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

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, welcome to worship! Please take a moment to greet others as you leave.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

10:00 AM

Sílent Preparation for Worship

I am spiritually thirsty, Jesus. Give me yourself as Living Waterthrough this worship service and always

#### Welcome

\* Hymn of Praise #319 - "Blessed Assurance"

\* 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

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 #524- "At Calvary" Lent Theme: "Bread of Life!" Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-9 (vv.1-3,6-8,9) Luke 13:1-9 (vv.1-3,6-9)
 Sermon- "The Bread of Life Abundantly Pardons and Gives Us a Reprieve to Achieve!"

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

\* Closing Hymn #306 - "Just As I Am"

\* 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 Mínístríes                               |              |   |
|---|--------------|---|
| Sunday  | 11:00 AM     | Worship Service (Holy Communion celebrated on the 1 <sup>st</sup> 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

<u>"Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer</u>"

#### 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 III or have Medical Concerns:

Janet (friend of Mahon family) \* Beverly Morrison \* Robert Solimando \* John T \* Michael Campinello \* Michele \* Anthony \* Adam-Troy \* Patti Zeig & John \* Stephanie \* Rev. Singletary \* Connie \* Pat Lynam \* Carole Mahon \* Loretta Byrd & Wendy \* Diante Damon George Hayden \* Allen Ford \* Alice & Alex Rivera \* Arlene 'Auntie' Mayers \* Rosa Stewart

Prayers for Those Dealing with Turmoil or Family Difficulties:

Washington family \* Cheryl & family \* Jay Escobar & family \* Close friends of the Bungerts \* Sharon Alexander \* Damon & Alex and family \* Wintress \* Byrd family \* Kiera & Avery & Martz family \* Tyler, Nicole & Jackson \* All caregivers \* everyone battling addictions

Prayers For Those Seeking Direction/Needing God's Presence in Their Lives: Elvis Frias Sr. & Theresa \* Devell \* Zachariah Bungert \* Diante Stinson \* Corey Streeter \* young adults

Prayers for Those Seeking Employment:

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 \* 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:

Ellen McCullough \*

#### 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**

\*Our 2025 Classis Assessment is \$133.00 per member. **Please help us make these payments every quarter by paying your share.** If you'd like to pay quarterly, the amount is \$33.25.

#### **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. Blessed Assurance — 319



# 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.



## Isaiah 55: 1-9 (vv. 1-3, 6-8, 9) Luke 13:1-9 (vv. 1-3, 6-9)

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

<sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup> He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

