

Order of Worship – 10 a.m.
Sunday, December 8, 2024- 2nd Sunday of Advent (Peace)

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

****TODAY—LEARN HOW TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT YOU CAN GIVE *and* reduce your income tax bill.** For those who are at or nearing the age of 70+.

Led by our own Dan Olson, following worship (11:20 a.m.) in Room 212

****ADVENT BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday Evenings Dec. 11 and 18 at 7 p.m.**

We'll have something warm—decaf coffee and/or tea, and we'll discuss some of the names that the promised and coming Christ child is called. What do they mean? How do they shape or focus the promise? How might they inform our knowledge and love of God, ourselves, and the world?

****ANGEL TREE GIFT DRIVE** for children of families in distress is underway.

Please contribute. More information is in the Weekly Word and on the fliers at the back of the church.

***GIFTS OF FOOD** are urgently needed for distribution through our central Queens partners. Please bring canned goods and non-perishable donations every Sunday to the basket at the sanctuary entrance. Thank you.

Please Pray For: Marcellina Astonitas (Carlos Pesantes' mom); Dawn Burrowes; Patricia Faas; Karin Del Greco; Jessica Faas; Cynthia Faria; Noriko Iwamoto; Karen Lanegran (Katie's mom); Allen Maurer; Soon Hyang Park (mother of EJ Thorsen); Constance Radut; Sharon Roth; Jacqui Russell; Anne Sandager; Dora Shia; Jackie Stuart
For all who are grieving or suffering loss of any kind

Prayers for those in residential care: Hannah Bassous; Millicent Fairhurst; Nafees Watkins

Advent Greeting and Opening Prayer

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Gudino Family

Sung Response: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel PH 110 v. 2

O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here,
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Advent Proclamation

We light the candle of PEACE. We know that God is with us. Peace is with us and all around us.

***Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 85)**

One: Let me hear what the Lord will speak.

All: God will speak peace to the people

One: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

All: Justice and peace will kiss each other.

One: Faithfulness will spring up from the earth, and

All: Justice looks down from the sky.

One: God will speak peace to the people.

All: Justice and peace will kiss each other.

*** Opening Hymn SING! 91 Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn vv. 1,2,4**

***Prayer of Confession and Renewal**

One: O God, often we neglect the things that make for peace and wholeness

All: For ourselves, for our world.

One: We neglect our own needs,

All: And the needs of those around us,

One: Forgive us. Give us peace. Make us whole.

Be with us now in the brief time of silent reflection...

***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!

First Lesson Philippians 1:3-11 black bible, pg. 239

“Gospel” Lesson Luke 1:68-79 black bible, pg. 68

Sermon “Into the Way of Peace” Reverend Frederick Weidmann

***Hymn SING! 90** View the Present Through the Promise

***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 “Be Still, My Soul” based on “Finlandia” Jean Sibelius

***Advent Doxology**

Praise God who blesses everyone!
Praise Jesus Christ, who is to come!
Praise Spirit, making Three-in-One!
All praise the miracle begun!

***Prayer of Dedication** Tom Webb

***Closing Hymn SING! 106** Soon and Very Soon

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 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@thecityg.org
4. Collection plate at the back of the sanctuary

The Church-in-the-Gardens
Forest Hills, New York
An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



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 1913)

The Church-in-the-Gardens

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: Tom Webb

Our Open & Affirming Covenant Statement

We affirm the worth and dignity of each individual. We welcome everyone into the full life and ministry of the church including persons of all sexual orientations, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, marital status, family structure, age, race, ethnicity, nationality, and any other way that people self-identify. As our clear expression of Christian love, we are open and affirming of all people. (Adopted 2024)