

Church on the Hill

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

March 5, 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

Second Sunday in Lent

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Improvisation on Thaxted

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

Generous God, we thank you for your presence with us in all our lives. As we worship you this morning, even from our own homes, we are reminded of the many times we have doubted and feared. Today banish our fears with the memory of the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Remind us again that through all our troubles, doubts, and fears, your power, mercy, and love are with us. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. **I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.** If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. **Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!**

* **Hymn No. 2**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are called to be a joyful people, giving thanks for You and Your good gifts. There are times, however, when sin and sorrow grow, pushing joy to the side. We lose sight of Your grace and instead fall into despair. We are consumed by loss, distracted by possessions, and crippled with fear. We focus on our lack rather than Your love. Lift our eyes, Lord Jesus, and renew our joy in You. Remind us that: in Your sacrifice is our forgiveness, in Your death is our resurrection, and in Your coming is our joy! Though Christ we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem

A Lenten Meditation

Brett Michaels

*Jesus refuge of the weary,
Blest Redeemer whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary,
Savior from the work above.
Ohm how your eyes offended,
Gaze upon a sinner's fall!
Yet, upon the cross extended,
You endured the pain of all.*

*Dare we pass that Cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
As we see you wounded, bleeding,
See your thorn encircled brow?
Since your sinless death has brought
Us life eternal, peace and rest,
Only what your grace has taught us
Calms the sinner's deep distress.*

*When I survey the wondrous Cross,
On which the prince of glory died.
My richest gain, I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for you!
May our eyes be ever yearning,*

*To behold Your cross anew.
'Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
Dwell the cross, the crucified!*

Prayer of Illumination

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things that pertain to life and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Scripture Readings

Abraham Lin

Psalm 78: 56-64

1 Peter 2: 4-9

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Royal Priesthood"

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

Into the Woods My Master Went

Peter Lutkin

Into the woods my Master went, clean for-spent.
Into the woods my Master came,
For-spent with love and shame.
But the olives, they were not blind to Him
The little gray leaves were kind to Him;
The thorn tree had a mind to Him
When into the woods He came.
Out of the woods my Master went,
And He was well content;
Out of the woods my Master came,
Content with death and shame.
When death and shame would woo Him last,
From under the trees they drew Him last,
'Twas on a tree they slew Him last
When out of the woods He came.

*** 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 is 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. 689** The Church's One Foundation

* **Benediction**

Response (please be seated) Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Postlude Little Fugue in G Minor J.S. Bach

Announcements

MUSIC NOTE

Brett Michaels's "A Lenten Meditation" is a pastiche of two well-known hymns – *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*, and *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. It is described by the music publisher J. W. Pepper as a work of "...comfort, reflection, meditation," and it is a "...call to repentance."

The lyrics of "Into the Woods My Master Went" were written by Sidney Lanier (1842-1881). Lanier was a poet, musician, author, church organist, lawyer, and eventually became a Professor of Literature at Johns Hopkins University. "Into the Woods" was put into hymn form and was first published in the 1905 Methodist Hymnal. Our anthem version has music by Peter Lutkin and is arranged by Phil Hall.

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](https://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!

COMMUNITY CONCERT AT COTH

Mark your calendars for a concert at COTH on **Saturday, March 18th at 2:00 pm** in the sanctuary. Croatian pianist Augustin Simat will present a recital of Romantic and Baroque works by Chopin, Liszt, Scarlatti, and Bach. As always, this program is free and open to the public. There will be a reception to follow.

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.

BIBLE STUDY

The next Zoom Bible Study dates will be March 21st and 28th at 7 pm. We will discuss Chapter 4, Jesus Understands Feelings of Abandonment, and 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**



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.

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

Adam Gonzalez

Ariana Han

Thomas Degnen

Gregory Happ

Eugene Hoover

Richard Iovale

Lynn Lauterbach

Christina Lee

Kathy Meyer

Marti and Tom Pearce

The Redfern family

Debi Romano

William Rudnick

Jimmy Schehr

Patrick Sullivan

Virginia Young



Consistory & Staff

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Nancy Gessner, **Clerk**

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- 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
Amanda Sudolsky, Office Administrator: office@churchonthehill.org

Phone: (718) 358-3671
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Easter Donations

The Worship Committee has decided not to ask for donations for the Sanctuary flowers this year but still wishes to continue our tradition of honoring those we remember and appreciate at Easter. This year we are asking that you donate to any of the church funds (Music, Food for Kids, Community Concerts, 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 Easter Sunday.

Thank you for your donation.

Please accept my donation of \$ _____ to the _____ (fund).

Given By: _____

In memory • In appreciation • In honor

(Circle one)

of _____

All gift mentions will be included in a special insert in the Easter bulletin. Please make checks payable to "Church on the Hill", with the name of the fund you wish your donation to go to in the memo. Ginny Chan will be accepting donations after church during Lent. If you'd like to contribute online, please visit our [Tithe.ly](#) page. All donations must be received by March 26th to ensure that they will be in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.