

Order of Worship – 10 a.m.
Sunday, November 16, 2025- Receiving New Members

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 62)**

One: For God alone my soul waits;

All: Our hope is from God.

One: God alone is my rock and my salvation. My refuge.

All: Our strength is from God.

One: We shall not be shaken!

All: Our trust is in God!.

***Opening Hymn NCH 573 Lead On Eternal Sovereign**

***Prayer of Confession and Renewal**

One: Holy God, you have expressed your hope for us—

Your vision for life and life abundant.

Yet too often we do not pursue your will for us,

For others, for the world.

All: Forgive us.

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

Sung Response (NCH 283)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Passing of the Peace of Christ**

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Receiving New Members and Affirming Our Life Together

Congregational Response:

We do, with God's help. We welcome you with joy. We covenant to walk with you in Christ, and together to do deeds of faithful ministry in the world.

Sung Response NCH 393 Blest Be the Tie that Binds v. 1

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;

The sharing of our common life, is like to that above. REPEAT

First Lesson Isaiah 12:2,3,5 pew bibles, pg. 785

Second Lesson 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 pew bibles, pg. 252

Gospel Lesson John 14:23 pew bibles, pg. 132

Sermon "With Joy You Will Draw Water from the Wells of Salvation"

Reverend Frederick Weidmann

***Hymn NCH 312** We Love Your Realm, O God vv. 1,2,6

***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

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 Jerry Han

***Closing Hymn NCH 76** Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

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

Announcements & Upcoming Events

**** Today-** The **wellness/exercise group** following coffee hour.

****Interfaith Thanksgiving Service- Sunday, November 23, 4 p.m.** at The Reform Temple of Forest Hills (71-11 112th Street). For those unable to attend in person, join in via livestream at rtfh.org/live

****NO ONE SHOULD GO HUNGRY!** Effective November 1, SNAP benefits, which support food sustenance for 42 million needy Americans, will be stopped. This Sunday and every Sunday, please bring gifts of non-perishable food such as canned goods, dried pasta, powdered milk, to the basket at the sanctuary entrance.

We send our food donations to Stacey’s Pantry, our non-profit neighbor, for immediate distribution. THANK YOU. Your World Service Committee

****New Church Membership Directory-** We’re putting together a **new church membership directory** so it’s easier to stay in touch, reach out, and recognize familiar faces (and names!). If you’re part of our church family, we’d love to include you. Just swing by the info table after service to check your details, or send us your info and a photo (if you’d like; see also the note below re: photos) to admin@thecitg.org. Digital photo shoots with volunteer photographers from the church will take place **today** in the lounge during coffee hour, if you would like your picture taken.



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY—Tues Dec. 2 & 9 at 7 p.m.; Wed Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.

Bring yourself, your questions, your comments, and an open heart and mind as we read and ponder texts traditionally read in Advent from the Gospel of Matthew and the prophet Isaiah.

Please pray for: Marcellina Astonitas (Carlos Pesantes’ mom); Dawn Burrowes; Jessica & Patricia Faas; Karin Del Greco; Cynthia Faria; Christopher Henderson; Yang Oke Hwang; Noriko Iwamoto; Karen Lanegran (Katie’s mom); the Mains family; Allen Maurer; Constance Radut; Anne Sandage; Dora Shia; F.S. Wang; Yuying Zhai (mother of Wendy Wang)

For all who are grieving or suffering loss of any kind

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

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
Minister: Reverend Dr. Frederick Weidmann
Music Director: Dr. Sunny Knable
Liturgist: Jerry Han