

Church on the Hill

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

February 19, 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

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude Improvisation on “ Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine” 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

God of all Creation, we come before you today to give you honor and praise. You are worthy of praise. You are the source of all that is good. You are the source of all of our blessings. Thank you for every gift that we have been given. We thank you for the opportunity to come and gather together this day. We ask for your hand of blessing on this meeting. We ask that you would guide and direct us so that we are full of wisdom, productivity, and respect for one another. Thank you for helping us to accomplish our work and goals this day. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! **Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.** Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! **For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.**
Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always had in us the mind of Christ. You alone know how often we have grieved you by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your ways. Forgive us, we pray you, most merciful Father; And free us from our sin. Renew in us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem

Go and Tell John

Lloyd Pfautsch

*Go and tell John what you see and hear,
That the blind recover their sight.*

*Go and tell John what you see and hear,
That the lame are able to walk.*

*Go and tell John what you see and hear,
That the deaf are able to hear.*

*Go and tell John what you see and hear,
That the sick regain their health.*

*Go and tell John what you see and hear,
That the dead are raised to life.*

*Happy is the man who comes to me,
Happy is the man who believes in me
For he shall see God.*

Prayer of Illumination

As we are gathered here today, we ask you, our living God, to shower onto us your wisdom and knowledge. We pray that as we listen to your word, we may have the ability to clearly see what God has called us to do. We seek to live to fulfill your purpose so that we can see your kingdom. Illuminate our eyes and reveal to us your glory. **Amen.**

Numbers 16: 28-34

Acts 5: 1-5

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Serious Business”

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[†] 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

I Will Arise

Arr. by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

*I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms,
In the arms of my dear Saviour,
Oh! There are ten thousand charms.
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above,*

*Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.*

*Come, thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace,
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.*

*** 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

Hear Our Prayer, O Heavenly Father

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

*** Hymn No. 514**

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated) My Lord, What a Mornin' Arr. by H.T. Burleigh

*My Lord what a mornin'
When stars begin to fall.*

Postlude

Fugue in D Minor

J.S. Bach

Announcements

MUSIC NOTE

During February, in recognition of Black History Month, we celebrate the tradition of African-American spirituals. This Sunday we offer three pieces in this tradition.

In "I Will Arise," the first verse is the refrain from a 1759 hymn by the English composer Joseph Hart entitled, "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy." In the late 19th century it was included in a compilation entitled Gospel Hymns becoming part of the American spiritual tradition. Our version is the creation of Alice Parker and Robert Shaw.

The text for "Go and Tell John" is taken from Matthew 11:4-6. In verses 1-3, John the Baptist is in prison and has heard of Jesus's works. He sends his disciples to find out if this Jesus is the "Coming One." In verses 4-6, Jesus does not declare that he is the Messiah, but rather he tells John's disciples to report what they have seen and heard – the effects of belief in him.

"My Lord, what a mornin'" cites Revelation 8 as text but it draws on a variety of apocalyptic verses. First noted in Slave Songs of the United States (1867), this arrangement by Burleigh uses a portion of the full original text.

WOMEN'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST

All women are invited to our annual Women's Communion Breakfast on Sunday, March 12th at 9:00 am. March is Women's History Month and our theme will be Church on the Hill Women's History. Don't miss it! Please RSVP in person to Ginny Chan or call the church office (718) 358-3671.

QUEENS COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Queens Community Children's Choir will be starting its spring semester soon! The group will meet on eight Thursdays (3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, and 5/11). Each class will take place at 5:00 pm in the music room at Church on the Hill. Children of all ages are welcome to join! Please either register on the church's website or email our music director Sean Cotty at sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org.

COMMUNITY CONCERT AT COTH

The next community concert will be Saturday, 2/25 at **2:00 pm** in the sanctuary. Sean Cotty, Kelsey Sheldon, and Steve Max will present a program of all French works. This will include cello, piano, and organ

pieces by Franck, Debussy, Fauré, Duruflé, and Rameau. As always, this program is free and open to the public. There will be a reception to follow in Gessner Hall.

BIBLE STUDY

The next Zoom Bible Study dates will be February 21st and 28th at 7 pm. On February 21st, we will cover Chapter 2, Jesus Understands Doubts About the Afterlife. On February 28th, we will discuss Chapter 3, Jesus Understands a Parent's Love. The Zoom link can be found in the Weekly Email.

COFFEE HOUR

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

CHILDREN AT WORSHIP - COTH'S CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

There is no class this Sunday, February 19, 2023. We will resume class on Sunday, February 26, 2023.

FOOD FOR KIDS

We are making weekly deliveries of bags of food for children at PS 116Q! The bags 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 - LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday, February 22 at 7:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Service with Rev. Carlos Rivera

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

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

Diane Blagburn

Glenda Burke

The Family of

Rosina Cuticone

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Janet Fiala

Ariana Han

Thomas Degnen

Gregory Happ

Richard Iovale

Lynn Lauterbach

Christina Lee

Kathy Meyer

The Redfern family

William Rudnick

Jimmy Schehr

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

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Nancy Gessner (VP)
Victor Han (VP)
Rhoda Jabbour
Irma Schubert

Deacons

Heather Allison
Ginny Chan
Emerson Chen
Margret Dougherty
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