

Church on the Hill

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

January 21, 2024

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Pamela Holmes — Guest Preacher

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Nocturne in F Minor

Chopin

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

O God, we stand in awe of your goodness and mercy today. We invite you to be present among us and declare that we love you and wouldn't be able to make it without you. We pray O God that you will receive our worship and that you will meet with us, teach us from your word, that you O God will strengthen our hearts and make the words of our mouths be acceptable in your sight. We thank you O God for everyone present here today. We come today asking that you will allow your Holy Spirit blow through this place. From Heart to Heart - From Breast to Breast. That we O God, will be able to worship You in spirit and in truth. Allow us O God, to receive all that you have for us. Help us O God, to remember your love, your grace, and your mercy. Show us the way and fill us with courage, strength, and wisdom. We humbly thank you for all that you have done, all that you are doing, and all that you will do. Blanket us with Your peace today. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

O God, receive our worship. **We gather today to worship the one who created us, the one who calls us, the one who equips us, the one who loves us, and the one who saves us.** The one who made heaven and earth. Let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord for he is

our God, and we are the pasture and the sheep of God's hand. **So let us rejoice and sing praises to the Lord.** Let us act as true worshippers, for the Lord our God is good. **Let us exalt You, O God, and praise your name.** Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us worship that we may make your deeds known among all the people and sing praises to your glory and holy name. **Let all of our hearts seek and rejoice after You.**

* **Hymn No. 181**

As With Gladness Men of Old

Prayer of Confession

O God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not sometimes loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Deepen sorrow within us for the wrongs that we have done and the good that we have left undone. Lord, we know that you are full of compassion and slow to anger and are full of mercy and forgiveness. So, restore us O God. Fill us, O God, with your salvation and fix those things that are broken within us. Speak to each of us O God and let your word abide in us until we are filled with your spirit and look like you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem

Epiphany Alleluias

John Weaver

Alleluia.

We have seen His star in the east

And are come to worship Him.

Alleluia.

Arise, shine, for thy Light is come

And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

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

Dorien Day

Philippians 4: 6-7

p. 955

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Don’t Worry”

Rev. Pamela Holmes

* 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

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Maurice Bevan

*There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in
heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement
given.
For the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the eternal is most wonderfully kind.
But we make God's love too narrow by false limits of our own;
And we magnify God's strictness with a zeal he will not own.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.*

*There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.
If our lives were but more simple, we should take him at his word;
And our lives would be all gladness in the joy of Christ our Lord.*

*** 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.**

Prayer Response

Let the Words of My Mouth

*Let the words of my mouth
And the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord,
My strength and my Redeemer.
Amen.*

*** Hymn No. 634**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

For The Life That You Have Given

*For the life that you have given,
For the love in Christ made known,
With these fruits of time and labor,*

*With these gifts that are your own:
Here we offer, Lord, our praises;
Heart and mind and strength we bring;
Give us grace to love and serve you,
Living what we pray and sing.*

Postlude

Nun danket alle Gott

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Announcements

INTRODUCTION

A native of New York, New York, Pamela Holmes, is a Reverend at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York and a Chaplain for the Fire Department of New York City. Pamela graduated from Connecticut College with a Bachelor's in Government, and American History; The Graduate School of Political Management (at George Washington University) with a Master's in Campaign Management and Princeton Theological Seminary with a Masters in Divinity. Pamela has an extensive professional background as a Director, Manager, Grant Writer, Planner, and Relationship Builder including: planning and coordinating organizational affairs, legislative and government analysis, policy and development, grant writing, partnership building and case assessment, youth services as well as working with students in academia.

When it comes to faith Pamela is a committed Christian dedicated to serving the church. Over the years, she has worked in various churches in a number of capacities where she exemplified pastoral leadership. Additionally, she has traveled extensively preaching and practicing ministry in a variety of churches including venues outside of the United States (South Africa, India, Israel, and Palestine).

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**

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 Bennitt

The Bermudez Family

Diane Blagburn

Hank Boechmann

Katie and Clayton Buckley

The Cappellano Family

Richard D.

Thomas Degnen

Gabriel DeMelo

Lucas Ditta

Jim Doliner

Joanne Dunckhahn

The Family of Randy Eastman

Alison Friedman

Adam Gonzalez

The Greer Family

Rudy Jakob

Mary and Norman Kansfield

Mike Kenny

Susan Laurita

Donna Lemay

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Kathy Mendler-Murphy

Paul Mobius

Mary Moder

Marti and Tom Pearce

The Family of Rev. Bob Perless

Iris and Ralph Prager

Nina Proschel

Patrick Sullivan

Ed Surujballi

Virginia Young



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.



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

Consistory & Staff

Elders

- Linda Diez
- Nancy Gessner (VP)
- Victor Han (VP)
- Rhoda Jabbour
- Sarah White

Deacons

- Ginny Chan
- Emerson Chen
- Jerry Lutz
- Adriene Toy

Sean Cotty, Music Director: sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org
Amanda Sudolsky, Office Administrator: office@churchonthehill.org

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



Greetings Members and Friends,

A church family is constantly changing. It is right and important that we recognize these times of passage – of endings and beginnings. The search committee continues to work diligently on finding our next installed pastor.



The consistory of Church on the Hill is pleased to announce that the Rev. Sally Ann Castle will begin an *intentional interim ministry* at COTH beginning on February 1, 2024. Interim ministry is intentionally a short-term relationship which is different from a traditional installed pastorate, and we wanted to clarify some of these differences.

An installed pastor's purpose is to love the church, foster relationships with church members and to help grow the church on a spiritual level. This is a long-term relationship, with the understanding that both church and pastor move forward together, forging deep bonds.

By contrast, an *interim minister's job is to love the church during an often difficult transitional period, where the congregation is grieving the absence of an installed pastor while looking uncertainly to the future. The interim pastor takes steps to help the church heal, while carefully moving it toward the day when a new pastor will arrive. It is necessarily a short-term relationship – usually only 6 to 12 months – which bridges the interval between the past and the future of the congregation.*

*Grace and Peace,
Your Consistory*

What is Interim Ministry?

This time period called the “interim” provides congregations an opportunity to call a clergy leader to provide transitional leadership during a period of pastoral vacancy. Such vacancy may arise because of a pastoral move, resignation, retirement, death, or some other reason. When the vacancy arises, the congregation and the administrative body of the denomination need time to think through the appointment of a new pastoral leader. Sometimes such replacement may take as much as six months to two years. During this interim period, the congregation needs an experienced pastoral leader who can fill the interim time, help to heal any wounds or sense of loss the congregation may be suffering, discover and explore their purpose and mission, and provide a continuation in ministry— in preaching and pastoral caring.

Interim ministry also is about seeking effective ways to organize for ministry, recruit, train, and develop new leadership. It involves assessing the way decisions are made in the church and determining if there are more inclusive ways to handle this task. This is a time to look at how the community of faith relates to one another, the surrounding neighborhood, and the wider church. Finally, this is a time for a congregation to discover their identity apart from the pastor of the church. This is an opportunity to develop a vision that will help meet the spiritual needs of members and enhance their ministry beyond themselves. With this kind of clarity, the congregation can find a new leader who will equip them to follow what they believe to be God's will, direction, and purpose.

IMN, Interim Ministry Network

Interim Minister
Rev. Sally Ann Castle

Rev. Sally Ann Castle graduated *summa cum laude* from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in May 2016, receiving a Masters of Divinity degree and the Beardslee Prize for RCA History. She was ordained to the Office of Minister of Word and Sacrament by the Classis of Queens, Reformed Church in America on April 9, 2017. Her call is Specialized Ministry as an Intentional Interim Minister. Her passion is writing liturgy for contemporary worship settings.

As an Elder at the Church on the Hill in Flushing (COTH), she developed and implemented a Blue Christmas worship service to minister to grieving and despondent people during the holiday season. This service has been adopted by several other congregations in New York and across the nation. Responding to needs in our urban community, she helped initiate the Food for Kids program at COTH which provides weekend groceries for food insecure families.

In her ministry as a hospital chaplain in Far Rockaway, Queens, Sally Ann advocated for indigent and non-communicative patients. She also initiated Health Care Decisions Day, a program which educates patients and staff about advanced medical directives in order to encourage early informed decisions leading to a dignified death. This program is in its tenth year.

Sally Ann has also served as a nursing home chaplain in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, where she wrote and

led weekly worship services for an ecumenical congregation. For seventeen years she served as the Sunday School Superintendent at The Community Church of Douglaston where she focused on mission and intergenerational worship. The children led the congregation in mission outreach projects in Queens and internationally.

After graduating from seminary, Sally Ann completed additional training through The Interim Ministry Network to qualify as an Intentional Interim/ Specialized Transition Minister. In this capacity, she has exuberantly helped faith communities prepare well for their future, providing empathetic pastoral care during organizational change and spiritual and emotional transition.