

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)

Order of Worship- 10 A.M.

Sunday, May 4, 2025- Third Sunday of Easter and Holy Communion

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**

One: O Holy One,

All: You make us whole,

One: In our emptiness

All: You call us.

One: In your abundance

All: You fill us

One: With a love that conquers death.

All: You remind us we are Yours!

*** Opening Hymn NCH 556** God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens vv. 1,3

*** Prayer of Confession and Renewal**

One: O God who creates us

All: O God who saves us,

One: For the harm we have done,

All: For the good we have left undone,

One: Forgive us.

All: Renew us.

One: Reshape our imaginations.

All: Make us whole.

One: Be with us now for this brief time of silent reflection

***Sung Response SING 79!**
Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your Word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace be understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Passing of the Peace of Christ**
The Peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

Choral Anthem Cambiame, Senor / Change My Heart, O God Eddie Espinosa

Gospel Reading John 21:1-14 pew bibles, pg. 141

Sermon Bringing Something to the Table Rev Dr. Fred Weidmann

***Hymn NCH 562** Take My Gifts

***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 *I Will Exalt You* (Psalm 30) Sunny Knable
***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 Ernie Searle

Holy Communion
Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving
One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Sanctus
One: ...we joyfully praise you and say:
All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and light;
The whole universe sings your praise.
Earth and sea and sky and all that live declare your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Breaking of the Bread//Receive

Prayer after Communion
One: O God of Abundance,
You feed us, you bless us, you show us the way
All: You set the table. And you call us to bring something too.
In our sharing of your Love
One: Through our giving of time, talent, and treasure
All: Bless us and bless others with the Good News
One: Of Christ alive in our lives and in the world.
All: AMEN.

***Closing Hymn SING! 224** Cantad al Senor / O Sing to the Lord

***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.

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

****WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY- May 7**

We Meet at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Finishing (or Re-starting) the Journey—Jesus’ and the Disciples’ Journey from

Death to Resurrection to New Life, according to the Gospel of Luke

Led by Rev. Dr. Fred Weidmann

As a follow up to our Lenten Bible Series on Jesus’ Journey to Jerusalem we will look at Luke’s telling of Jesus’ resurrection and of Jesus’ and the disciples post-resurrection actions. Those who were able to join us during Lent know how rich and wonderful our discussions are.

As a study guide, we will continue to use Frederick W. Weidmann, Luke part 2 (a Listen Up! Bible Study; Pilgrim Press) be sure to order part 2.

Any challenges with ordering or cost (\$4.99 per download), please contact Rev. Fred.

AND know that you’re welcome with or without a study guide.

Come and be blessed by, and add to the blessing of, our time together.

****The CITG Concert Series** presents the Quintet of the Americas performing “Living American Composers” on Saturday, May 10, at 7:30 PM. Featuring new music for woodwind quintet and voice by Valerie Coleman, Joseph Jones, Sunny Knable, and Allen Schultz. FREE, donations accepted.

****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 CHECK EXPIRATION DATES BEFORE DONATING—Expired food cannot be distributed.

Please pray for: Marcellina Astonitas (Carlos Pesantes’ mom); Dawn Burrowes; Patricia Faas; Karin Del Greco; Jessica Faas; Cynthia Faria; Christopher Henderson; Noriko Iwamoto; Karen Lanegran (Katie’s mom); Andrew Mains; Allen Maurer; Constance Radut; Sharon Roth; Anne Sandager; Dora Shia; Jackie Stuart; F.J. Wang

For all who are grieving or suffering loss including Tom Webb and his family on the loss of his brother Andrew; family, friends and colleagues of Miles Griffith; and all mourning the loss of our sister and longtime member Hanna Bassous.

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

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A Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ

50 Ascan Avenue, Forest Hills, NY 11375

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Minister: Reverend Dr. Frederick Weidmann

Music Director: Dr. Sunny Knable

Liturgist: Ernie Searle