

Church on the Hill

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

June 25, 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 Nimrod (from the “Enigma Variations”) Edward Elgar

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 light and life, we come to you this day in celebration of the witness of your Son Jesus Christ. Open our hearts, our spirits, and our lives to listen to his words for us. Help us to be faithful disciples for you; for we ask this in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Praise be to God who is unchanging! **Thanks be to God who is continually creating newness and hope.** Each day we are greeted by new opportunities and challenges. **Each day we are given courage and strength to accomplish God's tasks.** Let all God's people shout praises to the heavens! **Great is our God and greatly to be praised! Amen.**

* Hymn No. 735

One Race, One Gospel, One Task

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, how many times we have spoken words of commitment and faith and then turned our backs on these commitments to follow the temptations of the world. We wander after the false prophets of greed,

selfishness, arrogance, ignorance, hatred, stubbornness; and then shout our displeasure at how we are being treated. We want you to come in and clean up all our messes, excusing us from any responsibility for them. Forgive us for such foolishness. Help us remember the power of your healing love, which has been given for us. Forgive us when we think we know everything and then discover that we have behaved and thought in ignorant ways. Teach us to listen and to place our trust in your abiding power. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Even though we doubt God's faithfulness to us, yet God is steadfast in God's love for each one of us. Receive that love in your heart this day. Know that you are healed and forgiven in God's sight. Amen.

Anthem

Great and Glorious

Franz Joseph Haydn

*Great and glorious is the Lord in majesty,
Glorious in power eternal, mighty and loving Father;
Praise Him for all His exceeding greatness.
Great and glorious, mighty in awful majesty,
Let all extol Him, all extol Him forevermore.
Praise ye the Lord, for it is good
To sing praises unto our God.
Praise to Thy Name, Thy holy Name forevermore.
God is nigh to all that call, truly upon Him;
The Lord upholdeth all who fall
And gently He up-raiseth all who are bowed down.
The mighty and loving Father in power eternal,
Eternal Lord.
Great and glorious; call upon Him, mighty and loving,
Glorious ever in majesty, glorious ever in majesty.*

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

Matthew 5: 14-16

Pearl Liao

p. 786

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“This Little Light of Mine”

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

Lord, Keep Us Closer to You

Don Besig

*In the quiet of this moment, Here in this holy place,
Help us feel your presence, Lord; Help us know Your grace.
Renew each spirit, Heal every soul.
Come and touch us with Your love And make us whole.
In this fellowship together, Friendship and love have grown.
Keep us ever faithful, Lord; Claim us as Your own.
Grant us Your mercy, Calm every fear.
There is peace within our hearts When You are near.
Lord as we turn to You, Humbly we pray.
Help us to trust in You; Show us Your way.*

*O, Lord, in all we say and do, Keep us, our whole life through,
Lord, closer to You, Keep us closer to You.*

*In the troubled world around us, Help us to share Your light.
Walk along beside us, Lord; Keep us in your sight.*

Guide every footstep; Help us be true.

*Draw us closer every day. Give us strength to live in faith
And follow You.*

*** 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. 60**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*** 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

La Campanella

Paganini/ Liszt

About the Music

As the choir gets ready for a summer hiatus, it seems a good moment to reflect on the Music Notes provided in the Bulletin over the past five months. In this period, the Choir has offered over 30 works. While many would say that the COTH music program is primarily in the classic church tradition, avid readers of Music Notes will have noted the absence of Mozart, Bach, Brahms, Beethoven, Monteverdi, and Vivaldi. Handel closed our Easter service, last week we offered a piece by Mendelssohn, and in today's service you will hear Haydn. But the three anthems by these composers are doubled by the works of living composers Hal Hopson and Craig Courtney during these past months (six works). In fact, the overwhelming majority of our anthems are from the 20th century; many by additional living composers. Anthems aren't the only way music is employed in our worship and there is plenty of Bach, Chopin, Mozart, Schubert, etc. among our -ludes (pre and post). Plus we have Sean Cotty improvisations. Perhaps more importantly, there is congregational singing through hymns, the Gloria Patri, and the Doxology. There is no better summary of COTH's approach to music in worship than the quote from composer Stan Pethal, recorded in a previous Note. In an interview in 2019, Pethal stated, "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." Amen.

Announcements

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

On July 9th, during worship, Linda Diez will be ordained, and she and Sarah White will be installed as elders. Jerry Lutz will be ordained and installed as a Deacon. We express our immense gratitude to Elders Angela Brunjes and Irma Schubert for their faithful service!

COFFEE HOUR

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

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

Anna Marie Brennan

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

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