

Church on the Hill

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

September 24, 2023

10:30 AM



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

Rev. Carlos Rivera — Guest Preacher

Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BOLD – Congregation responds

* – Congregation Stands

Prelude

Improvisation on “Ein Feste Burg”

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

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our needs before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, now and forever. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! **Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!** Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! **Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!** Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! **Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!**

* Hymn No. 62

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sins. You alone know how often we have wandered from your ways, wasted your gifts, and forgotten your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us, and help us to live in your light and to walk in your ways. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon/God's Wisdom for Life

Anthem Canon of Praise Johann Pachelbel (arr. Hal H. Hopson)

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
All within me bless his holy name.
O hear, you righteous,
Know that the Lord is good.
We remember all his love,
He crowns our lives with hope and truth.
God the Lord is gracious,
His mercy is the same forever.
As a father loves his children,
So the Lord loves his own.
Those who love the Lord,
They claim his ever-present help.*

Prayer of Illumination

Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive your Word, reveal to us the good news, and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Scripture Readings

1 Kings 3: 5-13

James 1: 5-6

Dorien Day

p. 266-267

p. 980

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Wisdom is the Principal Thing”

Rev. Carlos Rivera

* 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

Alleluia Round

William Boyce

*** 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. 43**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

* **Benediction**

Response (please be seated)

Dona Nobis Pacem

Grant us peace.

Postlude

Fugue in G Minor BWV 542

J.S. Bach

Music Notes

This week, Music Notes turns its attention to the hymns of the morning. Last spring, a Note was written on the information contained on the page of each numbered hymn (4/16/23). One of the information items noted was that when a hymn is based on a scriptural reference it is listed under the title. For this morning's "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" we see the reference to 1 Timothy 1:17. But now we add the fact that many hymns have multiple scriptural allusions and only the primary one is listed on the hymn page. In this case, there is also a reference drawn from Daniel (7:9) – the subject of Rev. Rivera's sermon series. The words are by Walter Chalmers Smith, a minister of the Free Church of Scotland. The tune's name is St. Denio (St. Denis; the patron saint of France), and the music is taken from a Welsh ballad. A truly international composition.

Our other hymn is "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"; recognized as the most powerful hymn of the Protestant Reformation. Composed by Martin Luther (1483–1546) between 1527 and 1529, the text is primarily original but there are references to Psalm 46. The hymn is central to the Lutheran tradition. Much has been written about this important hymn so here we will highlight only one aspect; English translation. There are said to be at least 60 English versions. In the U.S., the translation used historically by Lutheran congregations was adopted in 1868 and begins with the line: A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon. This was updated in 1978 and the first line was revised to: A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious. Both translations highlight the nationalist elements of the hymn and align with its historical use as a battle hymn. Our translation is by Frederick Hedge completed in 1853.

Announcements

THANK YOU

Thank you so much to Rev. Carlos Rivera for leading us in worship for all of September, and for a wonderfully curated September Sermon Series!

CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

The Fall session of the Sunday Program for children ages 6 to 12 has started. During the service, the children will process out and be let to Room 2-E.

FREE SEMINAR

Join us **this Thursday, September 28th at 7:00 pm** in Gessner Hall for a free seminar on Differences and Disagreements as Opportunities for Growth. Presented by Dr. Jay R. Feld, D.Min., a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist serving individuals, couples, and families- and a friend of the church, as he holds office hours here at Church on the Hill during the week. Flyers with more information can be found on the table at the rear of the sanctuary.

OFFERING

If you feel called to give, offering plates are located in the rear of the sanctuary, where you can leave your offering upon entry or exit of the sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUR

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

QUEENS COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

A new semester for The Queens Community Children's Choir will be starting soon in September. The group meets in the Music Room at Church on the Hill on Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. The program will start on 9/28 and run every Thursday to 11/16. The semester will culminate in a grand concert on Saturday 11/18 in the COTH sanctuary. Children of all ages are welcome to join!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This years festival will take place on **Saturday, October 14th** with a rain date of October 21st. 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, and Large Toys*

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 Bermudez Family

The Cappellano Family

Richard D.

Thomas Degnen

Gabriel DeMelo

Lucas Ditta

Joanne Dunckhahn

Randy Eastman

Adam Gonzalez

The Family of

Richard Iovale

Susan Laurita

Lynn Lauterbach

Donna Lemay

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Kathy Mendler-Murphy

Paul Mobius

Rev. Bob Perless

Patrick Sullivan

Ed Surujballi

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.



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Nancy Gessner, **Clerk**

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Victor Han (VP)
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