A Christian Community that Embraces the Divinity of Difference

parkavenuechristian.com

Epiphany Sunday

January 8, 2017

THE PEOPLE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

+Please rise in body or in spirit, as you are able.

The congregation is invited to read and sing all text printed in bold.

THE PRELUDE Blessed We the Name of the Lord

Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME

+THE CALL TO WORSHIP From Isaiah 60

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

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon us, God's glory will appear over us.

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

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.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to
you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

All those from Sheba shall come.

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



Text: Mary Haugen, 1987, alt. Tune: BEACH SPRING

+THE CALL TO CONFESSION and THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Over the next 60 seconds, you are invited to offer silent prayers of confession.

+THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE

+RESPONSE

We Are Forgiven, Loved, and Free

Written for The Rev. Alvin O. Jackson in celebration of his ministry at Park Avenue Christian Church by Paul M. Vasile.

We are forgiven, loved and free.

We're washed anew and then called to be

Hope for the weary, strength for the weak,
With a blessing of peace for all, With a blessing of
peace for all.

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Children are invited to come forward to the chancel steps for a brief time of sharing. Following this, children may stay in worship with their parents or go with their teachers to Sunday School.



WELCOME OF VISITORS

Please note the fellowship pads in the pews. We are especially interested in hearing from all of our visitors. If you are able, please stand if you are a first time visitor so that we may give you a welcome card. Completed cards may be placed in the offering plate.

RESPONSE There's a Spirit of Love Mark Miller

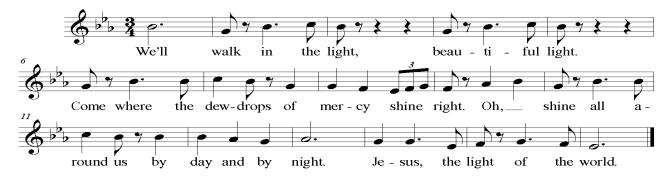
THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PEOPLE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SONG OF PREPARATION

We'll Walk in the Light

George Elderkin (1845 – 1928)



SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: '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 my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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."

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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

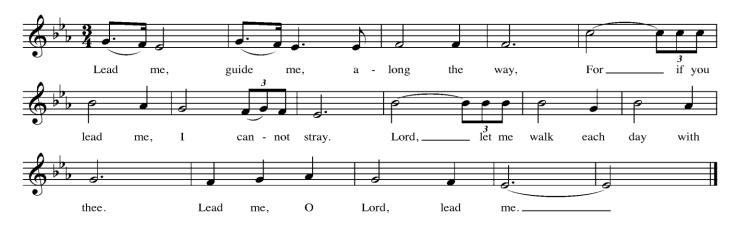
ANTHEM

My God is So High (spiritual)
Michelle Trovato, soloist

THE SERMON

THE PEOPLE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP



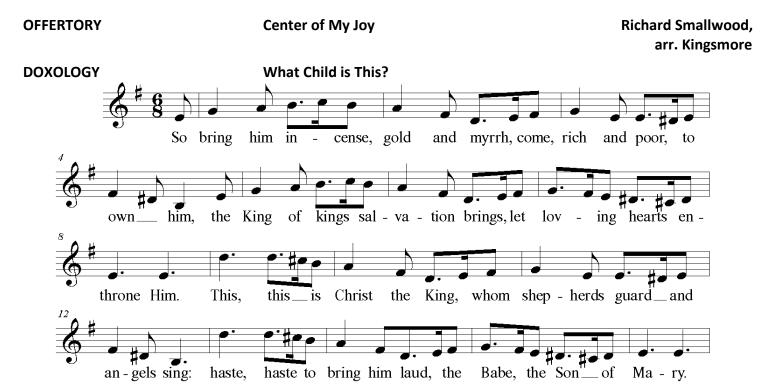
Verse 2:

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness. Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress. I am putting all my trust in Thee: Lead me, oh Lord lead me.

THE PEOPLE CELEBRATE GOD'S GRACE

THE FEAST OF THE EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PROPER PREFACE

May God be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks for God with us, Emmanuel.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy

That we should at all times, and in all places,

Give thanks and praise to you, God with us, Word made flesh.

You did not have to be born of Mary. You did not have to walk our streets.

You did not have to be executed for us. You do not have to save us.

And yet, you do save, again and again. Thank you, Jesus.

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

CHRIST'S PRAYER

We invite you to use the words to the prayer you know best, in the language that resonates most with you.

In the name of Christ, who taught us to pray . . .

Our God in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins/debts/trespasses, as we forgive those who sin/debt/trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In like manner, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood, given for you. Do this as often as you drink of it for the remembrance of me."

FRACTION

Ministering to you now in the name of Jesus Christ, we offer you this bread and this cup.

Alleluia! Christ, our Lord, is born for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

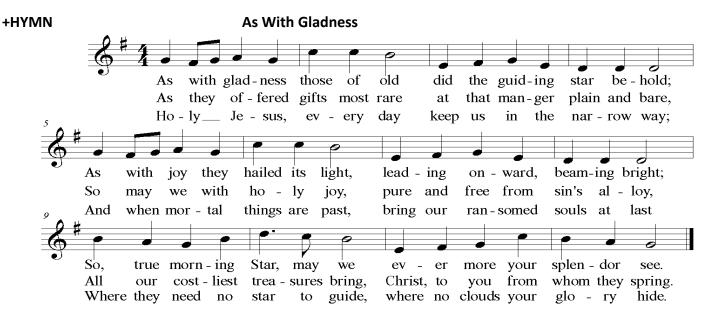
Anyone wishing to know the presence of Christ is invited to come forward to receive communion. If you need to remain in your seat, a deacon will bring the elements to you. Matzo bread, wafers, gluten-free wafers, and grape juice are served.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

New Year's Carol

Benjamin Britten

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING



+THE BLESSING

+THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And always with you.

Please share gestures of Christ's peace with your neighbors.

+THE POSTLUDE

Capriccio in F

G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Preaching: Rabbi Jordie Gerson; **Liturgist:** The Rev. Dr. Richard Sturm; **Lector:** Eric Guy; **Elders:** Hillary Buckland and Heather Bickham; **Deacon Leads:** Noel Cline and Eric Guy; **Greeter:** Noel Cline; **Director of Music Ministry:** Saya Callner, conductor; **Organist:** John Austin Clark, piano, organ.

Today's flowers are given in honor of the Music Ministry at The Park.

Flowers may be given in memory or in honor of someone in your life or to celebrate a special occasion. Call the church office at 212-288-3246, ext. 102 to place your order.

This Week's Mission Offering: New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC. A gift to the New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC will support the interfaith network of congregations, organizations, and individuals, standing publicly in solidarity with families and communities resisting detention and deportation in order to stay together.

Please pray for us as we carry out the ministry of presence and the living of God's love in New York City.

Go in peace. The worship is over. Service now begins.

The Rev. Kaji S. Douša, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Luis-Alfredo Cartagena, Associate Pastor/Outreach
The Rev. Ismael Sanchez, Associate Pastor/Latino Ministry
Ms. Marjorie Watrobski, Pastoral Associate, Youth & Children's Ministry
Ms. Saya Callner, Director of Music Ministry
Ms. Stephanie Wilson, Office Administrator
The Rev. John Wade Payne, Senior Minister Emeritus

PARK AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1010 Park Avenue at 85th Street, New York, NY 10028
212-288-3246 | office@parkavenuechristian.com





Everybody needs a place to belong. Find yours here!

Our Vision

We dare to see a faithful, growing healthy congregation in the hundreds over the next five years that seeks to demonstrate true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.

Our Values

We dare to be a church that embraces and celebrates the divinity and dignity of difference by actively seeking and welcoming all people regardless of race, age, culture, economic circumstance, sexual/gender orientation, physical or mental condition. We dare to be a church that lives to serve others.

Our Mission

We dare to do ministry in such a way that reaches and impacts the upper east side, the city of New York and beyond with the radical claims of the gospel of Jesus Christ through our worship and witness as we strive to build the beloved community of God.

Visiting or checking us out today?

The Park may be the place for you. Here's how to connect:

- Join us for *Coffee Hour*, a time of refreshments and hospitality immediately after worship.
- Ask questions or make inquiries of the Greeters and Deacons, fill out a welcome card or the pew pad.
- Wanting to connect with Pastor Douša? Call or email the church office. She would welcome the opportunity to meet over a meal or drinks. Please call 212-288-3246 or email swilson@parkavenuechristian.com.

Thinking about joining?

It would be our pleasure to welcome you to *The Park*. It is easy to join, simply walk forward during the singing of the Invitation to Christian Discipleship (right after the sermon). Pastor Douša will receive you and the whole church will welcome you.

Sharing Your Time, Talents and Treasure

We want you to live out your calling here at *The Park*, and we need your time and your talents, as well as your financial support. Please know that so much of what we are able to do is because of the generous service and support of our members and friends.

If you'd like to receive a pledge card, please see one of the Deacons after worship.

Remembering those in prayer this week:

Bess Terry, Worley Reynolds, Justin Strickland, Etti Schiller, Francisca Torres, Mary Virginia Moore, Josiah Waters, Jaimie Arkelian, Dorothy McCarthy, Terry



Jones, Teresa Sulyok, Sigrid Sunstedt, Jeremy Watrobski, Tomás Andrew, Sterling Ashby, and Barbara Sanders.

If you have additions or deletions to the prayer list, please notify the church office at 212-288-3246.

PRAYER

PRAYER MINISTRY AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE.

One of our Pastors, other Clergy or Elders are always happy to visit with anyone who would like individual prayer after worship. Someone will be stationed in the Chancel area each Sunday.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

(1st Tuesday of each month at the church.) 6:00 pm

Contacts

Rev. Luis-Alfredo Cartagena – lacartagena@parkavenuechistian.com;

Hillary Buckland – candhbuckland@optonline.net

THE-PARK-PRAYS ON-LINE

To be added, contact Pam Wood, bandpwood@aol.com (or 917-882-7667, talk/text). As a member, you can post a prayer or prayer request.

ORDER OF ST. LUKE THE PHYSICIAN

Healing prayer group, NYC Chapter meets monthly for worship, study and healing prayer. Contact Pam Wood: bandpwood@aol.com, 917-882-7667.



Upcoming:

Every Sunday, **Choir Rehearsal**, 9:00 am, *The Park*Every Sunday, **Adult Bible Study**, 10:00 am, Room A
Every Sunday, **Children's Sunday School**, 10:00 check in,
1:00 pm pick up

Every Tuesday, Recorder Consort Rehearsal, 6:00 pm, The Park

Today, **Elders Meeting**, 12:30 pm, Room A Saturday, January 14, **Order of St. Lukes Chapter Meeting**, 1:00 pm, 236 Fifth Avenue (4th Floor) at 27th Street. Call, text or email Pam for more info. 917-882-

7667, <u>bandpwood@aol.com</u>

Saturday, January 14, **Community Lunch Program**, 1:00 pm, Manhattan Church of Christ, 48 East 80th Street near Madison Avenue

Sunday, January 15, **Bilingual (Spanish/English) Worship Service**, 1:30 pm

Wednesday, January 18, **Ministry Council Meeting**, 7:00 pm, Room A

Saturday, January 21, **CPE Orientation**, 10:00 am Saturday, January 28, **Community Lunch Program**, 1:00 pm, Manhattan Church of Christ, 48 East 80th Street near Madison Avenue

Sunday, January 29, Annual Congregation Meeting, 12:30 pm

Monday, January 16, 7:30 pm, The Park 20th Annual Heschel-King Service



A Candlelight Vigil for Healing and Hope Moving from Demonstration to Dialogue in Divided Times.

For almost 20 years, Park Avenue Christian Church and Congregation Da'at Elohim (Temple of Universal Judaism) have celebrated an interfaith service honoring the friendship and life work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. All are invited to join us for a service of music, candlelight, reading, and remembering the words and witness of two towering moral giants.

Be sure to sign up for The Park's weekly e-bulletin to keep up with everything going on at The Park!



http://www.parkavenuechristian.com/newsletter-subscribe/

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 29, 2017



~ Adopting the 2017 Budget and Annual Review

Clinical Pastoral Education: Focus on Prison Ministry



Park Avenue Christian Church is offering an intensive unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

focusing on individuals and families affected by incarceration. The Program Director is Rev. Maria Lopez, who served for twenty years as a prison chaplain at Rikers Island and Bedford Hills Correctional Facilities. CPE provides an opportunity for those in religious leadership, both clergy and lay, to develop and deepen their skills in listening and healing. CPE students focus on the living human document in need of their attention. The CPE program at The Park will focus on all facets of incarceration: the prisoner, their families and those who are targeted (the poor).

The extended unit begins January 21. Additional info and an application form are available.

For more information contact: The Park at office@parkavenuechristian.com or (212) 288-3246 The Rev. Dr. Maria Lopez at revmarialopez@yahoo.com or (347) 994-4444 Imam Abdus-Salaam Musa at abdussalaam1943@gmail.com or (347) 407-6828

The Poinsettias were given in thanksgiving for God's many blessings from:

- Beth Mandelbaum, in memory of Lucy and Princie.
- Carl & Hillary Buckland, in memory of our parents, John & Celia Buckland.
- Carl & Hillary Buckland, in memory of our parents, Cecil & Ida White.
- Deborah Gray, in memory of Cayle Gray.
- Deborah Gray, in memory of Gerald and Rosalie Gray.
- Ima Jean Kidd, in memory of Ann Canady.