

Church on the Hill

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

August 20, 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 Trio Sonata No. 4 in E Minor (II. Andante) J. S. Bach

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

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

(Psalm 17)

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; **incline your ear to me; hear my words.** Wondrously show your steadfast love, **Guard me as the apple of the eye;** hide me in the shadow of your wings. **I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.**

* **Hymn No. 227**

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we come before you with our weaknesses and our failures, asking your forgiveness of our sins. We acknowledge that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and that we have not loved our neighbors as we love ourselves. Through your forgiving love, grant us grace in peace, renewing us for your glory. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem Thou, in Thy Mercy (from "Israel in Egypt") G. F. Handel

*Thou in Thy mercy hast led forth thy people
Which thou hast redeemed;
Thou hast guided them in thy strength
Unto Thy holy habitation.*

Prayer of Illumination

Loving God, we pray that your light will enter our lives through the reading of Holy Scripture. Enlighten our minds and fill our hearts through your wisdom and grace. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Maureen Saepia-Chen

Genesis 45: 1-15

p. 37

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

p. 921,922

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Our Life Stories"

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[†] 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 Praise the Lord (from "Judas Maccabeus") G. F. Handel
(arr. Hal H. Hopson)

*Praise the Lord.
Let songs of joy break forth.
Sing alleluia.
Praise His name forevermore.
Shout, sing, and dance.
Come dance and celebrate.
Rejoice; let all within us
Praise His name forevermore.*

*** 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

Write These Words in Our Hearts

*Write these words in our hearts,
We beseech you, O Lord.*

*** Hymn No. 498**

I Love to Tell the Story

*** Benediction**

Response (please be seated) The Lord Shall Reign (from "Israel in Egypt")
G. F. Handel

*The Lord shall reign
Forever and ever.*

Postlude

Fugue in G Major BWV 541

J. S. Bach

About the Music

If you have read in the Bulletin the text for "Thou in Thy Mercy", you might be wondering what the piece is about. Some context is needed. It is part of a larger Handel Oratorio, *Israel in Egypt*. For its time, this work was quite unusual; drawn entirely from the Hebrew Bible. The story of God rescuing the people of Israel from Egypt is filled with plagues, terror, and death. But there are also moments of wonder, awe, and belief.

This morning's duet is placed late in the Oratorio and the text is from Exodus 15:13. Israel has crossed safely through the Red Sea; the Egyptians followed and, "Thou didst blow with the wind, and the sea covered them..." Our offering celebrates Israel's arrival in Canaan; the "holy habitation". The ending of the Oratorio includes a repeated, impassioned cry of praise, "The Lord shall reign for ever and ever". (Exodus 15:18)

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 Arden Beron, Dorien Day, Bruce Hoffacker, and Steve Hoffacker for singing this morning!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This years festival will take place on Saturday, October 14th with a rain date of October 21. There are copies of the list of new items we are looking to put in raffle baskets, along with copies of a letter requesting donations from your favorite local merchants that you can take with you to ask for a donation, on the table in the rear of the church.

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**

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

The Family of

Anna Marie Brennan

The Family of

Glenda Burke

Thomas Degnen

Lucas Ditta

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Carolyn Frahm

Adam Gonzalez

Richard Iovale

Susan Laurita

Lynn Lauterbach

Donna Lemay

Rose McLain

Kathy Mendler-Murphy

Paul Mobius

Rev. Bob Perless

The Redfern family

Debi Romano

Patrick Sullivan

Ed Surujballi

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.



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Nancy Gessner, **Clerk**

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- Nancy Gessner (VP)
- Victor Han (VP)
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