

# Church on the Hill

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

**July 30, 2023**  
**10:30 AM**



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

**Rev. Dr. Ian Rottenberg — Guest Preacher**

**Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director**

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**BOLD** – Congregation responds

\* – Congregation Stands

**Prelude**                      Improvisation on “Blessed Assurance”                      Evan Swanson

**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**

Gracious God, we pray that your presence may be among us this morning. 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 128)

Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways. **You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.** Those who fear the Lord shall be blessed. **The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.**

\* **Hymn No. 534**

Draw Me Nearer

**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**

**Solo**

Have a Talk with God

Stevie Wonder  
Soloist- Evan Swanson

*There are people who have let the problems of today  
Lead them to conclude that for them life is not the way  
But every problem has an answer, and if yours you cannot find  
You should talk it over to Him  
He'll give you peace of mind  
When you feel your life's too hard  
Just go have a talk with God  
Many of us feel we walk alone without a friend  
Never communicating with the One who lives within  
Forgetting all about the One who never, ever lets you down  
And you can talk to Him anytime, He's always around  
When you feel your life's too hard  
Just go have a talk with God  
Well, He's the only free psychiatrist  
That's known throughout the world  
For solving the problems of all men  
Women, little boys, and girls  
When you feel your life's too hard  
Just go have a talk with God  
When your load's too much to bear  
Just go talk to God, He cares  
(I know He does)*

## 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

Ernest Mender

1 Kings 3: 5-12

p. 266-267

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

p. 795

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

## Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

“Seeds of Wisdom”

Rev. Dr. 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<sup>†</sup> Church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

<sup>†</sup> *The word "catholic" means "universal,"  
referring to all followers of Christ worldwide.*

## Solo

Jesus Take the Wheel

Carrie Underwood  
Soloist- Evan Swanson

*She was driving last Friday on her way to Cincinnati on a snow-white  
Christmas Eve*

*Going home to see her mama and her daddy with the baby in the  
backseat*

*50 miles to go, and she was running low on faith and gasoline  
It'd been a long, hard year*

*She had a lot on her mind, and she didn't pay attention*

*She was going way too fast*

*Before she knew it, she was spinning on a thin black sheet of glass*

*She saw both their lives flash before her eyes*

*She didn't even have time to cry*

*She was so scared*

*She threw her hands up in the air*

*Jesus, take the wheel*

*Take it from my hands*

*'Cause I can't do this on my own*

*I'm letting go*

*So give me one more chance*

*And save me from this road I'm on*

*Jesus, take the wheel*

*It was still getting colder when she made it to the shoulder*

*And the car came to a stop*

*She cried when she saw that baby in the backseat, sleeping like a  
rock*

*And for the first time in a long time*

*She bowed her head to pray*

*She said, "I'm sorry for the way I've been living my life*

*I know I've got to change, so from now on tonight"*

*Jesus, take the wheel*

*Take it from my hands*

*'Cause I can't do this on my own*

*I'm letting go*

*So give me one more chance*

*And save me from this road I'm on*

*Jesus, take the wheel*

**\* 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.

\* Hymn No. 549

Near the Cross

\* Benediction

**Postlude**

Improvisation on "Es La Vida De Mi Alma"

Evan Swanson

# Announcements

## INTRODUCTION

Rev. Dr. Ian Rottenberg is the Dean of Religious Life at Columbia University, where he serves student communities through chaplaincy work and interfaith programming. He lives in Queens with his wife, Jen Hopper, and their two boys Teddy (4) and Eli (1). He loves the New York Mets, the New York Giants, teaching, preaching, and working with faith communities.

## MUSIC NOTE

Thank you to Evan Swanson and Emerson Chen for providing the beautiful music this morning!

## SCHOOL SUPPLY PROJECT

We are helping First Reformed Church of College Point collect school supplies again this year to provide to their food pantry families. There are lists of needed supplies on the table at the back of the sanctuary. We have a collection box for donations at the entrance of the Church. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can place your donation in the offering plate during worship. You can also give via our online giving platform, Tithe.ly, to the "School Supply Project" Fund. **Donations should be received no later than August 20th.**

## PRAYING FOR RESTORATION

Your Regional Synod is saddened over the disaster and hardship some of our churches are experiencing due to recent storms that caused major flooding in some areas. Our hearts and prayers go out to all the churches impacted by the storm. For churches that need it, the Regional Synod of New York will provide some funding to assist with clean-up.

We realize that all this will take time, so the Regional Synod is preparing to provide initial clean-up assistance to assist the churches in continuing ministry. To support the effort of our regional synod and help our fellow churches and their communities we are asking for donations to aid this effort. Donations may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday, sent to the church office, or given via Tithe.ly under the Regional Synod - Flood Relief fund.

Please make checks out to Church on the Hill and indicate 'Flood Relief' in the memo line.

## 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\* *Please hold donations until further notice.*

## 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](http://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](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)

Diane Blagburn

The Family of

Anna Marie Brennan

The Family of

Glenda Burke

Thomas Degnen

Lucas Ditta

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Janet Fiala

Adam Gonzalez

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 Prayer List will be getting a refresh in September - In an effort to start with a clean list, please contact the Church Office to add or remove a loved one from the list.



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**

Linda Diez  
Nancy Gessner (VP)  
Victor Han (VP)  
Rhoda Jabbour  
Sarah White

**Deacons**

Ginny Chan  
Emerson Chen  
Jerry Lutz  
Adriene Toy

**Sean Cotty**, Music Director: [sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org](mailto:sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org)  
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