

Church on the Hill

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

September 10, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Carlos Rivera — Guest Preacher

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude Improvisation on “Brother James’ 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

God of steadfast love and mercy, remind us once again that in Jesus Christ everything has become new. For far too often, things seem as they have always been, old habits die hard, difficult situations linger, and failures from our past linger. We look for your promised newness but cannot see it. Speak to us again of your new creation. Open our eyes to its presence in our lives. Call us forth to claim this newness, that we may be healed and made whole. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Sometimes our hearts are shut up like the doors that imprisoned the disciples. **Come, Holy Spirit, with your mighty wind of justice, blow open these doors and release us!** Darkness floods our souls and we wonder if we will ever see the light again. **Come, Holy Spirit, let the flames of fire touch our hearts and our spirits and burn away our fears and frustrations.** We sit, huddled in our own worlds of alienation. When will we ever feel the power of your love again, O God? **Come, Holy Spirit, fill our lives with your love and free us to reach out to others with the good news of your eternal presence. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer. How long will humanity turn your glory into shame? How long will your people love delusions and seek false gods? In my anger I have sinned; though you continue to search my heart for love. Forgive me, O Lord, and help me to follow your teaching and live a life that is pleasing to you, so that your face may once again shine upon me. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

*With a voice of singing declare ye this,
And let it be heard, Alleluia.
Utter it even unto the ends of the Earth.
The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.
O be joyful in God, all ye lands,
O sings praises to the honor of his name,
Make his praise to be glorious.
With a voice of singing declare ye this,
And let it be heard, Alleluia.*

Prayer of Illumination

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things that pertain to life and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Readings

Pearl Liao

Proverbs 1: 1-7

p. 509

1 Corinthians 12: 7-11

p. 933

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Fear God - Get Knowledge"

Rev. Carlos Rivera

*** 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

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold W. Friedell

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether;
For when humbly, in thy name,
Two or three are met together,
Thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Touch we now thy garment's hem.
As the brethren used to gather
In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father
Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
So knit thou our friendship up.
All our meals and all our living
Make as sacraments of thee,*

*That by caring, helping, giving,
We may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will serve thee faithfully.*

*** 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

Let the Words of My Mouth

*Let the words of my mouth
And the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord,
My strength and my Redeemer.
Amen.*

*** Hymn No. 306**

Standing on the Promises

*** Benediction**

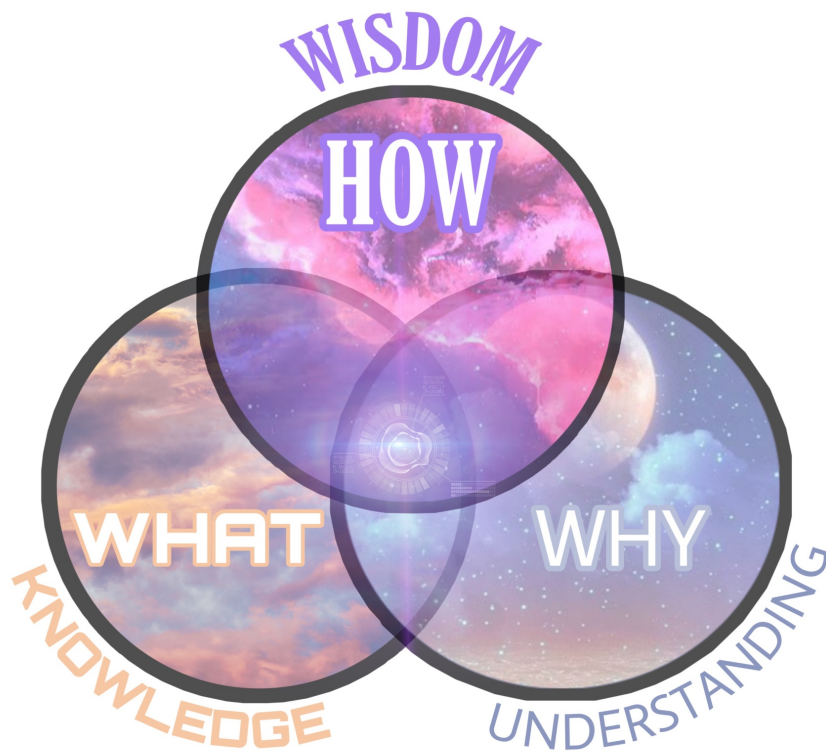
Response (please be seated)

Sevenfold Amen

Postlude

Prelude in G Major

J.S. Bach



About the Music

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether” is a widely used anthem for Communion services. The text is by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936), an Anglican priest, and draws on four Biblical references: Matt. 18:20; Matt. 9:20; Acts 2:26; and John 12:26. The music is by Harold Friedell (1905-1958). Friedell was born in Jamaica, Queens, and lived in the New York area all his life. He served as organist and choirmaster in a variety of churches, ending his career as the organist and master of the choir at St. Bartholomew’s in Manhattan. He also taught at the Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music.

Martin Shaw (1875-1958), composer of “With a Voice of Singing,” led an amazing musical life. He studied with some of the greats of his era; Charles Villiers Stanford, Gustav Holst, and Ralph Vaughn Williams, among others. He is credited with over 300 published works. Shaw toured Europe conducting the performances of dancer Isadora Duncan. He served over 10 years as organist and choirmaster at St. Mary’s, Primrose Hill – interesting to us because the Vicar during his tenure was the same Percy Dearmer who wrote the lyrics for “Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether.” “With a Voice of Singing” is described by music publisher J. W. Pepper as “...a joyous work...appropriate for any festive occasion.” Few things can be more joyous than the return to service of the Church on the Hill choir!

Announcements

INTRODUCTION

Carlos Rivera serves in his home church Harvest Fields Community Church as an associate Pastor. He has over 30 years of experience working in senior financial positions in community development-related nonprofit organizations. He is the founder of Leviticus 25 Financial Ministries and is working on a devotional book on biblical generosity. He holds an MBA from Baruch College in New York and a Master in Divinity at New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

MUSIC NOTE

We welcome the choir back from summer break. We are so blessed to have their voices to lead us in worship!

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 21st. 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 reopen **this Saturday, September 16th**. Please hold donations until then.

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

Thomas Degnen

Gabe DeMelo

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

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

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.



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
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