

# Church on the Hill

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

**January 8, 2023**

**10:30 AM**



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

**Rev. Carlos Rivera — Guest Pastor**

**Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director**

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## First Sunday after the Epiphany

**BOLD** – Congregation responds

\* – Congregation Stands

### Prelude

Improvisation on “Joy to the World!”

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)

O God, the King eternal, who divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep thy law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done thy will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when the night cometh, rejoice to give thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Call to Worship

Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves: That it is not we who chose Christ, **but Christ who chose us**, That we are not here because of our goodness, **but because of Christ's grace**, That we are not here to enlighten ourselves, **but to allow Christ to enlighten us**, That we have not come to be entertained, **but to worship God with heart, soul, mind, and strength.**

#### \* Hymn No. 185

We Three Kings of Orient Are

## Prayer of Confession

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

### Anthem

Joy To the World!

Arr. John Rutter

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing.  
Joy to the Earth! The Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.  
No more let sin and sorrow grow  
Not thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
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.*

## Prayer of Illumination

Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Scripture Readings

Ernest Mendler

Joshua 4: 19-24

Hebrews 10: 32-36

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

“Twelve Stones”

Rev. Carlos Rivera

\* **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**

Carol of the Star

Donald Moore

*A star, a shining star, led wise men on their way  
To find that Bethlehem town where lay a holy babe.  
Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.  
A star, a guiding star, led them from above.  
To seek a tiny babe, surround Him with their love.  
Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.  
A star, a mighty star, did shine o'er all the earth.  
To welcome Him with joy, proclaim his wondrous birth.*

*Venite adoremus Dominum, Venite adoremus Dominum.*

**\* 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**                      All Things Come of Thee, O Lord

*All things come of thee, O Lord,  
And of thine own have we given thee.*

\* **Hymn No. 174**    Angels from the Realms of Glory

### \* **Benediction**

**Response** (please be seated)              We Have Seen His Star              Everett Titcomb

We have seen His star,  
His star in the East,  
And are come with our offerings  
To worship the Lord.

**Postlude**    As the Deer    Martin Nystrom  
Soloist- Abraham Lin, Piano

# Announcements

## **COFFEE HOUR**

Please join us for coffee hour to enjoy some special King cake after the service, downstairs in Gessner Hall.

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

The Sunday Program for children ages 5 to 12 is ongoing. During the service, the children will process out and be led to Room 2-E.

## **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, No Textbooks\*

## **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)

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 Mendler

Kathy Meyer

Catherine Molino

Nina Proschel

The Redfern family

William Rudnick

Patrick Sullivan

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)  
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