

Church on the Hill

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

November 28, 2021
10:30 A.M.



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Mr. Sean Cotty – Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

Welcome to worship at Church on the Hill!

We're so glad you have joined us this morning. Please read the following for more details about the worship service.

** Please silence your cell phones prior to the service **

The sanctuary and pews have been thoroughly cleaned in preparation for worship today. During the worship service, we ask that you continue to **wear your masks for the duration of the service.**

The congregation is invited to join in responses and the hymn singing—we ask that you **speak and sing at a conversational volume.** We have opened as many windows as possible in the sanctuary to increase ventilation. Please **do not attempt to open the windows that are closed.**

Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary; **on your way out of the sanctuary, you can place your offering in the plates.** At the conclusion of the service, **please wait to be dismissed** by the ushers, allowing us to clear any video equipment in the aisle.

We ask that you take your bulletin with you and do not leave it in the sanctuary. Bathrooms are available for use downstairs in Gessner Hall. There will be no coffee hour after the service.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

PRELUDE Improvisation on Veni Emmanuel Sean Cotty

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent is a season that begins in the dark. Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again.

Stir up your might, and come to save us. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. (Psalm 80:2b-3)

— *The first candle is lit* —

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

* Hymn No. 133

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here*

Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
And drive away the shades of night,
And pierce the clouds and bring us light!*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and our strength, through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON/WISDOM FOR LIFE

Solo

Sonata for Flute Op. 1, No. 9

(Movement I - Largo)

Handel

Soloist - Simon Walsh, Flute

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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Luke 21: 25-36

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Active Waiting”

Rev. Doug Estella

*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

Sonata for Flute Op. 1, No. 9

(Movement V - Alla Breve)

Handel

Soloist - Simon Walsh, Flute

***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.**

RESPONSE

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.*

*Hymn No. 135

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

A Voice Cries Out

Michael Joncas

Soloist - Maureen Saepia-Chen

*Console my people, the ones dear to me;
Speak to the heart of Jerusalem:
The time of your mourning is ended now,
The Lord of life will come.*

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

"Prepare a way for the Lord!"

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

"Make straight a highway for God!"

Every valley is made a plain,

Every mountain is leveled;

The glory of God shall then be revealed,

And the nations will sing in praise.

POSTLUDE Overture from Music for the Royal Fireworks Handel

Announcements

Music Note

Thank you to Simon Walsh and Maureen Saepia-Chen for sharing their musical talents with us this morning!

Sanctuary Christmas Decorations

Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the Church Office, or given online via Tithe.ly. For checks, please make them payable to "Church on the Hill" and include "Sanctuary Christmas Decorations" in the memo. When using Tithe.ly, please select "Sanctuary Decorations" fund.

Advent Bible Study

Join Rev. Estella for our Advent Bible Study on Tuesday, Nov. 30 @ 1 PM on ZOOM. The study will take place on four Tuesdays (11/30, 12/7, 14, 21). Just log on to ZOOM by clicking on the link on the email group or by entering the following on the ZOOM page: 875-9492-9853, Passcode COTH.

Deacon's Fund

A special offering will be taken during Advent to be placed in the Deacons' Fund. This is a special fund that provides financial support in emergency situations to our Church members and friends. If writing a check, please add "Deacons' Fund" as a memo and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the Church Office.

Join Our Email List!

Be sure to sign up for our email list to keep up with the latest Church on the Hill happenings. Add your name and email to the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or send an email to the church office at office@churchonthehill.org.

Prayer List

Please reach out to the church office if you would like to add a name to the prayer list. Email office@churchonthehill.org.

Weekly Calendar

Check the weekly email tomorrow for all the happenings and ministries of Church on the Hill!

Bargain Boutique

Keeping in mind the continued health and safety of church staff and members of our community, the Consistory at Church on the Hill has decided to close the Bargain Boutique until it is refurbished. We will not accept donations at this time.

Prayer Requests

*If you would like to add a loved one to the prayer list,
please contact the church office*

The Bermudez Family

Timothy Betjeman

Austin Bird

Diane Blagburn

Susan Brooks

Ralph Carnesecchi

Rosina Cuticone

Lucas Ditta

Marilyn Harlin

Lynn Lauterbach

Pat Lenox

Steve Lenox

Jean Mendler

Tom Mendler

The Family of Eleanor Molino

Jeni Pollack

Neal Seltzer

The Family of Patrick Symes

Sandy Westen



Buildings & Grounds

Consistory Reps.: Maureen Saepia-Chen & Victor Han

Christian Education & Youth

Chair: Jeanne Sarran

Community, Mission & Outreach

Chair: Heather Allison

Community Nursery School Board

President: Ginny Chan

Consistory Rep: Rhoda Jabbour

Congregational Care

Chair: Angela Brunjes

Finance

Chair: Doris Krsnak

Consistory Rep: Margret Dougherty

Personnel

Chair: Dana Chan

Worship & Music

Chair: Irma Schubert

*Chairperson is also Consistory Representative unless otherwise stated.



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

Dorien Day, **Vice President**
Nancy Gessner, **Clerk**

Elders

Angela Brunjes
Dorien Day, VP
Victor Han
Rhoda Jabbour
Irma Schubert

Deacons

Heather Allison
Dana Chan
Margret Dougherty
Maureen Saepia-Chen
Jeanne Sarran

Sean Cotty, Music Director: sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org
Joe Mahowald, Office Administrator: office@churchonthehill.org

*Revised Office Hours:
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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