

**Order of Worship**  
**Sunday March 17, 2024 Fifth Sunday in Lent**

***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**

**The Special Offering for Lent and Easter** is to support Dayspring Ministries, Haiti. There is an envelope in your Bulletin. More info in Weekly Word.

**Open & Affirming-**Today following worship, join members of the Open & Affirming Covenant Committee in Room 212—stop by the lounge first to say hello and get a cup of coffee—to review the new and important Open & Affirming Covenant that we will be formally voting on at the Annual Meeting in May. See the insert in your bulletin.

**Easter Egg Hunt-** It's that time of year again. Our Easter Egg Hunt is coming at the end of the month. We are looking for donations of individually wrapped NutFree candy items, small toys, stickers, and fake tattoos to stuff the eggs with. Donations can be brought to the office during the week or to the church on Sunday's starting 3/10 through 3/24. We are also looking for people who would be willing to volunteer their time. Volunteers are needed for Egg Hunt preparation on 3/9 through 3/23 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon at the church. Volunteers may sign up for activities in church.

**Gifts of food** are urgently needed for MONKWORK, our Ridgewood neighbor.

Please bring canned goods and non-perishable donations every Sunday to the basket at the sanctuary entrance. Thank you.

**Please pray for:** Marcelina Astonitas (mother of Carlos Pesantes); Phylia Banks; Christopher Craig; Karin Del Greco; Millicent Fairhurst; Noriko Iwamoto; Patrick Lazar; Jeanne Martin; Constance Radut; Nancy Russo; Anne Sandager; Dora Shia; Jackie Stuart; Jac Tortoroli

**For all who are grieving or suffering loss of any kind:** Andrea Berta and her dear friends Lisa and Dani on the passing of Dani's husband, Earl Tucker.

**Births:** New grandson of Dan Olson and Rev. Bonnie McDougall Olson, Henry. New granddaughter of Jeanne DeYcaza.

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

**Opening Prayer**

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Holy One, you give us life.

**All: Give us new life, from within.**

One: Fill us with your spirit and your truth.

**All: Revive our souls.**

**\* Opening Hymn** NCH 8 Praise to the Living God

**\*Prayer of Confession**

One: O God of Healing, O God of New Life

**All: We confess that sometimes in our brokenness, we cause brokenness in others.**

One: Sometimes in our woundedness, we wound others.

**All: Heal us. Restore Us.**

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

**\*Sung Response** Create in Me a Clean Heart (Sing! 49)

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!**

**First Lesson** Esther 4:10-16 (excerpts) black bible, pg. 552

**Second Lesson** Hebrews 5:7-10 black bible, pg. 267

**Gospel Lesson** John 12:20-33 black bible, pg. 129

**Sermon** For Such an Hour as This Reverend Frederick Weidmann

**\*Hymn** NCH 198 Lift Hight the Cross vv. 1,3,4,5

## **\*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**

O Lord, hear my prayer (2x)  
When I call answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer (2x)  
Come and listen to me.

## **Offering**

**Offertory** Their Voice Goes Out Throughout the Earth (Psalm 19) Sunny Knable

### **\*Doxology** (traditional)

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.

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Laura Jett

**\*Closing Hymn** SING! 267 Will You Come and Follow Me vv. 1,2,4,5

## **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](http://www.thecitg.org)  
[admin@thecitg.org](mailto:admin@thecitg.org)

Minister: Reverend Dr. Frederick Weidmann  
Music Director: Dr. Sunny Knable  
Liturgist: Laura Jett

**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