

# Church on the Hill

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

**December 4, 2022**

**10:30 AM**



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

**Rev. I. Douglas Estella — Guest Pastor**

**Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director**

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Second Sunday in Advent

**BOLD** – Congregation responds

\* – Congregation Stands

**Prelude**      Improvisation on “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”      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

(Book of Common Prayer)

Merciful God, who sent your messengers, the prophets, to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### Advent Candle Lighting

Peace

The White Family

#### Call to Worship

(Psalm 36: 7-9)

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! **All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.** They feast on the abundance of your house, **and you give them drink from the river of your delights.** For with you is the fountain of life; **in your light we see light.**

#### \* Hymn No. 136

On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life**

### **Anthem**

Prepare the Way of the Lord

William Rowan

*Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord!  
Prepare the way!  
Make straight his path.  
Every valley shall be exalted,  
Every hill made low;  
And the crooked shall be made straight,  
And the rough places plain.  
And the glory of the Lord  
Shall be revealed,  
And all mankind shall see it,  
Shall see it together.*

## **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**

The White Family

Romans 15: 4-13

Matthew 3: 1-12

*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<sup>†</sup> Church,  
 The communion of saints,  
 The forgiveness of sins,  
 The resurrection of the body,  
 And the life everlasting. Amen.**

<sup>†</sup> The word "catholic" means "universal,"  
 referring to all followers of Christ worldwide.

## Anthem

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Praetorius

*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 shew God's love aright, she bore men a Saviour,  
 When half spent was the night.*

## \* 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 saying:



**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!**

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**                      Hear Our Prayer, O Heavenly Father

*Hear our prayer, O heavenly Father,  
For the dear Redeemer's sake. Amen.*

\* **Hymn No. 486**                                              There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

\* **Benediction**

**Response** (please be seated)                      Dona Nobis Pacem

*Grant us peace.*

**Postlude**                      Herr Christ, der einge Gottessohn                      J. S. Bach

# Announcements

## **COFFEE HOUR**

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

## **CHILDREN AT WORSHIP - COTH'S CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

The Sunday morning program covering a special Advent curriculum has started. The program is open to children, ages 5 to 12. During the service, the children will process out and be led to Room 2-E.

White Christmas will be Sunday, December 11th, and children ages 3 to 12 years old are invited to participate. There will be a rehearsal after church on December 4th. The pageant will be during the service on December 11th.

## **FOOD FOR KIDS**

We are starting up our collection of food for children at PS 116Q again! The bags of food are delivered to the school on Fridays for families who otherwise might go hungry over the weekend. A list of specific foods requested can be found in the weekly email, or if you prefer, monetary donations are always greatly appreciated.

## **FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS**

There is a collection box located by the entrance to the Church where we accept donations of boxed/canned goods throughout the year.

## **BARGAIN BOUTIQUE**

The Bargain Boutique is open on Saturdays from 10 am- 1 pm. Donations are accepted on Saturdays only. \*No Electronics, No TVs, No Furniture\*

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Check the weekly email tomorrow for all the happenings at COTH!

## **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. Send an email request to the church office at [office@churchonthehill.org](mailto:office@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](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)

Jeri Bird

Diane Blagburn

Hank Boeckmann

Rosina Cuticone

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Janet Fiala

Rita Gates

Ariana Han

Richard Iovale

Annie Jankowski

Andrew LaClaustra

Lynn Lauterbach

Christina Lee

Ernest Mender

Kathy Meyer

Catherine Molino

Nina Proschel

The Redfern family

William Rudnick

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.



*Consistory & Staff*

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

Nancy Gessner, **Clerk**

**Elders**

Angela Brunjes

Nancy Gessner (VP)

Victor Han (VP)

Rhoda Jabbour

Irma Schubert

**Deacons**

Heather Allison

Ginny Chan

Emerson Chen

Margret Dougherty

Adriene Toy

**Sean Cotty**, Music Director: [sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org](mailto:sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org)

**Amanda Sudolsky**, Office Administrator: [office@churchonthehill.org](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)

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## CHRISTMAS DONATIONS DECEMBER 2022



THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED NOT TO ASK FOR DONATIONS TO THE SANCTUARY DECORATIONS THIS YEAR BUT STILL WANTS TO HONOR OUR TRADITION OF HONORING THOSE WE REMEMBER AND APPRECIATE AT CHRISTMAS. THIS YEAR WE ARE ASKING THAT YOU DONATE TO ANY OF THE CHURCH FUNDS (MUSIC, FOOD FOR KIDS, COMMUNITY CONCERT, SANCTUARY TECHNOLOGY, ETC.) AND AS IN THE PAST INDICATE THAT YOUR DONATION IS IN MEMORY OF/IN APPRECIATION OF/IN HONOR OF SOMEONE YOU CHOOSE. THESE DONATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BULLETIN ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE

\_\_\_\_\_ (FUND).

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF + IN APPRECIATION OF + IN HONOR OF

(CIRCLE ONE)

ALL GIFT MENTIONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN A SPECIAL INSERT IN THE CHRISTMAS BULLETIN. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "CHURCH ON THE HILL", WITH THE NAME OF THE FUND YOU WISH TO DONATE TO IN THE MEMO. GINNY CHAN WILL BE ACCEPTING DONATIONS AFTER CHURCH DURING ADVENT. IF YOU'D LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE ONLINE, PLEASE VISIT OUR [TITHE.LY](https://www.tithe.ly) PAGE. THE DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN THE BULLETIN IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18.



CHURCH   
ON THE HILL

## White Christmas

December 11, 2022

This Advent season, we are pleased to be partnering with **BORDERS OF HOPE, LA JORNADA, and P.S. 116** to provide gifts for children, teens, and adults in our local communities.

Due to continued precautions regarding the safety and health of our congregation, gifts will not be brought up to the chancel during the White Christmas service. Instead, we will be collecting gifts each Sunday at the back of the Sanctuary and during designated drop-off times from now until December 11th.

### **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

- **Purchase a gift(s) on our Amazon Gift Registry** and select "Gift Registry Address" when checking out, so the gifts are delivered directly to the church.
- **Give a monetary donation** in person at church, by mail, or online via *Tithe.ly*. For checks, please include "White Christmas" in the memo, and when using *Tithe.ly*, select "**White Christmas**" in the Fund drop-down menu.
- **Pick up a White Christmas gift tag** during Sunday Worship or during one of the times listed below. Purchase your toy (which should not exceed \$15) and please attach the gift tag to it. Then, drop off the new unwrapped toy during Sunday worship or in the church office, Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10 am-2 pm, Tuesday/Thursday 1-3 pm. (Call the church office before stopping by.)



To learn more information about our partner organizations, visit our website at [churchonthehill.org/whitechristmas](http://churchonthehill.org/whitechristmas)