

Church on the Hill

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

December 26, 2021
10:30 A.M.



©Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Dr. Donna Field

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.

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

PRELUDE Improvisation on "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"
Sean Cotty

VOTUM

SENTENCES

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Saving God, the prophet Anna and righteous Simeon sang your praise and proclaimed Jesus our Lord to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Let us who seek redemption in this day prepare our hearts, that we may believe the good news of Jesus, receive the light of your salvation, and live according to your word. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

Come, O Lord, and send us your light.

O come, O come, Immanuel.

Come and bring the light of God.

Come and walk among us.

Be our Savior and our Friend.

O come, O come, Immanuel.

Come to bring us your peace.

* Hymn No. 171

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;*

*With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you loved this world so much that you sent your own son,
Jesus Christ to live and die among us, in order that we might
have life.

Forgive us for keeping that abundant life to ourselves, for
jealously hoarding your generous gifts, for choosing self-interest
over compassion and justice. Teach us what it means to live as
children of the light, generously sharing your abundance with
our brothers and sisters in need.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON/WISDOM FOR LIFE

SOLO

The Most Wonderful Birthday of All
Carl Davis and Norman Newell

Maureen Saepia-Chen, soloist

*The most wonderful Birthday of all
Is a Birthday we'll always remember,
When a baby was born that beautiful morn
Far away on a day in December.*

*Ring out the bells all over the world
And please the One above.*

*Ring out the bells all over the world
And bring Him the gift of your love.*

*The most wonderful Birthday of all,
Stars were shining like candles of glory,
And the angels above told the world of His love
At the start of this wonderful story.*

*Ring out the bells all over the world
And please the One above.*

*Ring out the bells all over the world
And bring Him the gift of your love.*

*The most wonderful Birthday of all
Is a Birthday that brings us together,
To praise and acclaim his glorious name
For the love that He gave us forever.*

*Ring out the bells all over the world
And please The One above.*

*Ring out the bells all over the world
And bring Him the gift of your love.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

As you led Simeon to embrace the infant Jesus, guide us, Holy Spirit, by your gracious light that we may welcome Your saving Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 9:6

John 3:16-18

MAUREEN SAEPIA-CHEN

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“For Unto Us”

Rev. Dr. Donna Field

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(Written by Nathan Nettleton, 1999)

**We believe in God,
The creator and giver of life,
Who brought all creation to birth,
Who mothers us and fathers us,
Protecting, nurturing,
And cherishing us.
We believe in Jesus Christ:
God born among us as a fragile baby,
Embodying both love and the need for love,
And calling us to rest in God
As trustingly as a tiny child.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
Breathed into us at our birth,
Always drawing us on to be born again,
Encouraging, exhorting, comforting,
Nourishing our growth
And inspiring our living.
We believe in the reconciliation
Of the world to God, through Christ.
Hunted at birth
And humiliated at death,
Christ entered our fearful darkness
So that we might enter his glorious light
And share the life of his resurrection.
And we believe that each new child
Is a glimpse of the face of God,
A sign of the life to come,
And a call to live in peace
And celebrate living together.
Glory to God in the highest,
And peace to God's people on earth.
Amen.**

Solo

Ave Maria

Bach/Gounod

Maureen Saepia-Chen, soloist (*Sung in Latin*)

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
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. 170

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

*It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King":*

*The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When, with the ever circling years,
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.*

***BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE

All Through The Night

*Sleep my child and peace attend thee
All through the night.
Guardian angels God will send thee
All through the night.
Soft the drowsy hours are creeping,
Hill and vale in slumber steeping,
I my loving vigil keeping,
All through the night.*

POSTLUDE

Sleigh Ride

Leroy Anderson (Arr. Thomas Trotter)

Announcements

New Year! New Members!

"Introduction to Church On The Hill" has been scheduled for January 9, 2022! The purpose of the class is to provide an orientation to the beliefs of the Reformed Church in America and to worship life here at Church On The Hill. The class will be led by Rev. Doug Estella. Look for more information in the January Beacon!

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

Jane Brese

Susan Brooks

Angela Brunges

Ralph Carnesecchi

Rosina Cuticone

Lucas Ditta

Annie Jankowski

Buck Kellaway

Lynn Lauterbach

Pat Lenox

Steve Lenox

Connie McKinstry

Jean Mendler

Tom Mendler

The Family of Eleanor Molino

The Family of Sandy Pasternack

Jeni Pollack

Joseph Ragusa

Neal Seltzer

Irene Sirotnak

The Family of Patrick Symes



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

Phone: (718) 358-3671
Email: office@churchonthehill.org
www.churchonthehill.org

