

Church on the Hill

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

May 21, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Dr. Prophet F.W. Hood — Guest Preacher

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude Improvisation on “My Lord! What a Morning” 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

Lord of amazing visions, prepare our hearts and our spirits this day to receive your glad tidings of an Advocate. Help make us ready to be your disciples in all that we do, say, and think. For we ask this in the name of our beloved Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

We await God's instructions for our lives. **We eagerly look forward to learning more about ways to serve God.** The time is coming when our service will be needed here. **Let God's love flood through our service to others.** Wait! Listen! The time is near! **Open our hearts and spirits, O Lord, to hear your word for us today. Amen.**

* Hymn No. 279

My Lord! What a Morning

Prayer of Confession

We have to confess, O Lord, that we are people who want to have everything proven for us. We hear the message in the scripture of Jesus' ascension, and we smile smugly, not truly believing the vision. Forgive us

for our arrogant doubts and attitudes of smugness. Help us remember that everything Jesus taught us was to prepare us to help build God's realm here on earth. We are called to be people of faith, not of absolute proof, as we understand it. Let us place our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Let us look with eyes of faith as he ascends to the Father. We pray in his Name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Although you have not stood on the mountaintop to see his ascension to God, yet believe in the love and power of Christ who taught you how to be faithful and joyful disciples. Rejoice, and believe in him who came that you may have abundant life. Amen.

Anthem

Let Us With A Gladsome Mind

Alan Ridout

*Let us with a gladsome mind,
Praise the Lord for he is Kind:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*Let us blaze his name abroad,
For of gods he is the God:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*He with all commanding might,
Filled the new made world with light:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*He the golden tressed sun
Caused all day his course to run:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*The horned moon to shine by night,
Mid her spangled sisters bright:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

*All things living he doth feed,
His full hand supplies their need:*

*For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.*

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

Maureen Saepia-Chen

Matthew 16: 13-19

p. 798

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“A Divine Reset”

Dr. Prophet F.W. Hood

*** 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

The Lord is My Shepherd

Howard Goodall

Soloist- Maureen Saepia-Chen

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death, I fear no evil:
For you are with me, you will comfort me.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life: and I will dwell
In the house of the Lord forever.*

*** 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

Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord

Felix Mendelssohn

*Cast thy burden upon the Lord,
And he shall sustain thee;
He never will suffer the righteous to fall:
He is at thy right hand.
Thy mercy, Lord, is great
And far above the heavens:*

*Let none be made ashamed
That wait upon thee.*

* **Hymn No. 356**

All Creatures of Our God and King

* **Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

My Lord! What a Morning

*My Lord! What a morning;
When the stars begin to fall.*

Postlude

Overture from Music for the Royal Fireworks

George Frederic Handel

About the Music

If you've ever watched the British television program *The Vicar of Dibley* you know Howard Goodall's version of the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is My Shepard." Goodall wrote the work as a commission for the series. Interestingly he chose different editions of the King James Bible for different verses and the piece does not incorporate the entire text of the Psalm; leaving out verses three and five.

"Let Us with a Gladsome Mind" is a hymn by the British author/poet John Milton (1608-1674). Known as one of the greatest of all British writers, Milton wrote 32 hymns of which "Let Us..." is by far the best known. As with many hymns, over time some verses fall into disuse. Alan Ridout's arrangement leaves out three of the original verses. One missing verse is as follows: "Let us therefore warble forth His high majesty and worth: for His mercies shall endure, ever faithful ever sure." Can you think of another hymn with the word "warble"? Milton did use warble in a number of compositions but we can't think of any other such hymn usage.

Announcements

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Everyone is welcome downstairs in Gessner Hall immediately following the service to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting. A light lunch will be served, provided by Larry and Cathy Molino.

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*

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. A sign-up form can be found on **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

Thomas Degnen

Lucas Ditta

Gregory Happ

Richard Iovale

Susan Laurita

Lynn Lauterbach

Christina Lee

Donna Lemay

Kathy Meyer

Paul Mobius

The Redfern family

Debi Romano

William Rudnick

Patrick Sullivan

Ed Surujballi

The Umana Family

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

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