Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost & Holy Baptism
November 15, 2026

Welcome to the Church-in-the-Gardens. Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.
*Visitor Card: Please fill out and place in the offering plate or give it to a Greeter.
*Parking pass: Do get one from a Greeter if you're parked outside the church.
*Please silence your cell phone
God bless you as together we experience God's life-giving word.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements (Liturgist)

Opening Prayer

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from Psalms 123 & 124)
One: O God, to you I lift up my eyes,
All: You are enthroned in the heavens.
One: Our eyes look to You, our God .
All: Have mercy on us, O God.
One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
All: Who made heaven and earth.

Opening Hymn| SING! 236: Take Me to the Water

***Prayer of Confession and Renewal**
One: O God, Creator of Life,
For all the ways we harm ourselves, others, and the whole of creation
All: Have mercy on us.
One: O God, Renewer of Life,
Forgive us.
Release us from every burden that holds us back.
All: Form in us a new creation.
One: Be with us in this 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.

Assurance of Pardon (Minister)

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

***Baptism of Bianca Lepre**
Prayer (in unison)
We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of your child, Biance.
We pray that she would ever know your steadfast love, healing power, and the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Bless her, her family and our whole church family as we experience and share your love. AMEN.

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.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon: "Faithfulness" and "Joy" and Whatever Else Jesus is Talking About

***Second Hymn | NCH 530:** God Our Author and Creator (vv. 1 & 2)

***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 Lift Up My Eyes to You" (Psalm 123) 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 (Liturgist)

***Closing Hymn | NCH 495:** Called as Partners in Christ's Service (vv. 1, 2, 4)

Benediction

Postlude

Individual Prayer Following Worship
A deacon will be available at the front of the church to pray with you.

**Please stand*

Announcements & Upcoming Events: Please see insert

Cradle Room: Available downstairs for parents with young children.

Kids Activity Pages: Coloring & activity pages available back of the church.

Sunday School: Children 5 yrs and up excused after sermon for lessons in Parish House.

Coffee and Fellowship: Join us following the service in the lounge!

C**ontribute to The Church-in-the-Gardens** (in addition to the offering plate):

1. Mail check to the church: 50 Ascan Avenue, Forest Hills, NY 11375
2. Bill Payment: Set up with your bank to have checks mailed to the church.
3. Zelle Payment: 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; Joe Dujmic, Sr.; Cynthia Faria; Gayla Grzegorczyk (niece of Leah Fink); Christopher Henderson; Julie Hutchinson Smith (niece of Leah Fink); Noriko Iwamoto; Ethan Paxton LaBue; David Lanegran (father of Katie); Allen Maurer; Constance Radut; Anne Sandager; Dora Shia; Luis Vazquez, Sr.

For all who are grieving or suffering loss of any kind.

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. Fred Weidmann
Music Director: Dr. Sunny Knable
Liturgist: Cindy Knauer

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



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)

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 15, 2026

Wellness & Exercise group | Follows after coffee hour today & every Sunday!
See you there and please wear appropriate exercise footwear.

(TODAY) **NEW MEMBERS' GATHERING:** ***Catch Rev. Fred at the back of the church after service to check in.***
Interested in membership or simply learning more about CITG, our ministries, leadership, and volunteer opportunities? Contact Rev. Fred (revfred@thecitg.org), or the church office at 718-268-6704 or admin@thecitg.org. You may also reach out to deacons Rob MacKay or Annemarie van Roessel.

(TODAY) **VOLUNTEER FAIR | Sunday, Nov. 15 | 1 - 3PM | Community House | Volunteers Needed.**
Sponsored by the World Service Committee. *And…*Volunteers Still Needed for set up and take down and hospitality tasks. Contact: Hal, Yang, or Jim or just show up at the Community House! More information in The Weekly Word.

Homemade Thanksgiving Pies! | ***Place orders by Nov 20 | Pies*** **Handcrafted by Louise Guinther** 🥧
Fresh-baked apple, pumpkin & pecan pies - Flyer at the back of the church with full details.
$25 each | 9-inch pies - Benefits "Neighbors in Need" ~ Thank you for supporting this wonderful cause!

FOREST HILLS CHOIR | MEMORIES INTO DREAMS | **Sat. Nov. 21 @ 7:30 PM | CITG Sanctuary**
Conductor: Joslyn Thomas | *Celebrating 15 Years of Making Music*
Tickets: $20 at the door or at fhchoir.org | Light reception to follow in the CITG Lounge

Navigating the Job Market | Sat., Nov. 21 | 5-7 PM| (CITG) Church Lounge | (Free)
Hosted by Alison Hyslop & Fred Weidmann | Please RSVP: admin@thecitg.org
Connect with others navigating the job market over a simple meal, shared experiences, and mutual support.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service | Sun. Nov. 22, @ 4 PM | FH Jewish Center | Use 69 Rd. ramp
Join family, friends, and neighbors from the Forest Hills community sing and give thanks together with Sunny & the Praise Band, the CITG Choir, alongside other choirs - Rev. Fred will be preaching. CITG members or friends interested in volunteering as greeters should contact Rev. Fred at revfred@thecitg.org. (He will connect volunteers with the synagogue)

BLOOD DRIVE – BE A HERO, DONATE BLOOD | Sunday, Nov 22 | 9 AM – 3 PM | CH Gym
Bring a photo ID, eat well, and stay hydrated. Eligibility: Must be 17 or older (16 with parental consent), meet minimum weight requirements, and be in good health. More Eligibility details: Please refer in advance at: nybc.org/eligibility

Weekly Word Newsletter | Stay connected with Church-in-the-Gardens!
Sign-up on back table. Our weekly Thursday newsletter shares church events, worship services, volunteer opportunities, Bible studies, and ways to get involved. Contact the church office at 718-268-6704 or admin@thecitg.org.

Donations to the Food Bank
Bring non-perishables every Sunday. Add to the basket in the sanctuary entrance and please check expiration dates before donating. Thanks kindly!