

Order of Service - 9:00 and 11:00am

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28, 2010

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

PRELUDE Prelude in D Major J. S. Bach
Marble Amazing Grace and In Harmony Children's Choirs, Fred Meads, *conducting*
Christopher Creaghan, *organist*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP(9:00am) Nick, Elizabeth, Sofia and Juliette Testa Licata

INTROIT “Hosanna Nkosi Phezulu”*Traditional South African*, arr. Nyberg
Sung in Zulu; translation: Hosanna to God in the highest! If people stop their praising then the stones will shout: Hosanna to God in the highest!

HYMN 279 “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”*St. Theodulph*

INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (use “debts”)

ANTHEM (9:00am) “Hosanna”Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith, arr. Dake
Marble Amazing Grace and In Harmony Children’s Choirs, Fred Meads, *conducting*
Donald Batchelder, *trumpet*
Refrain: Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna! King of Israel, welcome to our hearts, here to reign in righteousness. O Ruler of the world, Ruler of our hearts, now ascend Your throne: You are the King of kings, Hosanna! *Refrain.* Riding on in love to Jerusalem, riding on in gentle strength. O come to save Your own, come to give Your life, the kingdom is at hand. You are the King of kings, Hosanna! *Refrain.*

(11:00am) “Wondrous Love”*American folk-hymn*, arr. Paul Christiansen
David Schnell, *tenor*
What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of life to bear the heavy cross. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, that Christ should lay aside His crown for my soul!

(*Latecomers seated*)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

HYMN 310 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*St. Christopher*

SPEAKING FOR HOUR CHILDREN (11:00am)

OFFERTORY “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”arr. Gilbert Martin
The text is that of Hymn 293.

HYMN 556 “Praise God”(*Doxology*) *Old Hundredth*

READING OF THE SCRIPTURELuke 19:28-39 (*Pew Bible, page 854*)
(9:00am) Amanda O’Dell-Torres

SERMON “THE ROAD TO THE CROSS”Dr. Michael B. Brown
Today’s sermon is available on CD; visit the Portico after worship.

HYMN “The Old Rugged Cross”*Please refer to insert.*

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “The Palms”Jean-Baptiste Faure
Donald Batchelder, *trumpet*
Today’s music is offered to the glory of God; please refrain from applause following the postlude.

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

9:00am — Rev. David Lewicki, Elizabeth Testa

11:00am — Rev. Steven D. Pierce, Dr. P. Kimberleigh Jordan

Marble Sanctuary Choir and Festival of Voices, Christopher Creaghan, *accompanist*

Marble Amazing Grace and In Harmony Children’s Choirs

Visit www.marblechurch.org for live streaming video of worship — Sundays at 11:00am.

Use of photographic and tape recording equipment is not permitted during the service.
Assistive Listening System (infrared) available for use off center aisle—ask an usher.

Easter Sunday

April 4

7:00am Sunrise Service with Holy Communion, Poling Chapel

8:45 and 10:45am, Music Prelude for Brass and Organ

9:00 and 11:00am Worship, “The Road to Emmaus” — Dr. Michael B. Brown

Opportunities for Helping Others

DRIVE FOR DIGNITY — through April 25

Help with our 10th Annual *Drive for Dignity* for two homeless shelters. Please bring new underwear for adults to the Action Table where a list of suggestions is also available.

Thursday, April 1 — Help Marble support **Single Parent Resource Center’s “Kid’s Day”** party for homeless children who are part of five after school programs. Games, arts & crafts, food and fun in Bay Hall, 9:30am-3:00pm. ❖

Sunday, April 4 — Volunteers needed to serve luncheon at the **Sunday Lounge**, a church center for senior adults on East 31st Street. ❖

Sunday, April 4 — Canned foods in individual serving sizes needed for donation to **HONEY** (Help Our Neighbors Eat Year-round). ❖

Saturday, April 24 — Join Marble’s team for the citywide **New York Cares “Hands On New York Day”** as we spring clean, paint, plant, rake and beautify a public park or garden. 8:30am-4:00pm. ❖

The Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America needs office volunteers to assist in their Midtown office; hours and schedule flexible. ❖

Marble Fights Hunger — Bring nutritious, non-perishable food items to Marble each Sunday and place them in the Marble Fights Hunger baskets in Bay Hall, the narthex and the Portico. We also need volunteers to help sort food for distribution. For information on what foods are needed and which agencies receive our gifts, pick up a shopping list from 29th St. lobby.

Used eyeglasses and hearing aids are forwarded (respectively) to the Lions Club’s Eyes for the Blind, and to the Center for Hearing and Communication. ❖

❖ *Sign up and leave donations at the Action Table on the Portico after worship.*

Ministries and Information

BRING-A-FRIEND SUNDAY, APRIL 18

Is there someone you know who would find inspiration from our worship service, programs, brunch and warm, embracing community? Pray for them, care for them, and share your church family with them.

Flowers are placed in the Sanctuary — In loving memory of Hetty and Joe by Valerie Doll and family.

The Marble Moment — Please offer a moment of prayer each morning at 8:00am, wherever you are, to lift up the needs and hopes of the Marble Church family.

Prayer Ministry — To ask for prayer, or share feedback, go to the Prayer Room or use Prayer Request card. Members of the Spiritual Enrichment Team spend at least two weeks in prayer over each request.

The Peale Society — We are blessed by those who have gone before us and left a legacy to Marble. We are also grateful for those who have advised us that they have included Marble in their will; if you have not, please let us know so we can honor you with membership in The Peale Society.

MarbleSpeaks@marblechurch.org — Communicate with Marble’s Board of Elders and Deacons and Dr. Brown to share your ideas and concerns via this special e-mail address. You may also use a *MarbleSpeaks* form found at the Hospitality Table and in the 29th Street lobby, or correspond by mail, addressed to MarbleSpeaks.

Coat check room is available adjoining Burrell Hall (lower level). So we may seat as many worshippers as possible in the Sanctuary, please do not place coats on pews. 9:30am - 2:00pm.

Traffic pattern changes next Sunday — Easter Parade, Fifth Ave (49th-57th Sts); Street Fair, W. 23rd St (7th-8th Ave), from 10:00am. Please plan positively for your time at Marble.

Parking discount — Central Parking at 7–11 W. 28 St (directly across from Marble; you may enter on 28th or 29th Sts). You may still park at 29 W. 28 St (north side of street, bet. 6th Ave–Broadway). \$10 up to seven hours Saturdays/Sundays (weekdays after 5:00pm). Marble Receptionist will validate ticket.

When You Need Help

Marble Church (212-686-2770) — For members in the hospital or ill at home.

www.ourprayer.org — For prayer requests; founded by Dr. and Mrs. Peale.

Hope Hotline (212-714-4673) — For daily messages of hope.

Blanton-Peale Counseling Ctr (212-725-7850 or www.blantonpeale.org) — Individual, group, family.

Visit www.marblechurch.org for:

Live streaming — 10:00am, Bible Study with Sr. Carol Perry; 11:00am, Worship; 12:30pm, Talkback with Dr. Brown; 12:45pm, Replay of Bible Study; 1:30pm, Adult Education.

Downloadable Audio and Video — Inspiration anytime. Visit our multi-media sermon archive.

Spiritual Blogs — Postings by Dr. Brown, Sr. Carol Perry, Dr. Jordan, Rev. Lewicki, Rev. Pierce, Nina Frost. For comments about this week’s worship music visit Kenneth Dake’s blog.

Other MarbleVision Media Outreach

Television — Episodes of *Simple Faith with Dr. Michael Brown* air Fridays at 4:30pm on MNN, Time Warner Ch. 57, RCN Ch. 85.

Assisting the media ministry — *Audio*, Cliff Pospisil, Dale Whitman, Aris Guerrero, Nick Giardina. *Crew*, Lawrence Bailey, Patrick Carroll, Michael Cashdollar, Anthony Falcone, Gene Eagle, David Hargett, Richard Harper, Robert Schindler, Mario Sprouse, Thomas Stark.

Radio — Sundays at 7:00pm ET on WOR/710 AM. (Also on www.wor710.com)

CDs, DVDs, books, printed sermons featuring Dr. Brown, Dr. Caliandro, Dr. Peale, and others. Browse on the Portico after worship, online at www.marblechurch.org, or call 1-800-626-2724.

YouTube — Visit www.youtube.com/marblechurch for a variety of Marble-related videos.

Thank you to those who serve by pouring coffee, greeting, teaching, answering questions and much more. Ushers & Greeters: *Head*, Stephen Pindar; *Co-Head*, George Hahn. Gladys Adams, Richard D. Aljian, Lawrence Bailey, Collin Batten, David Brookshire, Martha Brookshire, Delia Cintron, Hunter Dare, Leslie Duverge, James Flaig, Sandra Fiechtner, Dave Grant, Gail Kitselman, Dorothy Marsh, Frances Marsh, Mamie McIndoe, Baleta McKenzie, David Parries, George Rogers, Dennis Ryan, Barbara Sagan, Jean C. Silva, Clarice Simpson, Janet Smith, Lori Soderholm-Weber, Susanah Wade, Caleb Waugh, Urs Weber, Robert L. Williams, Dewey W. Wood.

Holy Week at Marble

Tuesday, March 30

Spirituality in the Workplace — 12:00-1:00pm. Sr. Carol Perry leads Bible study in downtown Manhattan at Carter, Ledyard, Milburn, 2 Wall St., 18th flr. All welcome; bring lunch if you wish.

The Public Life of Jesus — 6:30pm, Meeting Place. Sr. Carol Perry uses the Gospel of John to look at key events in the public life of Jesus and also makes a comparison study of the Passion and Death of Jesus as recorded in all four gospels.

Wednesday, March 31

60+ Fellowship — For retired and semiretired adults, all welcome. Call Liz Testa for information on joining.
9:30am **AARP free preparation of tax returns** for adults age 50 and over. Room 205, to 2:00pm. Bring current tax forms, evidence of 2009 income, and copies of 2008 State and Federal tax returns. Each Wednesday through mid-April. First come, first served.
10:00am **Exercise Class** — Gentle stretching and cardio; all levels and abilities. Led by peer instructors.
10:45am **Bible Study** — “Lessons for the Road,” led by Sister Carol Perry, check lobby sign for room.
12:00pm **Lunch and Fellowship** in Bay Hall, \$7.
1:00pm **Program:** Pianist Alexandra Beliakovich presents a classical recital of her latest pieces.
2:15pm **Movie:** “Artists & Models,” Room 601. **Bridge Club:** Room 800. Experienced players welcome.

Wednesday Worship, our weekly service of contemporary praise and prayer, resumes April 7.

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Tenebrae — Named after the Latin word for *shadows*, this solemn service progresses to the gradual extinguishing of lights, symbolic of Jesus’ dark hours on the cross. Dramatic readings directed by Marjorie Martin with Victor Slezak in the role of Jesus; music by the Marble Sanctuary Choir, directed by Kenneth Dake. (Please be punctual, as we are unable to seat latecomers once the Tenebrae portion begins.) 7:00pm.

Good Friday, April 2

Music for Meditation — Voxare String Quartet, 11:30am, Sanctuary.

Worship — “Betrayed By a Kiss,” Dr. Brown, Sanctuary. Noon. Kenneth Dake leads the Marble Festival of Voices and Sanctuary Choir in excerpts from Mozart’s *Requiem*.

Prayer Vigil — Sanctuary. Join us in praying for others. Come/go when you wish. To request prayer, use Good Friday Prayer Vigil card in pew. 1:00-3:00pm.

Connection (20s-30s) Upper Room Dinner — 6:15pm. young adults gather for dinner and an open reflection time. Please bring a traditional Middle Eastern food item and pre-register with Rev. Lewicki (DLewicki@marblechurch.org).

Easter Sunday, April 4

Sunrise Service — Led by Revs. Pierce, Lewicki and Jordan. Holy Communion. 7:00am, Poling Chapel.

Breakfast — Celebratory breakfast, 8:00-8:45am. \$10; reservations required by April 1. Call Siobhan Tull.

Worship — “The Road to Emmaus,” Dr. Michael Brown, 9:00am and 11:00am. Prelude for Brass and Organ, 8:45am and 10:45am. Children and families encouraged to attend early worship, special activities for children between services, choirs meet at regular times. We suggest members attend 9:00am worship and arrive as early as possible for services to assist ushers in accommodating the many worshippers expected.

Weeks Ahead

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY **Marble Connection (20s-30s)**
Wednesday, April 7 — 7:15pm. Every Wednesday night this spring, young adults gather after Wednesday Worship for Bible study in Peale Parlor to discuss the Gospel of Luke.

ROADS TO PRAYER — A Day Retreat at Marble Saturday, April 10, 9:30am – 2:30pm

The day includes guided meditation with Sr. Carol Perry, journaling with Nina Frost, and walking the labyrinth with Jean Ando. A closing meditation service with Holy Communion is led by Rev. David Lewicki and Liz Testa. Sponsored by The Spiritual Enrichment Ministry and Committed Couples. Cost, \$20 (\$15, Students/Seniors); includes light breakfast. Bring own lunch. Registration required; reserve in Bay Hall after Sunday worship, online at www.marblechurch.org, or call Judy Tulin, ext. 709.

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Sunday, April 11 — 10:00am, Meeting Place. Follow the first Christians as they discover what it means to live this faith that Jesus left with them. The Acts of the Apostles chronicles the story of these Christian pioneers as they wrestle with structure and decision-making on the roads of the Roman Empire. Led by Sr. Carol Perry. Through April 25. **Adult Education**

READING THE BIBLE ON THE A TRAIN

Sunday, April 11 — 12:30pm. Rev. David Lewicki offers practical strategies for reading the Bible for personal growth and helps you get on friendlier terms with the Book of Books. A light brunch of fruit salad, bagels, and coffee/tea served (\$3 donation). **Marble Connection (20s-30s)**

WOMEN’S RETREAT REUNION BRUNCH

Sunday, April 11 — 12:30pm, Meeting Place. All women invited to this festive brunch, whether or not you attended the 2010 retreat. Bring a friend and introduce her to our community of women at Marble. Cost, \$12. Register in Bay Hall after worship, or online at www.marblechurch.org. Childcare provided. **Women’s Ministry**

CHARTING YOUR COURSE IN EASTER

Sunday, April 11 — 1:30pm, Bay Hall. The Easter season is an invitation to live a fully vibrant life year-round. Nina Frost explores the surprising, ongoing ways the biblical stories surrounding Easter are also road maps to your own spiritual growth and renewal. Come chart your journey in some new, exciting and healing ways. **Adult Education**

Visit www.marblechurch.org for information on all upcoming programs.

Today at Marble

To Our Visitors

Welcome to America's Hometown Church! Information about Marble's life and ministry is in pews. For annual subscription to Dr. Brown's printed sermons, call MarbleVision 212-686-2770.

Children, Youth and Families Ministry

Parents Group — Resumes April 11.

Children and Youth attend and participate in 9:00am worship.

Infant to 4 yrs, 2nd flr
9:00am-1:00pm, Nursery/Child Care
10:00am, Toddler Music Class

1st to 6th grade, 6th flr
10:00am, Sunday School
11:30am, Children's Choir

CYF Library, for parents and children
9:15am - 1:00pm, 2nd flr

Pre-K to Kindergarten, 2nd flr
10:00am, Sunday School
10:45am, Cherub Choir

Junior and Senior High, 6th flr
10:00am, Sunday School

Childrens' Chapel, for parents and children
9:30am-1:15pm, 2nd flr

Marble Curriculum for Spiritual Growth

Visit www.marblechurch.org for live streaming video of Sr. Carol's Bible Study and the 1:30pm class.

Prayer Circle — 8:30am. Rev. Greg Johnson leads this time for prayer, singing, and Scripture reading. Poling Chapel. No Prayer Circle next Sunday; join us for a Sunrise Service with Holy Communion at 7:00am.

BIBLE STUDY AND BREAKFAST AT 10:30AM

The Final Journey — Join Sr. Carol Perry for this special Palm Sunday Bible study that traces the path of Jesus in the final chapters of Luke's gospel. Continental breakfast; \$5 suggested donation. Meeting Place.

ADULT EDUCATION AT 1:30PM: The Lenten Journey

End Hunger Now — Rev. David Lewicki leads a discussion among experts about what faith communities can do to end hunger. We welcome Janet Poppendieck from Hunter College; Hannah Laufer-Rottman from Palms for Life, Joel Berg from NYC Coalition Against Hunger and John Coonrod of The Hunger Project. Bay Hall.

CDs (\$8) of Bay Hall and Meeting Place sessions are available for purchase each Sunday on the Portico or by contacting MarbleVision, 212-686-2770.

After the 9:00am Service

Coffee Hour — Bay Hall. Greet old friends, meet new ones.

After the 11:00am Service

No Guided Sanctuary Tour today or Easter Sunday; resumes April 11.

Program Registration Information — Reserve for programs in Bay Hall after worship, or purchase online with credit card at www.marblechurch.org. Dinner reservations required 24 hours in advance. * (By reserving in advance, you help Marble to manage its food service responsibly.)

Online Q&A Session — Immediately after worship, Poling Chapel. Dr. Brown appears on-screen in conversation with Marble's online community based on today's sermon. Hosted by Liz Testa. The session is brief to allow you to attend Coffee Hour, brunch, or other events.

Coffee Hour — Bay Hall, after worship. All invited for tea or coffee. Greet old friends, meet new ones. Visit Welcome Table staffed with Hospitality Team members. Learn about program ministries, sign up for events.

All Young Adults (20s/30s) invited for coffee and fellowship at the Connection Table in Bay Hall after worship. Our conversations on the 4th floor continue the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday Brunch — Burrell Hall, after worship. Adults \$12, children \$6. Family plan: parent/guardian with two or more children, one child eats free. No brunch on Easter Sunday, resumes April 11.

Men's Brunch Discussion — 12:30pm, Burrell Hall. Look for greeter and tables reserved for Men's Ministry. At 1:00pm we convene in Room 806 to discuss "How to Draw Upon Your Higher Power" from Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's book *The Power of Positive Thinking*. All men welcome. \$12 (no reservation needed).

Sign up for new Small Groups — Inquire after worship at the small group table in Bay Hall, or contact Baleta McKenzie, ext. 466 or BMcKenzie@marblechurch.org.

Prayers for Peace — The ribbons on our iron fence and origami cranes in Poling Chapel represent our prayers for peace and our remembrance of those who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. After worship today, meet at the North aisle Deacon's pew as new names of servicepeople who have died are added to the fence, and to spend a few moments praying with us for the day when war is no longer an option.

ENRICHING OUR FAITH — STEWARDSHIP 2010

Prayer, Presence, Gifts and Service

Your pledge and commitment to Marble's community is vital to us. We thank those of you that have made your 2010 commitment yet we need the support of everyone. Please make your 2010 pledge.

\$1,234,285.12

641 pledges received as of March 23.

\$1,800,000

goal

Marble's ministries still need your support.

By entering the sanctuary, you grant to Marble Collegiate Church unrestricted right to use and publish, transmit or telecast photographs or likenesses that might be taken of you this day for use in communications related to the church. If you are uncomfortable in the Sanctuary you are welcome to worship in Bay Hall or Poling Chapel.

Marble Collegiate Church

Where good things happen.

1 West 29th Street, at Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10001-4596
phone: 212.686.2770
e-mail: staff@marblechurch.org
www.marblechurch.org

Minister

Dr. Michael B. Brown
Assistants, Susan Eldred, Paul Nugent

Associate Ministers

Dr. P. Kimberleigh Jordan
Rev. David Lewicki
Rev. Steven D. Pierce

Chief Operating Officer

Gayle F. Robinson

Pastoral Counselor

Dr. William R. Lutz

Deacons

Ronald Carter
Marcelle E. Doll
Carol Hexner
Esslie Hughes
Sheila B. Moses
Eileen A. O'Connell
Ken Stone
Peter D. Taylor

Director of Music

Kenneth V. Dake

Bible Scholar

Carol Perry, S.U.

DIRECTORY

Spiritual and Life Services

Archives/Sanctuary Tours Kim Sebastian Ryan
Baptism Paul Nugent
Grief Support Judy Tulin
Hospital and Homebound Visitations Rev. Steven Pierce, Judy Tulin
Hospitality Liz Testa, Colleen Cosgrove
Membership (New Members) Marian Patterson, Kim Sebastian Ryan
Prayer Requests Rev. Steven Pierce
Social Work Kathleen Abbott
Stewardship/Planned Giving Mamie McIndoe, Ashley Johnson
Ushers and Greeters Marian Patterson
Volunteer Outreach Gail Kitselman, Tom Schneider
Weddings Bethany Butler
Wednesday Worship Rev. David Lewicki

Program Ministries

Adult Fellowship, 40s & 50s Liz Testa, Colleen Cosgrove
Arts Ministry Dr. Kimberleigh Jordan, Elise Hanley
Committed Couples Rev. Steven Pierce, Liz Testa, Siobhan Tull
Entrepreneurs Gayle Robinson, Tom Schneider
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GIFTS) Dr. Kimberleigh Jordan, Elise Hanley
Men's Ministry Rev. Steven Pierce, Tom Schneider
Reservations/Box Office Siobhan Tull
Senior Adults, 60+ Liz Testa, Colleen Cosgrove
Small Groups Baleta McKenzie
Women's Ministry (MWM) Dr. Kimberleigh Jordan, Elise Hanley
Young Adults, 20s & 30s (Connection) Rev. David Lewicki, Sammy Shechter

Education

Adult Education Nina H. Frost
Bible Study Sister Carol Perry
Children, Youth & Families Ministry (CYF) Paulette Thompson-Clinton, M.Div., Brian Hampton
Parenting Dr. William Lutz

Music

Adult Choirs Kenneth Dake, Miriam Chaudoir
Children's Choirs Fred Meads, Karie Brown
Gospel Choir Djoré Nance

Communications

Print Publications Don Piper, Karla Fritsch
CDs and DVD Siobhan Tull
TV and Radio (MarbleVision) Bob Marty, Christina Morano
Website (www.marblechurch.org) Vic Lindsay, Don Piper

Administration

Address Changes/Membership Records Donna Trombetta
Facilities/Events Stuart Cole, Carmen Acuna
Chef Ron Svenningsen
Contributions (Offerings and Pledges) Donna Trombetta
Human Resources Daphne Kim
Property Manager John McHugh

In case of emergency proceed through the nearest exit, following usher's instructions.

Dr. Arthur Caliandro, Minister Emeritus

MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

Dr. Michael B. Brown, Senior Minister

Palm Sunday
March 28, 2010



CHURCH FOUNDED IN 1628; PRESENT EDIFICE ERECTED IN 1854

Fifth Avenue at West 29th Street
New York City

We are an inclusive community led by the spirit of Christ in creating an atmosphere where miracles of change and growth take place, inspiring a faith which helps overcome the adversities of life, and empowering each to become the light of Christ in the world.

Marble's Easter Offering

Dear Friend,

An historic Lenten spiritual discipline is the practice of fasting. Literally, that means to set aside a period of time to go without food, focusing instead on prayer. Hopefully that experience addresses deeper hungers, the kind only God can feed.

One form of fasting during Lent is to give something up for the season. For forty days we go without chocolate or sodas, etc. This year I gave up Starbuck's. Whatever it might be, we deny ourselves something that we ordinarily enjoy in order to focus on deeper hungers.

In Isaiah 58, however, there is a particularly insightful passage which says: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; (and) when you see the naked, to cover them with clothes...?" You know what those verses imply? They imply that in God's eyes, giving something up is not nearly as important as giving something away. It is one thing to deny myself a pleasure; it is a far more meaningful thing to provide someone else a blessing. So, Isaiah has inspired me to take the logical next step. The \$5 or so I would spend five mornings a week to indulge myself with a flavored coffee, I will instead donate to Marble Church. I will move from "giving up" to "giving away."

In that spirit, let me encourage you to do two things in Lent: Make a commitment to give something away—first of all, by contributing additional gifts to our general budget or by making your 2010 pledge (thereby keeping our congregational ministries strong), and second, by making a caring donation to our annual Easter Offering (which supports numerous agencies that provide help and healing to many who cannot help themselves). Those two commitments can have a transformational impact on our church, our community, and our world.

Giving up or giving away? According to Isaiah, the latter is more urgent in God's eyes. "Is not this the fast that I choose ... to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; (and) when you see the naked, to cover them with clothes...?"

For the past few weeks we have heard brief but poignant testimonials from representatives of just a few of the many organizations that will benefit from our Easter Offering, including:

- **Hour Children**
A multi-faceted family service organization that provides housing and supportive services for women and their families involved in the criminal justice system.
- **Palms for Life Fund**
Dedicated to ending poverty by addressing its root causes and providing the poor with new opportunities to make the right choice for a better future.
- **ShareTheCaregiving, Inc**
Teaches ordinary people how to pool their efforts to ease the burden on family caregivers and those without family nearby.
- **Rural and Migrant Ministries**
Offers youth enrichment programs to isolated rural children in upstate New York.

You will find an Easter Offering envelope in the pew rack. Will you pray about what your part will be and return it today, or bring it to church on Easter Sunday, April 4? Every gift is sacred and a blessing. Thanks in advance for your generous and gracious gifts.

Blessings,



Michael B. Brown

HOURL CHILDREN

Located in Long Island City, New York, Hour Children is a multi-faceted family service organization that provides housing – permanent and transitional – and an array of supportive services that transform the lives of women and their families involved in the criminal justice system. (www.hourchildren.org)

OTHER AGENCIES SUPPORTED BY MARBLE

Battered Women's Resource Center

Working to improve the court system's handling of housing and homeless policies for battered women.

Partnership of Faith

Representing diverse faith communities in NYC for the purpose of creating a more loving, humane city.

CASA-Court Appointed Special Advocates

Helps to negotiate NYC's foster care system.

Rural and Migrant Ministries

Advocacy for migrant workers in the Hudson Valley.

Centurian Ministries

Seeking freedom for the imprisoned innocent.

SEAM Philippine Street Children Project

Providing education to street children in Manila.

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies

Supporting 39 church-based feeding programs within NYC with emergency food assistance.

Search and Care

Helping the elderly live with dignity in their own homes.

Grand Street Settlement

Supporting an Asian-American elders program in Chinatown.

Single Parent Resource Center

Supporting the Action Committee's Christmas Outreach.

Habitat for Humanity

Building decent and affordable housing in partnership with people in need worldwide.

Springs of Hope

Sponsoring the construction of a playground for the Springs of Hope Orphanage in Kenya.

Health Advocates for Older People, Inc.

Helping senior adults in Upper Manhattan maintain a level of independent living.

Susie Riezod Foundation

Providing children in need with shoes and other items.

Health Care Chaplaincy

Offering religious representation of all faiths in hospitals to ailing patients.

United Neighbors of East Midtown, Inc.

Providing social services to older residents of the community.

Little Kids Rock

Providing trained instructors and free musical instruments to disadvantaged public school children.

Veteran's Bedside Network

Conducting a program of therapeutic activities, such as reenactments of TV and radio shows, for patients in veteran's hospitals.

Lumunos (formerly Faith @ Work)

Helping individuals and churches discern and support their call to ministry.

VCR: Volunteer Referral Center

One-on-one matching of volunteer candidates with not-for-profits that need volunteers.

Opportunity International

Providing loans to disadvantaged entrepreneurs in 28 countries to create jobs and provide for their families.

If you would like more information about the work of Marble's Benevolence Committee, please contact Rev. David Lewicki, DLewicki@marblechurch.org.

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

George Bennard, 1913



1. On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross, the__
2. Oh that old rug-ged cross, so de-spised by the world, has a
3. To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true, its__



em - blem of suf-fering and shame;_ And I love that old cross where the
won-drous at - trac - tion for me;__ For the dear Lamb of God left His
shame and re-proach glad-ly bear;__ Then He'll call me some day to my



dear - est and best for a world of lost sin-ners was slain.__
glo - ry a - bove to__ bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.__ So I'll
home far a - way, where His glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.__



cher-ish the old rug-ged cross,_ till my tro-phies at last I lay down; I will



cling to the old rug-ged cross,_ And exchange it some day for a crown.