

Church on the Hill

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

March 19, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Dr. Ian Rottenberg — Guest Pastor

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday in Lent

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude Improvisation on “What Wondrous Love is This” 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 light and life, we call on your name and we listen for your word. Prepare us to meet you and to meet one another with open hearts and open minds. Grant us your peace, which passes all understanding. Bless this hour, making it a holy time for your presence to take hold in our lives. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

(From Psalm 17)

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; **incline your ear to me; hear my words.** Wondrously show your steadfast love, **Guard me as the apple of the eye;** hide me in the shadow of your wings. **I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.**

* Hymn No. 409

Your Hands, O Lord, in Days of Old

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we come before you knowing that we have not fully loved you, and that we have not fully loved our neighbors as we love ourselves. We ask forgiveness for angry words, for hurtful thoughts, and for harmful

actions. Make us whole through your love, granting us your grace that we may do better in the days to come. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem

Were We There?

Craig Courtney and Pamela Martin

*Were we there, you and I, in the olive grove that night?
Was there silver in my hand to betray the Son of Man?
Did you run away and hide? In your fear, did you deny?
Were we there, were we there, you and I?
Were we there, you and I, boldly crying, "crucify?"
Did you mock Him with your scorn?
Did I weave the crown of thorns?
Did you strike Him in the face, spit on Him in His disgrace?
Were we there, were we there, you and I?
Were we there, you and I, on that hill the day He died?
Did you watch without a sound
When they brought the hammer down?
Did I turn to look away from his suffering and pain?
Were we there? Were we there?
Were you there? Was I, too,
On that morning at the tomb?
When we looked into His face,
Did we know He took our place?
Yes, He died for us as though
We were there so long ago.
We were there.*

Prayer of Illumination

Open our eyes that we may see. Open our ears that we may hear. Open our hearts that we might accept your word for our lives. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Ephesians 5: 8-14

John 9: 1-11

Dorien Day

p. 951-952

p. 871

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Our Best Selves and Our Whole Selves"

Rev. Ian Rottenberg

*** 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

When You Prayed Beneath the Trees

Lloyd Larson and Christopher Idle

*When you prayed beneath the trees, It was for me, O Lord;
When you cried upon your knees, How could it be, O Lord?
When in blood and sweat and tears, You dismissed your final fears,
When you faced the soldiers' spears, You stood for me, O Lord.
When their triumph looked complete, It was for me, O Lord;
When it seemed like your defeat, They could not see, O Lord!
When you faced the mob alone - You were silent as a stone,
And a tree became your throne; You came for me, O Lord.
When you stumbled up the road, You walked for me, O Lord;
When you took your deadly load, That heavy tree, O Lord;
When they lifted you on high, And they nailed you up to die,
And when darkness filled the sky, It was for me, O 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. 212**

What Wondrous Love Is This

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord lift his countenance upon you,
And give you peace.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you.
Amen.*

Postlude

O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde groß

J.S. Bach

About the Music

“Were We There” is composed by Craig Courtney with lyrics by Pamela Martin. We offered a different Courtney anthem on Ash Wednesday. As a lyricist, Martin is an important American writer. She has over 150 credited compositions. In addition to collaborating with Courtney, she has worked, among others, with Lloyd Larson (see below), Mark Hayes, and Victor Johnson – all of whom have works in the library of the COTH Choir.

From the introductory text to “When You Prayed Beneath the Trees”: *“The opening lines of this Christopher Idle text were inspired by the first three Gospels’ description of our Lord praying in the garden of Gethsemane, and in the light of John 17:20 -- I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word... The text weaves around the ‘tree’ theme found in many Scriptures about the cross...”* Idle is a prolific hymn composer currently credited with over 300 compositions. The music for this anthem was composed by Lloyd Larson.

Announcements

SEARCH COMMITTEE TOWN HALL

You are invited to a Search Committee “Town Hall” **today during coffee hour**. The Search Committee will present an informal and brief overview of their search process and the status of the search, as well as answer questions. A Zoom link will be available. A light lunch will be served.

LENTEN MISSION

As part of our Lenten observance, we partner with area organizations to support individuals in need, with a focus on food insecurity. All food and monetary donations will go to Food for Kids and the food pantry at First Reformed Church of College Point. If you choose to make a monetary gift, you can do so via Tithe.ly under Lenten Mission, or via a check with the memo Lenten Mission. You can also collect and donate food (you can find the list of foods on the flier on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or in our Weekly Email). Make it fun and a challenge! See if your house can collect an item a day for 40 days, or partner with some friends to gather 40 items, an item for each day of Lent!

BIBLE STUDY

The next Zoom Bible Study date will be **March 28th at 7 pm**. We will discuss Chapter 5, Jesus Understands Physical Pain. 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

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.

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*

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**

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

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Janet Fiala

Adam Gonzalez

Ariana Han

Thomas Degnen

Gregory Happ

Richard Iovale

Anne and Bill Lannom

Lynn Lauterbach

Christina Lee

Kathy Meyer

Marti and Tom Pearce

The Redfern family

Debi Romano

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
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Good Friday

The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross

April 7th, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Returning to Church on the Hill, a performance of Theodore Dubois' "The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross". The choir and soloists will be accompanied by organ, harp, clarinets, cello, and timpani.



Please join us for this moving service of darkness on Good Friday, one of the most sacred days of our church year.

This performance is made possible by a generous donation from a dear friend of Church on the Hill.