

Church on the Hill

A Congregation of the
Reformed Church in America

167-07 35th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11358

December 20, 2020

11:00 a.m.



Rev. Blaine D. Crawford – Pastor

Mr. Sean Coffy – 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 in Gessner Hall. There will be no coffee hour after the service.

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

PRELUDE

Improvisation on
Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

Sean Cotty

VOTUM

SENTENCES

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Mighty God, your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of your Son, in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May we proclaim your greatness as we rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Peace

CALL TO WORSHIP

* HYMN No. 163

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

*Lo! how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath
sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have
sung.*

*It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.*

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our sins that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON/WISDOM FOR LIFE

SOLO

Where Can I Turn for Peace?

Joleen G.

Soloist: Maureen Saepia-Chen

Meredith

Where can I turn for peace?

*Where is my solace when other sources
cease to make me whole?*

*When with a wounded heart, anger, or malice,
I draw myself apart, searching my soul?*

*Where, when my aching grows, Where, when I languish,
Where in my need to know, where can I run?*

Where is the quiet hand to calm my anguish?

Who can understand? He, only One.

*He answers privately, reaches my reaching
in my Gethsemane, Savior and Friend.*

*Gentle the peace He finds for my beseeching
Constant He is and kind, Love without end.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Astonishing God, send your Holy Spirit upon us as we await the coming of your Son. Fill us with good things that we may conceive your reign on earth and glorify you according to your Word; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Romans 16:25-27

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Mysteries of God

Rev. Blaine
Crawford

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come 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.**

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. 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!*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation on "Veni Emmanuel" Sean Cotty

Announcements

White Christmas

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to our annual White Christmas toy drive. We are grateful for your continued support. If you are still interested in participating, you are welcome to send monetary gifts via check or through tithe.ly that will be put towards gift cards for the children and families supported by our partner organizations.

We would also like to send a great deal of gratitude to our Deacons! Dana Chan, Margaret Dougherty, Yoon Ryo, Maureen Saepia-Chen and Patrick Symes worked very hard to coordinate with our White Christmas partner organizations so that we could provide them with an abundance of support in the safest ways possible! Thank you!

2021 Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes for 2021 will be available for pickup at the back of the sanctuary following Sunday worship. All envelopes that are not picked up will be mailed this week. If you do not plan to use your offering envelopes, please notify the church office and we will refrain from mailing them to you. Thank you!

Weekly Calendar

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

Bargain Boutique

The Bargain Boutique will remain closed for the foreseeable future. Please hold all donations until we re-open.

Prayer Requests

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

Miram Allen

Roslyn Andela

Babinsky Family

Bermudez Family

Diane Blagburn

Christina & Sadie Boll

Elizabeth Bossis

Susan Brooks

Carolyn Brunjes

Lillian Calfa

David Cerqueira

Gracinda Cerqueira

Jose Cerqueira

Marie Collins

Helen Cunningham

Rosina Cuticone

Lenny DeSimone

The Frocione Family

John & Hazel Gittens

Brooke Graffeo

Rosemarie Graffeo

Alex Guzman

Hotchkiss Family

Helen Hunt

Betty Kwong

Lynn Lauterbach

Nancy Lee

Jorge & Tiffany Martinez

Jean Mendler

Gerda Miller

Ruben & Eva Munoz

Murray Family

Patricia Olney

Barbara Rogers

Prayer Requests

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

Roppolo Family

Smith Family

Jocelyn Toner

Rosemary Vasquez

Alison Venable

Vera Family

Alex Young

Joan Werbel

Zeisman Family



Community, Mission & Outreach

Co-Chairs: Yoon Ryo & Patrick Symes

Community Nursery School Board

President: Ginny Chan
Consistory Rep: Dorien Day

Congregational Care

Chair: Angela Brunjes

Buildings & Grounds

Chair: Joe Macaluso
Consistory Rep: Maureen Saepia-Chen & Victor Han

Christian Education & Youth

Chair: Jeanne Sarran

Finance

Chair: Doris Krsnak
Consistory Rep: Margret Dougherty

Personnel

Chair: Dana Chan

Worship & Music

Chair: Rev. Crawford
Consistory Rep: 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

Rev. Blaine Crawford, **President**
Nancy Gessner, **Clerk**

Elders

Angela Brunjes
Dorien Day
Victor Han
Jeanne Sarran (VP)
Irma Schubert

Deacons

Dana Chan
Margaret Dougherty
Yoon Ryo
Maureen Saepia-Chen
Patrick Symes

Rev. Blaine Crawford, Minister: pastor@churchonthehill.org
Sean Cotty, Music Director: sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org
Molly Mahowald, Office Administrator: office@churchonthehill.org

***Revised** Office Hours: M–F, 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
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