

Church on the Hill

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

September 3, 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 “Shall We Gather at the River?” 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 heaven and earth, we thank you for this opportunity to come and worship together. We ask for your inspiration and insights. We ask for your direction and guidance. We ask for your peace and harmony. May we accomplish great things this day, and may we display an attitude of cooperation and respect. In your awesome name we pray. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Listen for this is good news! God's grace is wider than our wildest imaginations. **God's grace embraces us as we are and where we are and draws us out to be the people we were created to be.** Through your grace, help us to grow in the knowledge of who you are as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Come, let us worship the Lord of all mercy and grace!**

* Hymn No. 687

Shall We Gather at the River?

Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, you are devoted to us. Forgive us when we are not devoted to you. We would rather be secure than be brave. We would rather be in control than be faithful. We know that you call out for us to follow, but we

look for you in all the wrong places. Forgive us, God of mercy. Heal us from our self-centeredness. Empower us to know the depth of your grace, and lead us to share that grace with the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Solo

The Prayer

David Foster/Carole Sager
Soloist- Maureen Saepia-Chen

*I pray You'll be our eyes,
And watch us where we go
And help us to be wise
In times when we don't know.
Let this be our prayer
When we lose our way.
Lead us to a place,
Guide us with your grace
To a place where we'll be safe.
Let this be our prayer,
Just like every child,
Needs to find a place,
Guide us with Your grace.
Give us faith so we'll be safe.*

Prayer of Illumination

Almighty God, you are the source of all light. You divinely separated light from darkness so that we may have the beauty of the light of day. Dear Lord, illuminate this day and enlighten us as we seek to know you through your word. We pray that we receive every word you speak to us today. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Daniel 1: 1-5

James 1: 2-4

Ernest Mandler

p. 716-717

p. 980

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Ten Times Better"

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.

Solo

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Soloist- Maureen Saepia-Chen

*Let there be peace on Earth,
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on Earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father,
We are family.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally.*

Let there be peace on Earth,
And let it begin with me.

*** 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.**

*** Hymn No. 751**

For All the Saints

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated) May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You

*May the good Lord bless and keep you, whether near or far away.
May the good you wish for others shine on you today.
May your heart stay tuned to music that will cheer the hearts of men.
May the good Lord bless and keep you till we meet again.
May you long recall the rainbows, then you'll soon forget the rain.
May the warm and tender mem'ries be the ones that will remain.
Fill your dreams with sweet tomorrows.
Never mind what might have been.
May the good Lord bless and keep you till we meet again.*

Postlude

Fantasia in G Minor

J.S. Bach

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

Thank you to Maureen Saepia-Chen for singing on this Sunday Morning!

ANNIVERSARY

We are happy to celebrate with Jean and Ernest Mandler their 46th wedding anniversary today!

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 those 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

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

Sean Cotty, Music Director: sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org

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