

Church on the Hill

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

October 1, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Kimberley Trinidad — Guest Preacher

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Improvisation on “Leoni”

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

Gracious and eternal God. We come before you this morning in awe and humble appreciation. Lord, we thank you for this moment in time as we gather before you seeking your face and your wisdom. Come Holy Spirit come! Bless us with your presence. Illuminate our hearts and minds so that we may grow closer to you. Remove the veil from our eyes and breathe new life into us, in the marvelous name of your precious son Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

(from Psalms 136)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. **His love endures forever.** Give thanks to the God of gods. **His love endures forever.** Give thanks to the Lord of lords. **His love endures forever.** To him who alone does great wonders. **His love endures forever.** He remembered us in our low estate. **His love endures forever.** And freed us from our enemies. **His love endures forever.** He gives food to every creature. **His love endures forever.** Give thanks to the God of heaven. **His love endures forever.**

* Hymn No. 66

The God of Abraham Praise

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. At times we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not even loved ourselves, though we are created in your holy image. We have operated out of our own understanding, instead of seeking your will. Forgive us O Lord, and grant us newness of mind and spirit, so that we may live, think, and love more like you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem

Hallelujah! (Psalm 150)

Louis Lewandowski

(This is the King James translation of Psalm 150, which will be sung in Hebrew)

Praise ye the Lord

Praise God in his sanctuary:

Praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts:

Praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet:

Praise him with the psaltery and harp

Praise him with the timbrel and dance:

Praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Praise him upon the loud cymbals:

Praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Praise ye the Lord.

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

Victor Han

Luke 10: 25-37

p. 844

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Who Is Your Neighbor?"

Rev. Kimberley Trinidad

*** 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

Shalom Rav

Ben Steinberg

Soloist - Maureen Saepia-Chen

(Sung in Hebrew)

Grant peace to Your people Israel forever,

For You are Ruler, Master of all Peace.

May it be good in Your eyes to bless Your people Israel

At every time and every hour with Your peace.

Blessed are You, Eternal God,

Who blesses Your people Israel with 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.

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,

Music Notes

The Jewish holiday of Sukkot in 2023 begins on 9/29 and ends on 10/6. In this celebration of harvest and God's protection, the first two days are of special importance. Recognizing the significance of Jewish roots in our own worship, today's music honors those traditions.

The text for The God of Abraham Praise was written by the Christian evangelist Thomas Olivers who stated that he wrote the hymn after listening to the preaching of a rabbi in London. He also heard the cantor Meyer Lyon sing the Doxology of Yigdal (Yigdal – "be exalted" – is a hymn based on the 13 principles of the Jewish faith) and Lyon's version of that has come to us as the hymn tune Leoni.

Lewis Lewandowski (1821-1894), composer of our anthem Hallelujah, is one of the most important cantors and composers of Jewish music for congregational singing. Jewish worship was changing from the eastern, mystical, rabbi/cantor-based service to something closer to a Protestant model. Since many of the changes were taking place in Germany, the new Jewish cantors were familiar with Bach, Mozart, Haydn, and Mendelssohn and combined traditional oriental elements with the newer, Western music. For the first time organs were placed in synagogues.

In this morning's piece you will hear the choir sing "halalujoh" and "halaluhu" (there is also a translation including the word "halelujaw"). No nuance is taking place here; all these words translate to "hallelujah"!

Shalom Rav ("Grant Abundant Peace") is a blessing in the Ashkenazic tradition. In some Jewish denominations prayers are chanted. In denominations where prayers are sung the most common versions of Shalom Rav are relatively modern adaptations. Our version by Ben Steinberg (1930-2023) was published in 1973.

Announcements

INTRODUCTION

Minister Kimberley Trinidad is a native New Yorker who has been a member of the RCA for thirty years. Kimberley is a graduate of New Brunswick Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Pastoral Care and Counseling. Minister Kim is called to help others and enjoys connecting to God's people from all walks of life. She is honored to preach and is actively involved in providing pulpit supply. When she is not spreading the Good News, Minister Kim enjoys spending time with her family, watching movies, and reading whodunnits. Her favorite scripture is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Her prayer is that her ministry speaks hope and love into the lives of others.

WORLDWIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY

The first Sunday of October is when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to affirm Christ as the Head of the Church and joyfully recognize that we are part of the whole body of believers around the world.

CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

The Fall session of the Sunday Program for children ages 6 to 13 has started. During the service, the children will process out and be let to Room 2-E.

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.

COFFEE HOUR

Please join us for coffee hour after the service, downstairs in Gessner Hall. Thank you to Bonnie Harper and Irma Schubert for hosting the Coffee Hour today!

QUEENS COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

A new semester for The Queens Community Children's Choir has started! The group meets in the Music Room at Church on the Hill on Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. The program started on 9/28 and runs 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. We could still use lots of help with set up, clean up, and sales (contact Rhoda), as well as frozen foods (contact Anita, frozen food containers are available to pick up) and baked goods (contact Jean Mendler)!

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, and Large Toys*

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 Bermudez Family

The Cappellano Family

Richard D.

Thomas Degnen

Gabriel DeMelo

Lucas Ditta

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Adam Gonzalez

The Family of

Richard Iovale

Rudy Jakob

Susan Laurita

Lynn Lauterbach

Donna Lemay

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Kathy Mandler-Murphy

Paul Mobius

Rev. Bob Perless

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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