

# Church on the Hill

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

**May 12, 2024**  
**10:30 AM**



Photo Credit: Emerson Chen Photography

**Rev. Sally Ann Castle — Interim Minister**  
**Mr. Sean Cotty — Director of Music**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Ascension Sunday

**BOLD** – Congregation responds

\* – Congregation Stands

**Prelude**

Ave Maria

Schubert

**Welcome**

**Votum**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

**Sentences of Scripture**

**Call to Worship**

**Christ is alive. He is risen from the dead.** The Holy One calls us to worship and praise. **Baptized with the power of the Holy Spirit,** we live with Christ in our hearts. **Clap your hands and shout to God with loud songs of joy.** Sing praises to God, who fills the world with forgiveness and grace. Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Prayer of Invocation**

**The Ascension is a mystery to us, O God. We know that Christ is not above us physically, but the oneness you have known from the beginning is the oneness Christ experienced at the Ascension, a oneness we live into as the body of Christ on earth. It is a mystery how all of us, with all our differences, with all our struggles and challenges, can be one in you, but you have ordained it so. Help us to live into the Body of Christ with our diversity of gifts and strengths, to remember we need one another, and to build each other up. Christ is our head, we are the body, and we are joined at the heart by our love for one another. May we seek to share that love and oneness with the world. Amen.**

\* **Hymn No. 258**

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

**Prayer of Confession**

While we claim to celebrate the ascension of our Lord, the way we live proclaims our lack of faith in his power to deal with the world. Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice. Let us pray: **We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust. While we**

sing of your lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of today's events. Help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.

## Kyrie

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

## Words of Assurance

The Holy One enlightens the eyes of our hearts, that we may know the hope to which we are called. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. **In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.**

## Anthem

Ave Maria

Jacques Arcadelt

(translation)

*Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee.*

*Blessed art thou among women,*

*And blessed, is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners,*

*Now, and at the hour of our death, Amen.*

## Responsive Psalter Reading

Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples: shout to God with loud songs of joy. **For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.** He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. **He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.** God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. **Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.** For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm. **God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.** The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. **For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.**

## \* 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.*

## Prayer of Illumination

### Acts of the Apostles Reading

Acts 1: 1-11 (p. 884)

Julian Krsnak

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Reading

Luke 24: 44-53 (p. 861)

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

\* **Hymn No. 193** (v. 1, 3, 5, 6)

O Love, How Deep, How Broad

### Sermon

"Why Are You Standing Here?"

Rev. Sally Ann Castle

### \* Profession of Faith

(based on The Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 46-51)

What do you mean by saying, "He ascended to heaven"? **That Christ, while his disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth to heaven and will be there for our good until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.** How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us? **First, he pleads our cause in heaven in the presence of his Father. Second, we have our own flesh in heaven - a guarantee that Christ our head will take us, his members, to himself in heaven. Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee. By the Spirit's power we make the goal of our lives, not earthly things, but the things above where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.** Why the next words: "and is seated at the right hand of God"? **Christ ascended to heaven, there to show that he is head of his church, and that the Father rules all things through him.** How does this glory of Christ our head benefit us? **First, through his Holy Spirit he pours out his gifts from heaven upon us his members. Second, by his power he defends us and keeps us safe from all enemies.**

## Offering

### \* Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## Litany for Mother's Day

(from Isaiah 66: 7-9, 12-13; 42: 14; 54: 13; 54: 1)

Midwifing God, the Prophet Isaiah declared that you are the one who delivers us. **We remember that you are Mother and Father to all of us, all of us are your children.** Mothering God, you bring forth new life in our midst.

**We honor the mothers around us, and all who care and love children.**

Grandmother God, you comfort us in our time of grieving and sorrow. **We remember our mothers and grandmothers who have passed on, for all those we miss on this day.** Teaching God, You have taught us to honor our mothers and fathers and have taught us the ways of love. **We remember those who have been like mothers to us, giving wisdom and guidance in our lives.** Creator God, we remember that we are all created in your image. **We honor and respect all women in our midst, mothers and aunts and sisters and cousins and friends.** We honor and remember these great women, loving God, who you have sent into our lives.

**Anthem**

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

### **Sharing & Caring - bringing light into our world**

*(during the anthem)*

As we meditate upon mothers and those who have mothered and cared for us and for others, if you would like to light a candle, please do so at this time. You might light a candle to celebrate someone who has been like a mother, in the positive sense, to you, or as a symbol of forgiveness to someone who did not handle the task of mothering and caring well. You might light the candle for yourself, asking God to strengthen and guide you as a mothering and caring figure or to remember someone who is in need of receiving love and care. *If you would like to share for whom you are lighting a candle, feel free to say the name aloud, or you may light a candle in silence.*

*For the beauty of the earth For the beauty of the skies*

*For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies*

*(Refrain)*

*Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise*

*For the beauty of each hour Of the day and of the night*

*Hill and vale and tree and flower Sun and moon and stars of light*

*For the joy of human love Brother, sister, parent, child*

*Friends on earth and friends above For all gentle thoughts and mild*

*For each perfect gift of thine To our race so freely given*

*Graces human and divine Flowers of earth and buds of heaven*

## Prayers of Intercession

**Mother Father God, creator and carer, we thank you for nurturing and protecting us like a mother. On this Sunday, especially, we thank you for mothers, and for all people, women and men, who nurture and care for others. We thank you for those who have mothered us, in the best sense of the word, those who have seen the best in us, seen us with their heart. We pray, too, for those who have been challenged as mothers and by mothers. Hold them closely in your love. Show us all how to see not only with our eyes, but with our hearts. Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Earth-maker: a modern Lord's Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain Bearer, Life-Giver, Source of all that is and that shall be. Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your nation of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For your reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

(written by the Rev. Jim Cotter, The Prayer Book of the Anglican Church of New Zealand)

### **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. 374** (v. 1, 2)

Now Thank we all Our God

### **\* Benediction**

### **Response** (please be seated)

For the Life That You Have Given

*For the life that you have given, For the love in Christ made known,  
With these fruits of time and labor, With these gifts that are your own:  
Here we offer, Lord, our praises:  
Heart and mind and strength we bring;  
Give us grace to love and serve you, Living what we pray and sing.*

### **Postlude**

Nun danket alle Gott

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

# Announcements

## FLOWERS

The pink carnations are given by Doris & Joe Krsnak in memory of their mothers, Dorothy C. Heckel and Edith M. Krsnak. They are for every woman in the congregation to take home and enjoy.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Save the Date! The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on **May 19th**. The Nominations Committee presents the following candidates:

For Elder: John Westerhaus

For Deacon: Jeanne Sarran

## BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study- **Tuesday at 7 pm on Zoom**. Week 3- "You Always Have the Poor with You" (Mark 14: 7) Check the Weekly Email for Zoom information. *Context: Putting Scripture in Its Place* by Josh Scott. **Exploring the Chapter behind the Verse**. *Context* looks at verses we know by heart but may not know the people, places, and times that give them meaning. Josh Scott delves into these well-known Scripture verses, exploring their true meanings by examining them in their original biblical context. Through this process, he unveils fresh and enlightening interpretations that are often missed when these Scriptures are taken out of context.

## COFFEE HOUR

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

## CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

Children at Worship is ongoing! The class is for children ages 6-13. During the service, the children will process out and be led to Room 2-E.

## 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.

## 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/Stuffed Animals\* Find us on Instagram @cothbargainboutique for a fun look inside the Boutique and to find out about special sales and hidden gems!

## 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](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)*

Karin Bennitt

The Bermudez Family

Diane Blagburn

Katie and Clayton Buckley

The Cappellano Family

Richard D.

Thomas Degnen

Linda Diez

Lucas Ditta

Joanne Dunckhahn

Alison Friedman

Michael Gittens

Adam Gonzalez

The Greer Family

Bob Iovale

Rudy Jakob

Mike Kenny

Dolores Koncharlski

Gessa Markantonis

Donna McLernon

Mary Moder

Iris and Ralph Prager

Trevor Sealy

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.