

# *The Master's Message*

## *The Newsletter of the Church of the Master*

### *September, 2025*

*Virtual Adult Bible Study*  
Wednesday, 7:00 PM  
Saturday, 12:00

2783 Lafayette Avenue  
Bronx, N.Y. 10465  
718-597-6298

*Sunday Worship*  
Sunday 11:00 am

[cotin47@verizon.net](mailto:cotin47@verizon.net)

[WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG](http://WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG)

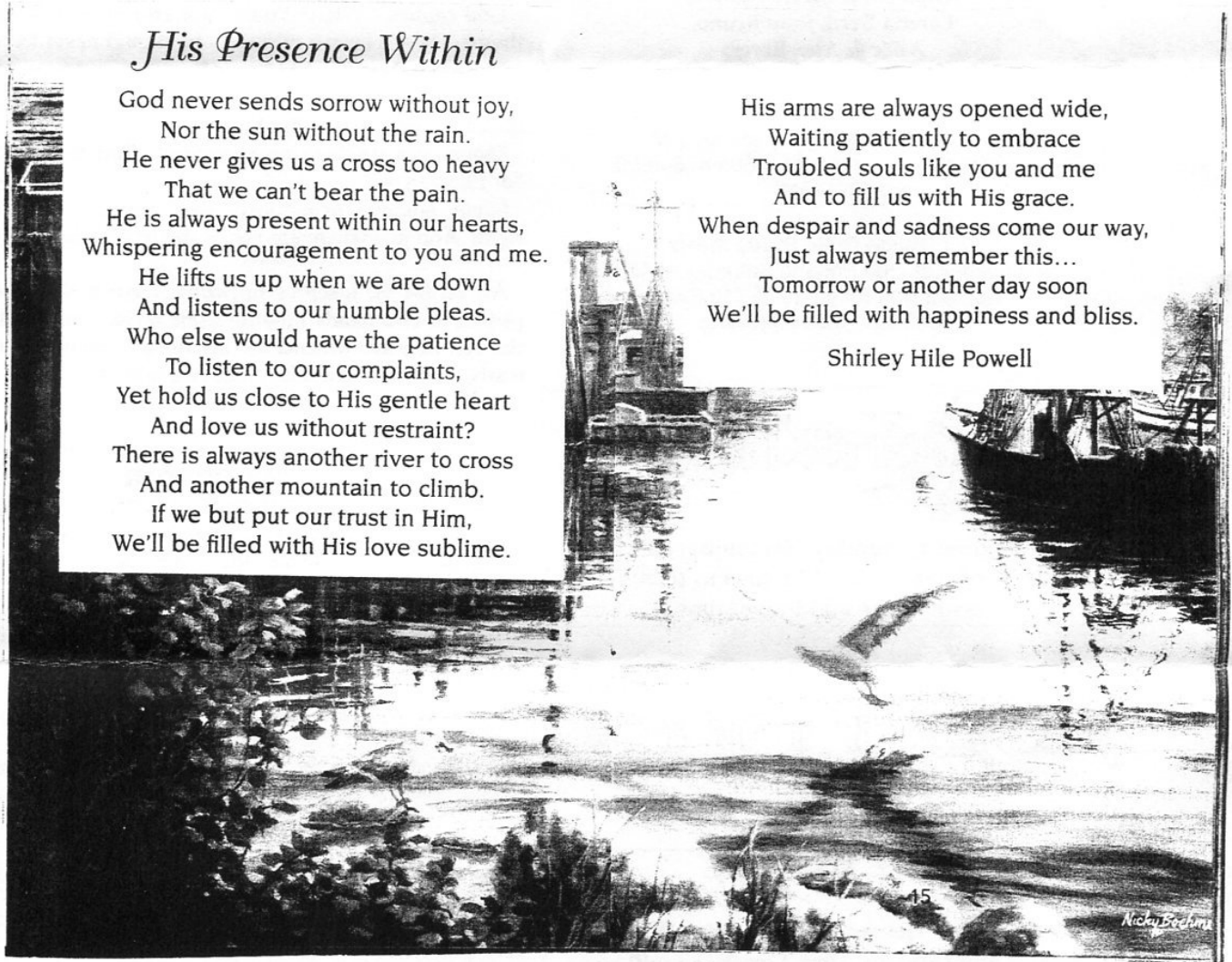
*Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor*

### *His Presence Within*

God never sends sorrow without joy,  
Nor the sun without the rain.  
He never gives us a cross too heavy  
That we can't bear the pain.  
He is always present within our hearts,  
Whispering encouragement to you and me.  
He lifts us up when we are down  
And listens to our humble pleas.  
Who else would have the patience  
To listen to our complaints,  
Yet hold us close to His gentle heart  
And love us without restraint?  
There is always another river to cross  
And another mountain to climb.  
If we but put our trust in Him,  
We'll be filled with His love sublime.

His arms are always opened wide,  
Waiting patiently to embrace  
Troubled souls like you and me  
And to fill us with His grace.  
When despair and sadness come our way,  
Just always remember this...  
Tomorrow or another day soon  
We'll be filled with happiness and bliss.

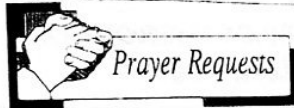
Shirley Hile Powell



## \*SPECIAL DATES\*

- Labor Day, September 1<sup>st</sup>
- National Grandparents Day, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>
- Patriot Day, September 11<sup>th</sup>
- First Day of Autumn, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

## \*News From the Pews\*



Continue praying for:  
Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,  
Loretta Byrd, John Bruno,  
Alice & Alex Rivera

Everyone is invited to join our virtual "**Hour of Prayer Power**" every Friday at 7:00 PM. The conference call-in number is 605-475-4860, code: 371231#

Our **Online Bible Study** meets  
Wednesday at 7:00 PM and Saturday at 12:00.  
Contact Ron Rivera (917-716-8273)  
for information on joining

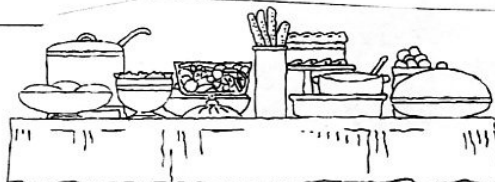


Beginning Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>,  
our worship service will return to 10:50 AM  
with Praise and Prayer time.



## SAVE THE DATE

Our **Annual Homecoming Sunday Worship Service and Covered Dish Luncheon** will be on  
Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.



## \*CHURCH CHUCKLES\*

An engineer dies and reports to the Pearly Gates. St. Peter checks his dossier and says, "Ah, I'm sorry, sir - you're in the wrong place." So, the engineer reports to the gates of hell and is let in. Pretty soon, the engineer gets dissatisfied with the level of comfort in hell and starts designing and building improvements. After a while, hell has air-conditioning and flush toilets and escalators, and the engineer is a pretty popular guy. One day, Satan calls up God and gloats, "Hey, things are going great down here. We've got air-conditioning and flush toilets and escalators, and there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

God replies, "What? You've got an engineer down there? There's been a mistake - he should never have gone down there. Send him up here."

"No way," Satan says. "I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him."

"Send him up here immediately," God thunders, "or I'll sue you."

Satan laughed uproariously and answers, "Yeah, right. And just where are you going to get a lawyer?"

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An ad for St. Joseph's Episcopal Church shows a picture of two hands holding stone tablets, on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. The headline reads, "For fast, fast relief, take two tablets."

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## My church

My church is composed of people like me. We make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous give. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I bring them.

My church will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with those things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.

## Was that a compliment?

After a worship service, a pastor was greeting people at the front door. A woman shook his hand vigorously and said, "That was a very helpful sermon. You know, you ought to have your sermons put in a book."

"Thank you!" answered the pastor. "Maybe my wife will have some of them published after I'm dead."

"Well," responded the elderly saint, "the sooner the better."



September 2025 Master's Message Newsletter – Pastor's Article

### *Home*

September signals the waning days of summer and hearkens our students back to school for a new school year and semester! For our Church of the Master Congregation, September hearkens us back to Sunday morning Worship Services at 11:00 AM. The third Sunday in September also beacons us to observe and celebrate our *Annual "Home Coming Sunday!"* *Home Coming* was started many years ago to welcome members and attendees back from summer vacations and also to invite former members to return home to celebrate with us!

Robert Frost famously wrote "*Home* is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in."<sup>1</sup> Church of the Master is the place where, when members and former members or attendees go there, we are always happy to see you and take you in (emphasis added)!

During the turbulent times in which we live, serve and worship, it is vitally important to have a loving, caring and encouraging "*church home*." Our aim, like every congregation, is to increase our dwindling membership rolls. But Church of the Master and other congregations of the Reformed Church in America (RCA) welcome all to come and worship with us! We offer various membership and attendee categories for everyone invited to our Worship Services. According to our RCA Book of Church Order, we have confessing members who are baptized and confess the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior. We have adherents who are persons we welcome and who faithfully attend our Sunday Worship Services and participate in all activities and ministries at Church of the Master. In addition to our Sunday Worship Services, we offer the following activities and ministries such as Bible Study on Zoom on every Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M. and every Saturday at 12:00 Noon. Prayer Meeting via conference call on Fridays at 7:00 P.M. We have our Dorcas Prayer Shawl crocheting ministry and painting activities. Our Master's Message Newsletter is published and mailed out monthly with a calendar to keep members informed and aware of happenings at Church of the Master. We welcome uplifting and informative articles. Our coffee hour fellowships are held on certain Sundays after Morning Worship Service. Soon, we plan to offer outreach ministry praise-exercise classes and Evangelistic Outreach to nursing homes and the surrounding communities.

A loving *church home* like Church of the Master is especially helpful when a member or family member is dealing with illness, or the loss of a loved one. The pastor and congregation encircle families with loving arms, provide spiritual support, and pray for and with them through these difficult life situations.

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<sup>1</sup> (Robert Frost Quotes. BrainyQuote.com, BrainyMedia Inc, 2025.  
[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/robert\\_frost\\_100246](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/robert_frost_100246). ((Accessed August 12, 2025)).

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 10:28-30).

“Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me;  
see, on the portals he’s waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

O for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me.

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden

One Big Happy

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It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of 31 year old decorated Firefighter **Matthew Goicochea**, son of Brigida & Robert and brother of Setphanie & Samantha Goicochea

The Goicochea family members are former members of our congregation.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the Goicochea, Martinez & McPherson families.

## The Wind and the Sun

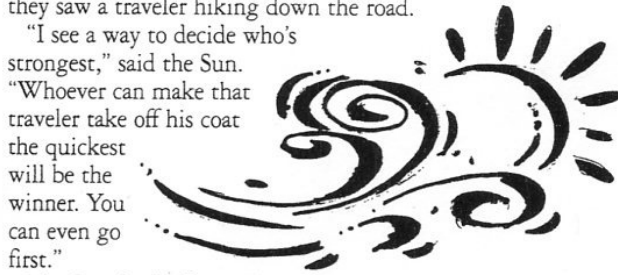
Aesop told the story about the Wind and the Sun, who were disputing which of them was stronger. After a while they saw a traveler hiking down the road.

"I see a way to decide who's strongest," said the Sun. "Whoever can make that traveler take off his coat the quickest will be the winner. You can even go first."

The Sun ducked behind a cloud, while the Wind began to blow mighty blasts of air at the traveler. But the harder the Wind blew, the closer the traveler pulled his cloak around himself. Finally, the Wind gave up in despair.

The Sun came out from behind the clouds and smiled down on the traveler. Feeling the gentle rays, the man soon found it too hot to walk with his cloak on. He felt so warm that he took off one garment after another, and then bathed in a nearby stream.

The Sun knew that warmth, friendliness and a gentle touch are always stronger than fury and force.



**Honoring Grandparents**

If Mama ain't happy,  
ain't nobody happy.

If  
**GRANDMA**  
ain't happy...  
**RUN**

## Grief

Grief is perhaps the most difficult of human emotions to face, though it also has the potential for being the most therapeutic. Grief isn't a bad thing; it's the cost of having loved. If we hadn't loved, if we hadn't cared, we wouldn't grieve. And our lives would have been even emptier.

## To worship is to sing

The worshiper who sings ... drinks more deeply of the message of the hymns. The gospel as found in our hymns is the same as that in the Scriptures.

The worshiper who sings ... becomes more deeply involved in the service; less of a spectator and more of a participant.

The worshiper who sings ... draws more closely to those who worship with him.

The worshiper who sings ... expresses faith by lifting his or her voice in praise to God.

The worshiper who sings ... upholds the service, making it finer and richer for fellow worshippers, the pastor, the church and God.



**September**

- "If you don't learn contentment, you'll never be happy. You'll always want more."

—Rick Warren

- "Whether you call on him or don't call on him, God will be present with you."

—Frederick Buechner

## Celebrate Labor Day

Labor Day, first celebrated in 1882, provides a day of rest for working Americans, showing their importance to the country's well-being.

Christians see work as a gift and command from God. Adam was put in the Garden to "till it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15, NRSV). Even Jesus chose workers to help carry out his mission.

Rest is just as significant as work. God commanded us to rest one day each week (Exodus 20:10). The Sabbath is a time for worship, family activities, renewal and recuperation.

Labor Day is a reminder to be grateful for the creativity, ingenuity, minds and muscle power of countless workers — all gifts of God. That's worth setting aside a day to appreciate.