolation.
Eternal light of the heav'ns and the earth.
The peaceful night is past; our voices greet the morning.
Look down O Lord and hear thy people's prayer.
Inspire us Lord, we pray with the pow'r of thy Spirit,
That hell may flee before thy mighty word.
From slumber waken us, our weary souls reviving,
That we may never forget all thy laws.
Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on thy congregation
Now gathered here in the sight of thy throne.
Receive the hymns they offer to thy eternal glory.
Renewed by thy gifts may they go forth in 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

Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Bradbury

*Sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear to him
Whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face,
Believe his word, and trust his grace.
I'll cast on him my ev'ry care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.*

*** Hymn No. 488**

What a Wonderful Savior

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

Cantique de Jean Racine (excerpt)

Gabriel Fauré

*Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on thy congregation
Now gathered here in the sight of thy throne.
Receive the hymns they offer to thy eternal glory.
Renewed by thy gifts may they go forth in peace.*

Postlude

Grand Choeur No. 1

François Benoist

About the Music

The “Cantique de Jean Racine” is one of the most beloved pieces of the COTH choir. It was composed by Gabriel Faure (1827-1924) in 1866. Jean Racine paraphrased a liturgical prayer in Latin into French and when Faure wrote the piece he named it after Racine rather than using any words from the text. Today we offer a two-part arrangement instead of the choir’s standard four-part version. If you recall the words of the full choir arrangement, you will hear something very different today- today’s translation is much closer to the original French text. Musically, there are two things to listen for. You will hear a calm, unhurried bass line. In the piano sections, you will also find a relaxed melody. But Sean will get a workout with triplets that run through the entire piece with no break.

“Thy Mercy, Jehovah” (Benedetto Marcello, 1686-1739) is a setting of Psalm 36: 5-7,9. This Psalm is one of two that is headed “A Psalm of David: a Servant of the Lord”. The Hebrew word *hesed* in this Psalm is translated as “mercy” although in other Psalms it is translated as “unfailing love” or “lovingkindness”- a broader term encompassing both love and mercy. David paints in broad strokes throughout this Psalm- mercy, faithfulness, righteousness, judgements, heavens, clouds, great mountains, a great deep. Jehovah’s world has ample potential to preserve “both man and beast”- all elements of creation. “...and in thy light shall we see a great light” seems to presage John 1: 6-9 in which John testifies that the light of Jesus “...gives light to everyone...”

Announcements

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Dr. Ian Rottenberg is the Dean of Religious Life at Columbia University, where he serves student communities through chaplaincy work and interfaith programming. He lives in Queens with his wife, Jen Hopper, and their two boys Teddy (4) and Eli (1). He loves the New York Mets, the New York Giants, teaching, preaching, and working with faith communities.

MUSIC NOTE

Thank you to Bruce Hoffacker, Steve Hoffacker, and Jim Nicholas for singing this morning!

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Congregational Care Committee is looking for volunteers to assist in driving a Church member to the store to shop or to doctors' appointments. If you are interested, please contact the church office for further information.

QUEENS COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

A new semester for The Queens Community Children's Choir will be starting soon in September. The group meets in the Music Room at Church on the Hill on Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. The program will start on 9/28 and run every Thursday to 11/16. The semester will culminate in a grand concert on Saturday 11/18 in the COTH sanctuary. Children of all ages are welcome to join!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This year's festival will take place on Saturday, October 14th with a rain date of October 21. There are copies of the list of new items we are looking to put in raffle baskets, along with copies of a letter requesting donations from your favorite local merchants that you can take with you to ask for a donation, on the table in the rear of the church.

BARGAIN BOUTIQUE

The Boutique will be closed the first two Saturdays of September (9/2, 9/9) for some cleaning and reorganizing and will reopen on **September 16th**. Please hold donations for the weeks the Boutique is closed.

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

Diane Blagburn

The Family of

Anna Marie Brennan

The Family of

Glenda Burke

Thomas Degnen

Gabe DeMelo

Lucas Ditta

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Carolyn Frahm

Adam Gonzalez

The Family of

Richard Iovale

Susan Laurita

Lynn Lauterbach

Donna Lemay

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Kathy Mendler-Murphy

Paul Mobius

Rev. Bob Perless

The Redfern family

Debi Romano

Patrick Sullivan

Ed Surujballi

Virginia Young

The Prayer List will be getting a refresh in September - In an effort to start with a clean list, please contact the Church Office to add or remove a loved one from the list.



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

Linda Diez
Nancy Gessner (VP)
Victor Han (VP)
Rhoda Jabbour
Sarah White

Deacons

Ginny Chan
Emerson Chen
Jerry Lutz
Adriene Toy

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