

Order of Worship

Sunday, December 3, 2023- (1st Sunday of Advent--Hope)

Welcome to the Church-in-the-Gardens...

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**We invite you to place your name and contact information on a Visitor Card in the pew rack. Please place it in the offering plate or give it to a greeter.*

**Please be sure to get a parking pass from a greeter if you have parked a car that does not already have a decal or parking pass displayed.*

**Please silence your cell phone*

God bless you as together we experience God's life-giving word.

Announcements

- Greening of the Sanctuary, **Saturday, December 9** from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.. Sign up sheet in the rear of sanctuary or email admin@thecitg.org.
- Today**-Troop 96 will be selling decorated evergreen Christmas wreaths in front of the church. These large wreaths are \$25 each, and your purchase supports scouting in Forest Hills. If you'd like the troop to set one aside for you, text your order to 917-327-4530. Thank you for 90+ years of support!
- Looking ahead to ***Sunday Dec. 24***
 - NO morning worship service
 - 4 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service
 - 9 p.m. Lessons and Carols Service
- Gifts of food are urgently needed for MONKWORX, our Ridgewood neighbor. Please bring canned goods and non-perishable donations every Sunday to the basket at the sanctuary entrance. Thank you.

Please Pray: Marcelina Astonitas (mother of Carlos Pesantes); Phylia Banks; Christopher Craig; Karin Del Greco; Richard Falotico; Millicent Fairhurst; Noriko Iwamoto; Patrick Lazar; Jeanne Martin; Constance Radut; Anne Sandager; Dora Shia; Jackie Stuart; Jac Tortoroli
For all who are grieving or suffering loss of any kind: All mourning the loss of Rev. Ron Wilson.

Prayers for those in residential care: Hanna Bassous

Advent Greeting and Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship

One: Tear open the heavens and bring forth your presence.

All: We watch and we wait for the glory to come.

One: We gather in hope.

All: We watch and we wait for the coming birth.

One: Revive us, restore us.

All: We watch and we wait. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Brooks/Lanegran Family

Sung Response O Come, O Come, Emmanuel PH 110 v. 1

Advent Proclamation

*** Opening Hymn PH 103** Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Prayer of Confession

One: We are called

All: To lift up our souls to God.

One: We prefer to lift up only what we're proud of.

All: God calls us to lift up our whole self.

One: O God, be with us in this brief time of silent reflections...

*Sung Response

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me. (2x)
Cast me not away from your presence, O Lord,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation
and renew a right spirit within me.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace of Christ

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Choir Anthem

Advent Message

Martin Howe

First Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9 red bible, pg. 694, black bible, pg. 849

Gospel Lesson Mark 13:24-37 red bible, pg. 50, black bible, pg. 60

Sermon Keep Alert! Reverend Frederick Weidmann

***Hymn PH 109** Watchman, Tell Us of the Night vv. 1-2

***Pastoral Prayer**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sung Response Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia Amen.

Offering

Offertory

***Doxology** “with Alleluias”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts,
Praise Jesus Christ whose pow’r uplifts,
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication** Novi Suhero

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Sanctus SING! 19 vv. 1-2

Communion Prayer and Words of Institution

We Receive

Prayer after Communion

One: O God, you gather us and feed us. You show us hope. You give us hope.
All: Make us one in You.
One: Increase our hope!
All: Lead us in the way of Christ. AMEN.

***Closing Hymn SING! 282** Canto de esperanza/Song of Hope

Benediction

Postlude

**All who are able, please rise*

Children (and parents) are welcome to go downstairs to **Sunday School** for fun, learning, and activities—we leave worship following the Scripture Readings and before the Sermon.

There is a Cradle Room available downstairs for parents and children, and coloring books and activities available at the back of the church.

Please join us for a time of Coffee and Fellowship following the service in the lounge.

There are 4 ways you can **make a contribution to The Church-in-the-Gardens:**

1. Send a check to the church (50 Ascan Avenue Forest Hills, NY 11375)
2. Set up a "bill payment" through your bank to have checks mailed to the church.
3. Through Zelle. Our name is listed as Church in the Gardens, Forest Hills, NY; use email treasurer@thecitg.org
4. Collection plate at the back of the sanctuary

The Church-in-the-Gardens
A Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ
Forest Hills Gardens, New York



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50 Ascan Avenue, Forest Hills, NY 11375
(718) 268-6704 www.thecitg.org
admin@thecitg.org

Minister: Reverend Dr. Frederick Weidmann
Music Director: Dr. Sunny Knable
Liturgist: Novi Suhero

Our Church Covenant

“We covenant and agree with each other to unite as a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, for Christian fellowship, for public worship and for the advancement of God’s kingdom in the world. We agree to maintain the institutions of the gospel, to promote the peace and prosperity of the Church, to walk together in brotherly love.”

Adopted by this congregation in 1913