

Church on the Hill

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

May 28, 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

Day of Pentecost

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Improvisation on “America”

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

Spirit of wind and fire, come to us this day, freeing us from our fears. Lift us up when we have fallen. Dust us off and set us squarely on the path to hope you have set before us. Remind us that we are never far from your presence. Get us ready for the great adventure and opportunities that lie before us. Help us to be good and willing workers for you. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Sometimes our hearts are shut up like the doors that imprisoned the disciples. **Come, Holy Spirit, with your mighty wind of justice, blow open these doors and release us!** Darkness floods our should and we wonder if we will ever see the light again. **Come, Holy Spit, let the flames of fire touch our hearts and our spirits and burn away our fears and frustrations.** We sit, huddled in our own worlds of alienation. When will we ever feel the power of your love again, O God? **Come, Holy Spirit, fill our lives with**

your love and free us to reach out to others with the good news of your eternal presence. Amen.

*** Hymn No. 289**

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Prayer of Confession

Lord of patience and persistence, we live in a broken and shattered world. All around us, we see great evidence of hatred and alienation. We cannot help but observe the alienation of your people from each other. We create devices to separate rather than unite; to divide rather than come together in hope. Forgive us for our sins. These sins cause such division and hurt. Remind us today that the disciples, too, lived in a fearful world and that one day you came to them, as they sat huddled in fear, and you empowered them. You gave them hearts of courage and faith. Please bring to us the same hearts that we may serve you well, bringing peace and hope to our world. In the name of Christ, we offer this prayer. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Dear ones, fear no more! The power of God's Holy Spirit has set us free from the prison of doubt and fear! Now is the time to shine with the light of God's love, given to you by Jesus Christ. Amen.

Anthem

Come Down Lord

Stan Pethel

*Come down Lord; Dwell among us today
Come down Lord; Send your spirit, O Lord we pray.
We are gathered in your name, Lord,
We are here to lift you up;
We are praising who you are, Lord,
You're the life that fills our cup.
We're believing all you taught us,
As we live from day to day;
We are asking for your blessing.
And as one we come to say:
Come down Lord; Dwell among us today.
Come down Lord; Send your spirit, O Lord we pray.
We are in your loving family,*

*We are one in heart and soul;
We rejoice in your salvation,
For your Word has made us whole.*

*Bless the infants, bless the children,
Bless the young and bless the old;
Be our Master, be our Shepherd;
As we gather in your fold.*

*Come down Lord; Dwell among us today.
Come down Lord; Send your spirit, O Lord we pray.*

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

Dorien Day

Acts 1: 6-9

p. 884

Acts 2: 1-6

p. 885

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Standing on the Promises”

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

May Thy Holy Spirit

Paul Tschesnokoff

*May Thy Holy Spirit come upon us, O Lord,
Come Holy Spirit Thou art our Love,
Our Love and Joy divine, O Lord, God.
Alleluia.*

*** 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

Spirit of the Living God

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me:
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*** Hymn No. 358**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

*Every time I feel the spirit,
Moving in my heart, I will pray;
Yes, every time I feel the spirit,
Moving in my heart, I will pray.*

*Upon the mountain my Lord spoke,
Out of His mouth came, fire and smoke;
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
Till I asked my Lord if all was mine.*

Postlude

The Stars and Stripes Forever

John Philip Sousa

About the Music

"Come Down Lord" by Stan Pethel is a standard anthem for Pentecost Sunday, celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and all followers of Christ. Pethel is another prolific living composer/arranger with over 1,300 credits. He values both new and classic church music, while at the same time, seeking to maintain a very specific focus: "I would encourage today's church music leaders not to abandon the importance of choral singing and congregational participation. Avoid the 'performers on stage syndrome' and keep the emphasis on congregational participation, quality of music, and a worship-centered presentation. Musical literacy may be on the decline, but the historical foundations of music for the church have not changed."

(Interview with S. Pethal, 7/23/2019)

Pavel Tschesnokoff (also translated as Tschesnokov, Tchesnokov, Chesnokov, Chesnokoff) (1877-1944) was an Imperial Russian composer and choirmaster. He was highly regarded in both roles and by age 30 had composed over 400 sacred works. However, the Russian Revolution of 1917 put an end to the creation of any new sacred works and Tschesnokoff turned to secular compositions and choirs. He died of malnutrition while standing in a Moscow bread line in 1944. By far his most well-known composition is *Salvation is Created* – which has been offered here at the Church on the Hill. Today's offering of *May Thy Holy Spirit* fits well with our Pentecost rejoicing.

Announcements

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.

COFFEE HOUR

Please join us for coffee hour after the service, downstairs in Gessner Hall. Today's coffee hour treats were sent to us by Donna Lemay, in gratitude for placing her on our prayer list and keeping her in our prayers for a full recovery.

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

Karin Bennett

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

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Nancy Gessner, **Clerk**

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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
Email: office@churchonthehill.org
www.churchonthehill.org

