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



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

Order of Worship- 10 A.M. January 28, 2024 (Fourth Sunday after Epiphany and Boy Scout Sunday)

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.

Prelude

Announcements

- •Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year: February 14. Members and friends of the Church-in-the-Gardens are invited to one or both of two services—10:30 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church in Forest Hills or 7:30 p.m. here at the CITG. Rev. Fred and Rev. Kerstin Weidmann will share in the leadership of both services, and Sunny Knable will accompany both.
- 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; 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

Prayers for those in residential care: Hanna Bassous, Millicent Fairhurst

Opening Prayer

Scout Processional Scout Oath Scout Law Pledge of Allegiance

A Word from the Scouts—Troop Chaplain's Aide Luca DiCicco

A Word from the Scouts—Senior Patrol Leader Julian Hayes-Diaz

*Call to Worship

Daniel Paniz

One: Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

All: The Lord is near. Call upon God in truth.

One: God calls us together to worship. From our work and play within the world, God gathers us together to give thanks for the goodness of creation, for the strength to labor, and for the wisdom to rest.

All: Let us worship together.

* Opening Hymn PH 66 For the Beauty of the Earth vv. 1-4 NCH 28 For the Beauty of the Earth

* Prayer of Confession (adap. A New Zealand Prayer Book)

One: Creator, we disfigure your world.

All: Lord, have mercy

One: Redeemer, we take your grace and salvation for granted.

All: Lord, have mercy

One: Sustainer of life, we put others down and choose the ways of death and destruction.

All: Lord, have mercy

One: Be with us in this brief time of silent reflection...

*Sung Response: SING! 58

Children from your vast creation, gather here for guidance, Lord; We of every tongue and nation yearn to see your earth restored. You have shown that your intention wills a world kept free from strife. Open us to love's dimension, filled with true abundant life.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace of Christ

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Choir Anthem Psalm 138

Sunny Knable

First Lesson Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 4:1 pew bible, 1054 David Rosario, Jr.

Gospel Lesson Mark 1:21-28 pew bible, 42 Lucian Rodriguez

Sermon Yoda, Luke Skywalker, Jesus, AND You

Reverend Frederick Weidmann

*Hymn PH 7 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise vv. 1-2 NCH 1 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 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. (2x)

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

Matias Salazar-Hoyos

*Closing Hymn SING! 277 The Servant Song vv. 1,2,3 and repeat 1

*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 infants/toddlers.

Please join us for a time of **Coffee and Fellowship** following the service, at the CITG Sanctuary Steps (weather permitting) or 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

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A Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ 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: Cindy Knauer