

THE CHURCH OF THE MASTER

Reformed Church in America

2783 Lafayette Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465

(718-597-6298) cotm47@verizon.net

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor

(646-321-2380) therevlaw@aol.com

WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG

Happy New Year, and welcome to worship!

May God restore and bless us as we praise his name together

Second Sunday After Christmas

Epiphany Sunday

January 4, 2026

11:00 AM

Silent Preparation for Worship

As Christmas gives way to Epiphany, I place my life in your hands once more, dear Lord. Lead and guide me. Amen.

Welcome

* Hymn of Praise #548 - "Glory to His Name"

* Call to Worship: (in unison)

AS THE STAR REFLECTS THE GLORY OF GOD'S LOVE THAT SHINES ON BETHLEHEM TO ANNOUNCE HIS COMING, MAY WE SEE ON THE FACE OF THE CHRIST CHILD, THE LOVE OF GOD SHINING. AS THE WISE MEN CAME TO PAY HIM HOMAGE, WE GATHER TO WORSHIP, HAVING FOLLOWED A STAR. MAY IT BE A LIGHT TO OUR PATH AND A JOY WITHIN OUR HEARTS AS WE PRAISE AND OFFER THANKS TO GOD. AMEN

* Prayer of Praise and Adoration

* Confession of Faith - Apostles' Creed (#622 in hymnal), page 5 on this PDF

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O GOD OF FORGIVENESS AND GRACE, FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS, IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, LIGHT AROSE OVER A DARK WORLD IN THE BIRTH OF YOUR SON AT BETHLEHEM. HE CAME THAT OUR SINS WOULD BE FORGIVEN. THE DOORS OF OUR HEARTS ARE OFTEN TOO SMALL TO RECEIVE THIS KING OF LOVE AND LIFE. ALL IS TOO WEARY AND COLD FOR US TO BE READY TO MEET HIM. WE BEG YOU, COME INTO OUR HEARTS WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT AND YOUR LIGHT OF NEW BEGINNINGS. FORGIVE US OF OUR SINS, SO THAT EVERYTHING WHICH RESISTS THE BIRTH OF YOUR SON MAY BE DONE AWAY WITH, AND A CLEAR PATH BE OPENED FOR HIM. LED BY THE STAR, WE FIND YOUR LIGHT SHINING IN OUR SINFULNESS, WITH REDEEMING GRACE AND HOPE. AMEN.

Announcements

- * *Hymn of Preparation #197 - "We Three Kings"*

Christmas Theme: "Christmas Brings the Gift of Redeeming Grace!"

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6 (vv. 1-3)

Matthew 2:1-12 (vv. 1-3, 4-6, 8, 9-11, 12)

Sermon - "Christmas Brings the Gift of Redeeming Grace That Reveals Who Christ Jesus Is: The Light of the World!"

- * *Doxology (#39)*

- * *Blessing of Our Tithes and Offerings*

- * *Prayer*

*Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion
Lord's Prayer*

- * *Closing Hymn #449 - "Take My Life and Let It Be"*

- * *Choral Benediction: "Shalom to You" (congregation)*

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

- *Benediction (Pastor)*

* Please stand if able

Church of the Master Ministries

Sunday	11:00 AM	Worship Service (Holy Communion celebrated on the 1 st Sunday of each month)
	12:00 PM	"Hour of Prayer Power" in Hahn Hall.
Monday	5:00-9:00 PM	Bushiken Karate
Tuesday:	6:45 PM	Bible Study Fellowship (Men's Group) - contact Ed Bungert, zajdml@optimum.net
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Online Bible study: Contact Ron Rivera for info on joining
	5:00-9:00PM	Bushiken Karate
Thursday	7:30 PM	Women's Alcoholic Anonymous
Saturday	12:00 noon	Online Bible study: Contact Ron Rivera for info on joining
	9:30AM-1:00PM	Bushiken Karate

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

"Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer"

The Prayer List

Our prayers reflect a wonderful and whole-hearted commitment to intercessory prayer by this congregation. Each name will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks.

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Those with Special Needs:

Diane * Elena Caldera * Anne Dowling * Jerry Kemps * Jane Maze * Donald Zuvich

Prayers for Those Who Are Ill or have Medical Concerns:

Lily * Kathy Cortese * Heather * Carole Mahon * Pat * Elder Alistair Sealy * Francesca * Mike * Rev. Liz Brantum * Frank Font * Sharon Alexander * Rosa Stewart * Terry Mahon * Carol & Wally Cintron * Gene Peterson * Damon Hayden * Janet (friend of Mahon family) * Beverly Morrison * Patti Zeig * Rev. Singletary * Connie * Loretta Byrd & Wendy * Diante * Allen Ford * Alice & Alex Rivera * Arlene 'Auntie' Mayers *

Prayers for Those Dealing with Turmoil or Family Difficulties:

Pat's family * Cintron family * Heather * Donny & Carolyn Rosemond * Nancy & Gene Peterson * Barbara * Jay Escobar & family * Sharon Alexander * Damon & Alex and family * Wintress * Kiera & Avery & Martz family * Tyler, Nicole & Jackson * All caregivers * everyone battling addictions

Prayers For Those Seeking Direction/Needing God's Presence in Their Lives:

Heather * Zachariah Bungert * Ed & Marnie Reidy and their sons * Elvis Frias Sr. & Theresa * Diante Stinson * Corey Streeter * young adults

Prayers for Those Seeking Employment:

Prayers for World Concerns:

Concerns for job security for Federal workers * An end to the war between Russia & Ukraine and the Middle East conflict * An end to all the violence * Peace and healing in our community and the nation * All first responders * Our country's safety * The future of our churches * The President and his administration * Pastor Sohail Latif and his congregation in Pakistan * Worldwide conflicts * Sean Buckley & Katie Mahon and all active duty members & their families

Prayers for the families & friends of those who have died:

Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Sealy, Pastor of Mott Haven Reformed Church

PRAYERS FOR THE GROWTH OF CHURCH OF THE MASTER:

Lord, please send people through our doors with whom we can share the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Undeck-the-Halls morning is scheduled for Friday, January 9th.

Please make plans to come help

CHURCH OF THE MASTER MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Christ-centered community church united in prayer and loving Christian fellowship, Bible teaching and preaching Christ crucified,

Glory to His Name — 548

ELISHA A. HOFFMAN

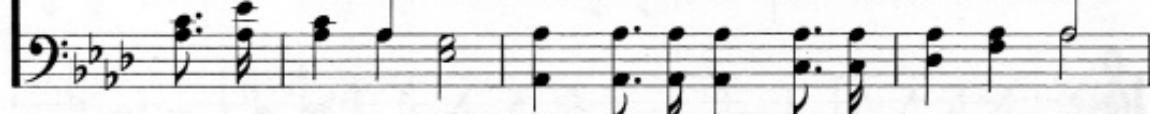
JOHN H. STOCKTON



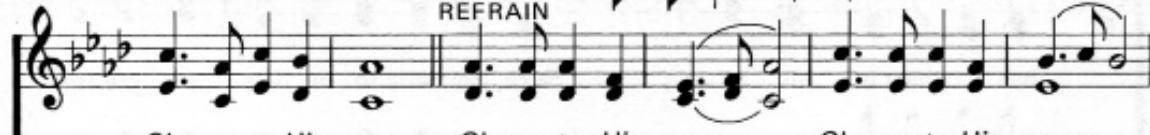
1. Down at the cross where my Sav - ior died, Down where for cleans -
2. I am so won - drous-ly saved from sin, Je - sus so sweet -
3. O pre - cious foun-tain that saves from sin, I am so glad
4. Come to this foun - tain so rich and sweet, Cast thy poor soul



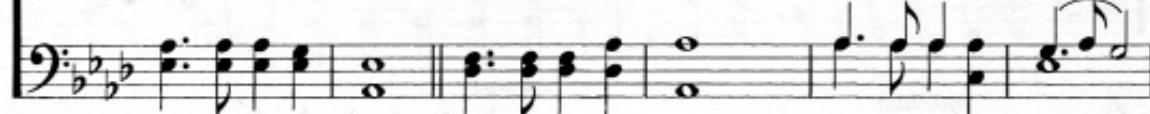
ing from sin I cried, There to my heart was the blood ap - plied -
ly a - bides with - in; There at the cross where He took me in -
I have en - tered in; There Je - sus saves me and keeps me clean -
at the Sav - ior's feet; Plunge in to - day and be made com - plete -



REFRAIN



Glo - ry to His name. Glo - ry to His name, Glo - ry to His name;



There to my heart was the blood ap - plied - Glo - ry to His name.



WITNESS AND TESTIMONY

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

197 — We Three Kings

JOHN H. HOPKINS, Jr.

JOHN H. HOPKINS, Jr.

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are: Bear - ing gifts we trav-erse a - far-
 2. Born a king on Beth-le-hem's plain: Gold I bring to crown Him a-gain,
 3. Frank-in - cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
 4. Myrrh is mine: its bit - ter per-fume Breathes a life of gath - er-ing gloom-
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise: King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

Field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain—Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
 Prayer and prais-ing, all men rais - ing, Wor-ship Him, God on high.
 Sor - rwing, sigh-ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Earth to heav'n re - plies.

REFRAIN

O star of won-der, star of night, Star with roy-al beau - ty bright,

West - ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

CHRIST: HIS BIRTH

Isaiah 60:1-6 (vv. 1-3); Matthew 2:1-12 (vv. 1-3, 4-6, 8, 9-11, 12)

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon
you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on
their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^[a]
because the abundance of the sea shall be
brought to you, the wealth of the nations
shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men^[a] from the East came to Jerusalem,² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[c] was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd^[d] my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Meaning of the Sacrament,
The Invitation
Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you
AND ALSO WITH YOU
Lift up your hearts!

WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

FOR IT IS HOLY AND RIGHT TO DO SO

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty to give thanks to you at all times and in all places, O Lord our Creator, almighty and everlasting God! You created heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty. You have given us life and being, and preserve us by your providence. But you have shown us the fullness of your love in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation. For the precious gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to you we praise and bless you, O God. With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore your glorious name.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD OF HOSTS! HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST! BLESSED IS HE THAT COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

(A short period of silence and the prayer continues)

Sharing the Bread & Sharing the Cup

Thanksgiving after Communion

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME, BLESS GOD'S HOLY NAME

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

AND FORGET NOT ALL GOD'S BENEFITS

who forgives all your iniquity,

WHO HEALS ALL YOUR DISEASES

who redeems your life from the Pit,

WHO CROWNS YOU WITH STEADFAST LOVE AND MERCY

The Lord is merciful and gracious,

SLOW TO ANGER AND ABOUNDING IN STEADFAST LOVE

God does not deal with us according to our sins,

NOR REQUITE US ACCORDING TO OUR INIQUITIES

for as the heavens are high above the earth,

SO GREAT IS GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM

as far as the east is from the west,

SO FAR DOES GOD REMOVE OUR

TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US

as a father pities his children,

SO THE LORD PITIES THOSE WHO FEAR HIM

God did not spare His only son, but gave him up for us all,

and will also give us all things with Him.

THEREFORE SHALL MY MOUTH AND HEART SHOW FORTH THE PRAISE OF THE LORD, FROM THIS TIME FORTH FOREVERMORE. AMEN.

Take My Life and Let It Be — 449

FRANCES R. HAVERGAL

H. A. CÉSAR MALAN

1. Take my life and let it be
 2. Take my hands and let them move
 3. Take my voice and let me sing
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold -
 5. Take my will and make it Thine -
 6. Take my love - my Lord, I pour

Con - se - cra - ted,
 At the im - pulse
 Al - ways, on - ly,
 Not a mite would
 It shall be no
 At Thy feet its

Lord, to Thee; Take my mo - ments and my days -
 of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be
 for my King; Take my lips and let them be
 I with - hold; Take my in - tel - lect and use
 long - er mine; Take my heart - it is Thine own,
 treas - ure store; Take my - self - and I will be

Let them
 Swift and
 Filled with
 Ev - 'ry
 It shall
 Ev - er,

flow in cease - less praise,
 beau - ti - ful for Thee,
 mes - sag - es from Thee,
 pow'r as Thou shalt choose,
 be Thy roy - al throne,
 on - ly, all for Thee,

Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
 Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
 Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
 It shall be Thy roy - al throne.
 Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.*

Tune: HENDON (Alternate, TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, adapted)

COMMITMENT