

**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.  
Sunday, April 28, 2024**

*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 s*

*ure 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**

**\*\*Looking Further Ahead: Annual Meeting Sunday May 19** following worship

**\*\*“Make a Joyful Noise!” CITG Jazz Ensemble, Tuesday, May 7, at 7:30 pm**

The CITG Concert Series presents a concert of all original compositions and arrangements by the CITG Jazz Ensemble, including saxophonists Don Hansen and Bill Humphrey, guitarist Alan Tichman, bassist Gene Torres, drummer Mike Jett, and Music Director and pianist Sunny Knable. The suggested donation of \$20 goes toward the CITG Music Fund. Come hear a joyful noise right here in the CITG sanctuary!

**\*\*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; Allen Maurer; Constance Radut; Nancy Russo; Anne Sandager; Bette Sheets; Dora Shia; Jackie Stuart

**For all who are grieving or suffering loss of any kind:** Dan Olson and Rev. Bonnie McDougall Olson on the passing of Dan's mom, Joan.

**Prayers for those in residential care:** Hanna Bassous

**\*Call to Worship**

L: We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ

**All: We come because we seek to abide in Christ**

L: We come because we strive to be his disciples

**All: We gather to worship to the glory of God who sustains us.**

**\* Opening Hymn** Come Ye Thankful People Come (NCH #422)

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Loving God, you made us in your image with a mind to know you, a heart to love you and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconstant, our desire to seek your will, incomplete. Day by day we fail to grow into your likeness. In your tender love, forgive us and give us the grace to forgive others as well as ourselves,**

**\*Sung Response: SING! 58 Children from Your Vast Creation**

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!**

**Gospel Lesson** John 15;1-8 Black Bible, page 133

**Children's Message**

**Sermon:** "The Vine and the Branches" Rev. Bonnie McDougall Olson

**\*Hymn** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (NCH #43)

**\*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** Amazing Grace

**\*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** Ira Apsel

**\*Closing Hymn** Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing (NCH #77)

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

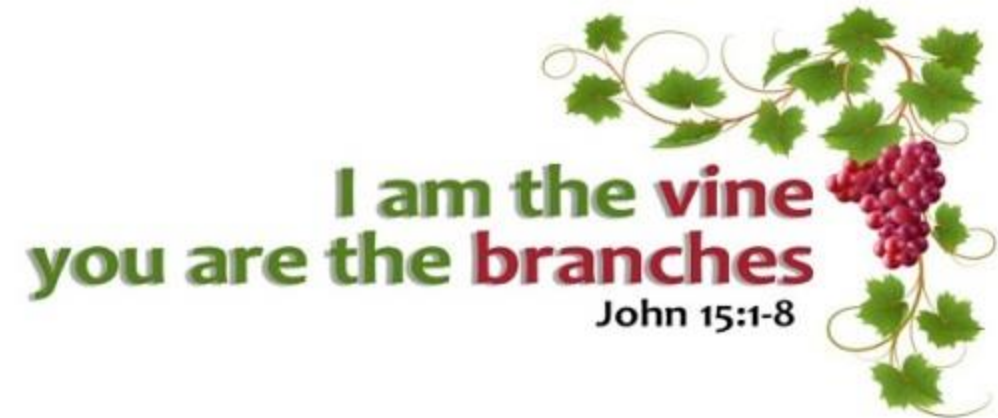
*\*All who are able, please rise*

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 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



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

Guest Minister: Reverend Bonnie McDougall Olson  
Music Director: Dr. Sunny Knable  
Liturgist: Ira Apsel