

# Church on the Hill

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

**December 12, 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.

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**BOLD** – Congregation responds

\* – Congregation Stands

PRELUDE

Variations in E Major

Handel

Sean Cotty

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

John asked Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” **Jesus said, “The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. The dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. Blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me. Truly I tell you, no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”**

We light the first Advent candle to remind us to keep awake and be ready. The second Advent candle reminds us to change our ways. We light the third Advent candle to remind us of the good news and the Joy that that brings us.

— *The rose candle is lit* —

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

\* Hymn No. 157

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this;  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave, Jesus Christ was born to save;  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from your truth and from your holy will. We have failed in love, forgotten to be just, and have turned away from your wisdom. Forgive us our sin and restore us to your ways, for the sake of Your Son, our only Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON/WISDOM FOR LIFE

Anthem

The Yearning

Craig Courtney

*There is a yearning  
In hearts weighed down by ancient grief  
And centuries of sorrow  
There is a yearning  
In hearts that in the darkness hide*

*And in the shades of death abide,  
A yearning for tomorrow.*

*There is a yearning,  
A yearning for the promised One,  
The First-born of creation.*

*There is a yearning  
For the Lord who visited His own,  
And by His death for sin atoned,  
To bring to us salvation.*

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
Within our hearts, the yearning.*

*There is a yearning  
That fills the hearts of those who wait  
The day of His appearing.*

*There is a yearning  
When all our sorrows are erased  
And we shall see the One who placed  
Within our hearts the yearning.*

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
Within our hearts, the yearning.*

## 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

Gerry Mendler

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Philippians 4: 4-7

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*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

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God

Handel

*Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God, come.  
Holy Son of God, Thy truth unseal, Thy love reveal.  
Lord, hear Thou in mercy our prayer to Thee,  
Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God, come.  
Holy Son of God, come in Thy might, send forth Thy light.*

*Lord, hear Thou in mercy, our prayer to Thee.*

*Come, Jesus, Holy Song of God.*

*For Thee we long. Hear Thou our prayer.*

*To Thee be glory now and evermore.*

*Lord, hear Thou in mercy, our prayer to Thee.*

## **\*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

Hear our prayer, O Lord

*Hear our prayer, O Lord;*

*Incline thine ear to us*

*And grant us thy peace.*

*Amen.*

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the Earth! The Savior reigns;  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.  
He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**RESPONSE**    May the Grace of Christ Our Savior

*May the grace of Christ our Savior  
And the Father's boundless love,  
With the Holy Spirit's favor,  
Rest upon us from above. Amen.*

**POSTLUDE**            Improvisation on Joy to the World    Sean Cotty



# Announcements

## **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 WITH REV. ESTELLA**

Our Zoom Advent Bible Study continues on the three remaining Tuesdays in Advent at 1:00 PM. (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

Annie Jankowski

Lynn Lauterbach

Pat Lenox

Steve Lenox

Connie McKinstry

Jean Mendler

Tom Mendler

The Family of Eleanor Molino

Jeni Pollack

Joseph Ragusa

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](mailto:sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org)  
Joe Mahowald, Office Administrator: [office@churchonthehill.org](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)

Phone: (718) 358-3671  
Email: [office@churchonthehill.org](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)  
[www.churchonthehill.org](http://www.churchonthehill.org)

