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) <u>therevlaw@aol.com</u> WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG

Our gracious God has drawn each of us here. It is good to be together to blend our voices in prayer and praise of him whose mercy knows no bounds. Welcome!

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024

11:00 AM

Silent Preparation for Worship

As we prepare our hearts for worship, Lord, we lay at your feet all worries and cares. Please give us peace ad nourish us with your Word.

Welcome

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

* Call to Worship: (in unison)

YOU KNOW US INSIDE AND OUT AND YOU STILL CALL US TO SERVE YOU. LORD, WE ARE OFTEN HESITANT, AFRAID AND WISH TO REMAIN HIDDEN. AS WE PRAISE YOUR NAME AND WORSHIP YOU IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH, EMPOWER US TO LISTEN FOR AND TO HEAR YOUR CALL. EMPOWER US TO ANSWER YOUR CALL WITH "HERE I AM, LORD". EMPOWER US TO FOLLOW YOU WHEN YOU CALL US TO FOLLOW YOU. HERE WE ARE TO WORSHIP YOU. HERE WE ARE TO FOLLOW, TO FOLLOW THE WAY OF THE CROSS. 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)

HOLY GOD, IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR HOLINESS, WE SEE OURSELVES AS WE REALLY ARE. FORGIVE US OF OUR SINFULNESS. WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE PEOPLE OF IMPURE THOUGHTS AND UNCLEAN LIPS. WE THINK TOO HIGHLY OF OURSELVES AND TOO LITTLE OF OTHERS. WE CLING SO TIGHTLY TO THE TREASURES OF THIS WORLD THAT WE CANNOT OPEN OUR HANDS TO RECEIVE BLESSINGS FROM ABOVE. OUR FEET FOLLOW WRONG PATHWAYS. WE WANDER SO FAR ASTRAY THAT WE BECOME STRANGERS TO RIGHTEOUSNESS. FORGIVE US AND SET US AGAIN ON THE PATH THAT LEADS TO LIFE. LEAD US BESIDE STILL WATERS. RESTORE OUR SOULS. DEAL WITH US NOT AS WE DESERVE, BUT ACCORDING TO YOUR LOVING MERCY; NOT BECAUSE WE ARE WORTHY BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE GRACIOUS. WE ASK THIS IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

Announcements

* Hymn of Preparation #227 - "At the Cross"

Lent Theme: "Unbounded Love!"

Scrípture: Exodus 20:1-17 (1-3,4-6,7-9,10-12,13-16) 1 Cor. 1:18-25 (vv.18-21,23-25) Sermon:: "Unbounded Love That Leads Us From the Law to the Cross!

- * Doxology (#39)
- * Blessing of Our Tithes and Offerings
- * Prayer

Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion Lord's Prayer

- * Closing Hymn #321 "It Is Well with My Soul"
- * 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)
Monday	5:00-9:00 PM	Bushiken Karate
Wednesda	y 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
Friday	7:00 PM	"Hour of Prayer Power" virtual meeting
The conference call-in number is 605-475-4860, code - 371231#		
Saturday	12:00 noon	Online Bible study: Contact Ron Rivera for info on joining
9:3	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 * Anne Dowling * Jerry Kemps * Jane Maze * Donald Zuvich

Prayers for Those Who Are Ill or have Medical Concerns:

Sandra McPherson * Carole Mahon * Naomi Shapiro * Barbara * Skip Adams * Deanna * Loretta Byrd & Wendy * Terry Mahon * Leon Stinson * Aunt Betty * Diante * Stephanie Leeder * Virginia & Joe Smith * John Almodovar * Ellen McCullough * Peter Koys * Ethan * Olga Caldera * Damon George Hayden * Allen Ford * Alice & Alex Rivera * Arlene 'Auntie' Mayers * Rosa Stewart * LouEllen Crowley * People with COVID

Prayers for Those Dealing with Turmoil or Family Difficulties:

Jessica and Julian * Shapiro family * Dorothy * Sharon Alexander * Damon & Alex and family * Jay & family * Delgado family * Wintress * Domina * Denise Waldron * Byrd family * Kiera & Avery & Martz family * Tyler, Nicole & Jackson * Ed Reidy & family * All caregivers * everyone battling addictions

Prayers For Those Seeking Direction:

Zechariah * Diante Stinson * Corey Streeter * young adults

Prayers for Those Seeking Employment:

Nick * Alex Ingram * Terry Mahon

Prayers for World Concerns:

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 * COVID patients, families & all healthcare workers * All first responders * Our country's safety * The future of our churches * Our President and his administration * Pastor Sohail Latif and his congregation in Pakistan * Worldwide conflicts * Sean Reidy & Katie Mahon and all active duty members & their families

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

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

*Easter Flower order forms are on the table in the narthex. The flower order forms are due by <u>next Sunday</u>

*Consistory will meet next Sunday following the worship service.

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, risen and coming again.



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.

227 — At the Cross ISAAC WATTS Chorus-Ralph E. Hudson RALPH E. HUDSON 2 2 and did Sav - ior bleed? And did my Sov - 'reign die? 1. A' las! my Was it for crimes that I have done He groaned up - on the tree? 3. Well might the sun in dark-ness hide And shut his glo - ries in, 4. But drops of grief can ne'er re-pay The debt of love I owe: 0. 7 Would He de - vote that sa - cred head For such a worm as 12 Α maz - ing pit - y! grace un-known! And love be - yond de - gree! When Christ, the might -y Mak - er, died For man the crea-ture's sin. Here, Lord, I give my - self a - way-'Tis all that I can do! CHORUS At the cross, first at the cross where I saw the light And the bur-den of my heart rolled a . way-It was there faith by - ceived my sight, And I am hap-py all the day! re now CHRIST: HIS PASSION

Exodus 20:1-17 (1-3,4-6,7-9,10-12,13-16) 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (vv.18-21,23-25)

Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation^[b] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹² Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ You shall not murder. ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ You shall not steal. ¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,

²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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 REOUITE US ACCORDING TO OUR INIOUITIES 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.

