

Church on the Hill

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

November 5, 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 “Sine Nomine”

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

Come Holy Spirit Come! Illuminate our minds and hearts. Come Holy Spirit Come! Breathe new life into us that we may be drawn ever closer into blessed relationship with you. Come Holy Spirit come! Set our hearts on fire, lead us, teach us, and grant us wisdom. Gather us in Oh Lord, that we may worship and adore you. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

(from Psalms 95)

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; **let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.** Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. **For the Lord is the great God, the great king above all gods.** Come let us bow down in worship, **let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.**

* Hymn No. 263

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, we confess that we have wandered away from the path that you have set before us. We have followed our own will instead of your will. We listen to the voices of the world before we listen to your voice. We walk past you when you are trying to get our attention. Forgive us dear Lord. Shower us with your everlasting grace and mercy so that we may be healed and live in harmony with you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem

Sine Nomine

Ralph Vaughn Williams

*For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus be forever blest.
Alleluia!*

*Thou wast their Rock, their fortress and their might,
Thou Lord, their captain in the well fought fight,
Thou in the darkness drear their one true light.
Alleluia!*

*O may thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia!*

*And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia!*

*From Earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia!*

Prayer of Illumination

Open our eyes that we may see. Open our ears that we may hear. Open our hearts that we might accept your word for our lives. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Helmut Beron

Exodus 3: 1-12

p. 44

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Voice

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

Set Me As A Seal

Joseph M. Martin

*Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm.
For love is stronger than death.
Many waters cannot quench love.
Neither can the rivers drown it;
For love burns brighter than flame, more unyielding than the grave.
Love is a gift of perfect grace.*

*** 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

Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord

*Cast thy burden upon the Lord,
And he shall sustain thee;
He never will suffer the righteous to fall:
He is at thy right hand.*

*Thy mercy, Lord, is great
And far above the heavens:
Let none be made ashamed
That wait upon thee.*

*** Hymn No. 568**

Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

Set Me As A Seal

For love is stronger than death.

Postlude

Fugue in G Major BWV 541

J.S. Bach

Music Notes

Set Me as a Seal, with music by Joseph M. Martin (1959-), uses phrases from Song of Solomon 8:6-7. In looking at the text in this unusual Bible book there are multiple explanations for why it is included at all. A reader might conclude that it is a secular book of love poetry between an unidentified man and woman. In the Jewish tradition the book is considered sacred as a metaphorical description of the love between God and the nation of Israel. Christians often

interpret the book as description of the love of Jesus for his church or as the love of God for the individual soul.

In our verses "Set me as a seal upon your (thy) heart" are the words of the woman/bridesmaid. The "seal" is a graven tablet worn on the man's breast or a signet worn on the arm or finger. This seal was to be visible to all. (N.B., There are multiple translations dealing with "arm" and "finger.") The choir sings, "Many waters cannot quench love..." but the anthem leaves out this fragment of verse 6, "...for love... blazes up like a blazing fire, fiercer than any flame." It is this intense love that waters cannot quench.

One final note. Martin takes some poetic license with his phrase "For love is stronger than death" – the powerful end of the piece. Many Bible editions, including our pew Bible, translate this portion of the verse as, "For love is as strong as death" – a phrase much easier to understand.

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.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY & FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

November 19th is Stewardship Sunday. We ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge to our church. By pledging you help us plan for the fruitful use of our resources next year. Pledge cards are being mailed out and will also be available in the rear of the sanctuary.

After worship on that Sunday, there will be a fellowship lunch. All are invited to share in this gathering.

QUEENS COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT

The Queens Community Children's Choir will be having its fall concert on Saturday 11/18 at 2 pm in the sanctuary at COTH. The theme of the program will be jazz standards. Joining the QCCC will be guest artists Evan Swanson

(piano), Tina Lama Engelbert (bass), and Jared Decker (drums). They will present a collection of original material, jazz standards, and sacred tunes all with a modern jazz flavor. As always, this program is free and open to the public. There will be a gala reception to follow in Gessner Hall.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

First Reformed Church of College Point is holding its annual Food Drive. A list of items they're asking for can be found on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. Monetary donations are gratefully accepted as well. The final day for any donations is November 12th.

CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

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

COFFEE HOUR

Please join us for coffee hour after the service, downstairs in Gessner Hall.

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.

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/Stuffed Animals*

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**



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.

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

Karin Bennett

The Bermudez Family

Diane Blagburn

The Cappellano Family

Richard D.

Thomas Degnen

Gabriel DeMelo

Lucas Ditta

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Adam Gonzalez

The Greer Family

Dot Hulse

Rudy Jakob

Mary and Norman Kansfield

Susan Laurita

The Family of Lynn Lauterbach

Donna Lemay

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Kathy Mendler-Murphy

Paul Mobius

Rev. Bob Perless

Iris and Ralph Prager

Patrick Sullivan

Ed Surujballi

Virginia Young



Nancy Gessner, Victor Han, **Vice Presidents**
Nancy Gessner, **Clerk**

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

Deacons

Ginny Chan
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