Reign of Christ & New Members Sunday
November 22, 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 Psalm 100)
One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!
Praise God with joy and singing!
All: We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.
One: God is good.
All: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Opening Hymn| NCH 300: Jesus Shall Reign (vv. 1, 3, 4)

***Prayer of Confession and Renewal**
One: O God, so often we go our own way;
Live according to our own will.
All: Forgive us.
One: Make us ambassadors of your "kingdom" that we pray for.
Be with us in this brief time of silent reflection…

***Sung Response:**
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.

***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: Ezekiel 34:11, 16, 20-24

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon: Christ the King? What Kind of King (or Ruler or Emperor)?
What Kind of Kingdom (or Rule or Empire)?

***Hymn | NCH 542:** Born of God, Eternal Savior (vv. 1, 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 the kingdom
and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.
Sung Response: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen. (2x)

Offering
Offertory: Come, Let us Sing (Psalm 95) 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 | SING! 128:** Shine, Jesus, Shine

Benediction

Postlude

**All who are able, please rise*

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

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". 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; Anne Sandager; Dora Shia and Luis Vazquez, Sr.
For all who are grieving or suffering loss of any kind.

For those in residential care:
Millicent Fairhurst; Constance Radut; Nafees WatkinsJackie 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: Zelia Mathew

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 22, 2026

CANCELLED This Sunday | Wellness/Exercise group
Class will resume next Sunday, November 29.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service | Sunday, Nov. 22, @ 4 PM | Forest Hills Jewish Center |Enter 69 Rd via 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
Location: Community House 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. **Eligibility details:** Please refer in advance at: nybc.org/eligibility

Greening of the Sanctuary | Saturday, Dec. 5 | 9:00 AM – 1 PM
Join us as we prepare our sanctuary for Christmas! All are welcome to help decorate with evergreen boughs, wreaths, ribbons, poinsettias, and other festive touches. Light refreshments will be provided.
Questions? Contact Cindy @ 917-403-2113.

The Weekly Word Newsletter | Connect with CITG news & events | Signup 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!

Stained glass windows of the Cathedral
Notre Dame, Strasbourg

