Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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

Opening Prayer

***Call to Worship**
One: Wisdom is radiant and unfading;
All: Easily discerned by those who love Her.
One: Let all seek the Wisdom of God.
All: Let all hear Your still-speaking voice.

Opening Hymn| NCH 40: You Are the Way

***Prayer of Confession and Renewal**
One: Forgive us, O God,
All: For all the ways we move away from you.
One: To embrace disenchantment instead of hope;
All: To show self-righteousness instead of grace,
One: Division instead of community,
All: Accusation instead of reconciliation.
One: O God, have mercy on us.
All: Move us by your Wisdom and love.
One: Be with us in this brief time of silent reflection…

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

First Lesson: Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20

Second Lesson: Amos 5:21-24

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon: "Wisdom" and "Delight" and (dare I say it? Jesus did) "Stay Awake"

***Second Hymn | NCH 369:** Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning (vv. 1,2 & 1)

***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: Open the Doors of Heaven (Psalm 78) 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! 284:** Go, My Children, With my Blessing

Benediction

Postlude

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; 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 Carla De Ycaza Montero & family, our church family & all grieving the loss of Jeanne De Ycaza.

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: Laura Jett

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)