

Order of Worship – 10 a.m.

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Second Sunday After Epiphany and Martin Luther King, Jr. 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 and Prayer Requests- see final page

Opening Prayer

***Call to Worship (from Psalm 36)**

One: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

All: Your justice is like the mighty mountains;

One: How precious is your steadfast love, O God.

All: All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

One: With you is the fountain of life.

All: In your light we see light.

***Opening Hymn NCH 584** I am the Light of the World

Prayer of Confession and Renewal

One: When we lose touch with our own flourishing,

All: Holy One, forgive us. Reconnect us.

One: When we lose touch with the celebrations and struggles of our neighbors,

All: Holy One, forgive us. Reconnect us.

One: When we lose touch with our common humanity and need to experience freedom, love, and justice,

All: Holy One, forgive us. Reconnect us.

One: Be with us now 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.

***Passing of the Peace of Christ**

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Choir Anthem Precious Lord, Take My Hand Thomas A. Dorsey

First Lesson from Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*

Second Lesson Philippians 3:20 – 4:1

Sermon “By the Power...” Rev. Dr. Fred Weidmann

***Hymn SING! 43** Lord, Be Glorified

***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 Lift Every Voice and Sing James Weldon Johnson/John R. Johnson

Doxology (with Alleluias)

***Prayer of Dedication** Randall Keith Horton

***Closing Hymn** We Shall Overcome

Pete Seeger

1. We shall overcome...

2. We shall live in peace...

3. We are not afraid...

1. We shall overcome...

*Benediction

Postlude “Medley from Duke Ellington’s Sacred Music” Randall Keith Horton

**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@thecitg.org
4. Collection plate at the back of the sanctuary

Announcements and Prayer Requests

****The church office and facility will be closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr Day.**

****Rev. Fred will be on vacation Monday January 20 thru Tuesday January 28.** In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact the church office. On Sunday January 26, Rev. Ray Howell will be serving as our Guest Minister.

****RISE AGAINST HUNGER—Volunteer Opportunity Sunday February 2, 1-3 p.m. in the Community House.** There will be a brief video presentation during announcements.

****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE Mon-Wed, 8:30-4**

Volunteers are needed in the Church office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays thru early March to be at the main desk. Jacqui is working remotely and is handling emails and most phone calls. The main responsibility is to monitor the door (via camera) –buzz in package deliveries and help welcome visitors. Please email Jacqui (admin@thecitg.org) or Rev. Fred (revfred@thecitg.org). Thanks.

****A NEW MEMBERS CLASS IS FORMING** Please reach out to Rev. Fred (revfred@thecitg.org) if you are interested or know someone who is.

****GIFTS OF FOOD are urgently needed for distribution through our central Queens partners.** Please bring canned goods and non-perishables on Sundays 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; Melissa Kaganovich (Mercy’s daughter); Karen Lanegran (Katie’s mom); Allen Maurer; Constance Radut; Sharon Roth; Nancy Russo; Jacqui Russell; Anne Sandager; Dora Shia; Jackie Stuart; F.J. Wang

For all who are grieving or suffering loss of any kind

Family and friends and all grieving the loss of Nancy Russo

Prayers for those in residential care:

Hannah Bassous; Millicent Fairhurst; Nafees Watkins

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)

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)

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: Randall Keith Horton