

Order of Worship – September 6, 2026, 10 a.m.
Creation Sunday and Holy Communion

Welcome to the Church-in-the-Gardens...

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

**Please fill out a Visitor Card and 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 outside the church.*

**Please silence your cell phone*

God bless you as together we experience God’s life-giving word.

Prelude

Announcements and Prayer Requests

Opening Prayer

***Call to Worship**

One: Praise God from the heavens—all you angels and all you shining stars.

All: Praise the Lord!

One: Praise God from the earth—trees and crops; land and sea creatures,
birds in flight; all you people. God commanded and you were created.

All: Praise the Lord!

***Opening Hymn SING! 37 For the Music of Creation**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Waters of Creation and Baptism**

One: We praise you, O God—

All: For the waters of creation.

One: For the rain that nourishes animals and plants; for the water we drink, for
the water we bathe and swim in; for aquifers and the rain clouds. We praise
you, O God---

All: For water that sustains life.

One: For the Jordan river where Jesus and others were baptized. for the roadside
creek where St. Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch and the river outside
Philippi where St. Paul baptized Lydia. We praise you, O God—

All: For the waters of baptism.

One: For the baptismal font in this church and for every font and fountain and
pool in every church through which you birth us into the family of Christ, bathe
us in forgiveness, and enliven us in the Spirit. We praise you, O God—

All: We praise you. AMEN.

***Water Blessing**

***Sung Response NCH 283**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. REPEAT

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

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

***Passing of the Peace of Christ**

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Gospel Reading Ezekiel 47: 1-12 (selections)
Colossians 1:9-20 (selections)

Reflection What a (Living, Ongoing) Story! Rev. Dr. Fred Weidman

***Hymn NCH 28** For the Beauty of the Earth vv/ 1,3,4

***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 he kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sung Response Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen. (2x)

Offering

Offertory Blessed Assurance Arr. Cece Winans
Liane and Eric Williams, voice and bass

Doxology (traditional)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication Alison Hyslop

Holy Communion

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 might;

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Breaking of the Bread//Receive

Prayer after Communion

One: O God of Creation, you call us, you save us, you feed us;

All: Strengthen us for the journey.

One: Keep us, comfort us, and guide us.

All: Through Jesus Christ our savior, teacher and friend.

AMEN.

***Closing Hymn SING! 258** Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

***Benediction**

Postlude

**All who are able, please rise.*

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.

Ways you can **make a contribution to The Church-in-the-Gardens** (in addition to the offering plate):

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

Please Pray For: Phylia Banks; Dawn Burrowes; Richard Corson; Jeanne DeYcaza; Joe Dujmic, Sr.; Jessica Faas; Cynthia Faria; Gayla Grzegorzcyk (niece of Leah Fink); Christopher Henderson; Noriko Iwamoto; Susan Ko; Ethan Paxton LaBue; Allen Maurer; Constance Radut; Anne Sandager; Dora Shia; Peter Steiner; Luis Vazquez, Sr.; Yuying Zhai (mother of Wendy Wang).

For all who are grieving or suffering loss of any kind: Phylia Banks and family and all grieving the losses of her brother F.S. Wang and of her sister Lilly Hazleton.

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

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: Alison Hyslop

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)