



PARK AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

A Christian Community
that Embraces the
Divinity of Difference
parkavenuechristian.com

Third Sunday in Lent

March 19, 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.

WELCOME

GATHERING

Come and Let Us Worship God

Cranmer Muhabura

arr. John L. Bell

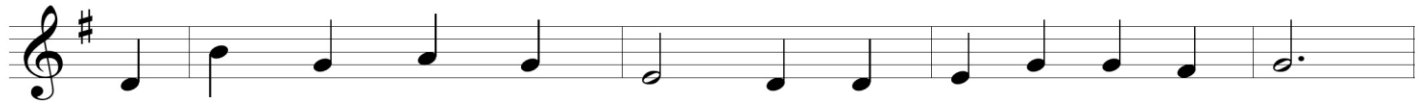
+HYMN

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

MERLE'S TUNE



1. Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2. Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3. Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission

Tune: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, 7.6.7.6. D

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess before you that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your son, Jesus, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may walk in your way and delight in your will, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

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

RESPONSE**Give Me a Clean Heart**

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee. Lord, fix my heart so that
 I may be used by-thee. For I'm not worthy of all these bless-
 ings. Give me a - clean heart and I'll fol low thee.

WORDS: Margaret J. Douroux

MUSIC: Margaret J. Douroux; harm. Albert Denis Tessier

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**RESPONSE****Thank You, Lord**

1. Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord,
 2. Been so good, been so good,
 thank you. Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.
 been so good, I just want to thank you, Lord.

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.

SONG OF PREPARATION**The Steadfast Love of Our God****Edith McNeill (1920 – 2014)**

The stead-fast love of our God nev-er ceas - es, God's mer-cies nev-er
 come to an end. They are new ev-'ry morn - ing, new ev-'ry morn - ing,
 great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God, great is Thy faith - ful - ness.

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.

THE PEOPLE HEAR GOD'S WORD

+THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lay Me Low

Daniel Schwandt

Lay me low, where God can find me.

Lay me low, where God can hold me.

Lay me low, where God can bless me.

Lay me low, oh, lay me low.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

ANTHEM

Forgiveness

Susan Werner (b. 1965)

Georgia Osborne, *Soloist*

THE SERMON

THE PEOPLE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

+HYMN

Somos Uno

So - mos u - no en Cris - to, so - mos u - no, so - mos
We're u - nit - ed in Je - sus we're u - nit - ed. Like a

3 u - no, u - no so - lo. so - lo. Un so - lo Dios, un so - lo Se -
fam - ily, we're u - nit - ed. nit - ed. We have one God, one Ho - ly

7 ñor, u - na so - la fe, un so - loa - mor, un so - lo bau -
Lord. We have one faith, on - ly one Love. Just one bap -

10 tis - mo, un so - lo Es - pí - ri - tu, y e - se es el Con - so - la - dor.
ti - sm, one Ho - ly Spir - it, one Com - fort - er sent from God a - bove.

Words: Latin America (20th century); tr. Frank Colon, 1994

Music: Latin America (20th century)

THE PEOPLE CELEBRATE GOD'S GRACE

THE FEAST OF THE EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

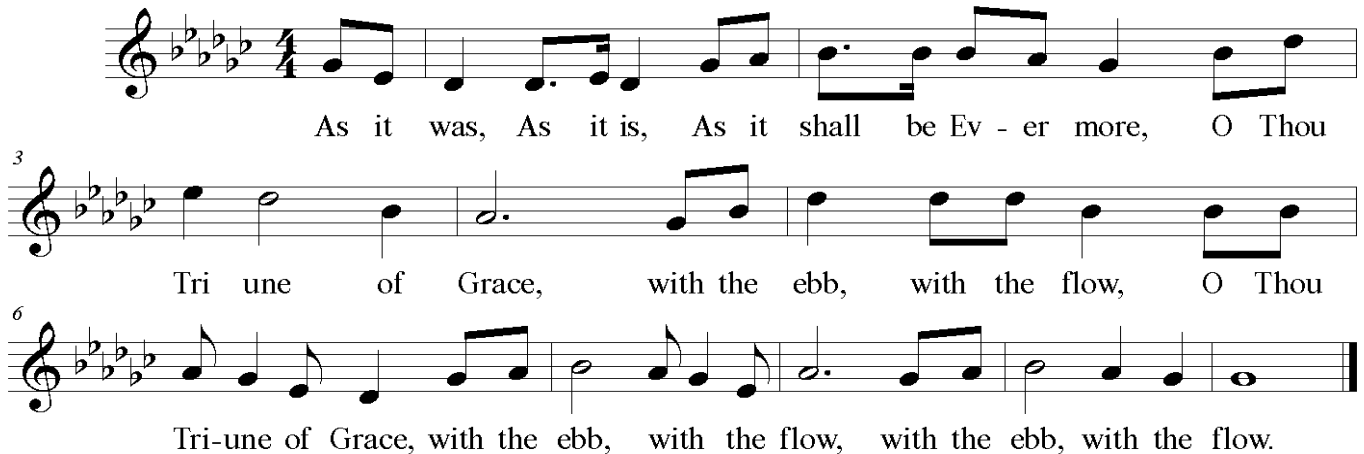
OFFERTORY

Grant Peace, We Pray

Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

DOXOLOGY

As It Was, As It Is



As it was, As it is, As it shall be Ev - er more, O Thou

Tri une of Grace, with the ebb, with the flow, O Thou

Tri-une of Grace, with the ebb, with the flow, with the ebb, with the flow.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PROPER PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God most high.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy

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

Give thanks and praise to you, Almighty God.

Lord, have mercy.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE BLESSING OF 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, gave thanks for it, broke it and said:

“Take and eat, this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

In like manner after supper, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and gave it to them saying: “This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink of it for the remembrance of me.”

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

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

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.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Violin Solo Music

Hirona Amamiya, violin

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "If you but trust in God to guide you, with hope - ful / On - ly be still, and wait God's plea - sure in cheer - ful / Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing; of - fer your". The second staff continues: "heart through all your ways, you will find strength, with God be - / hope, with heart con - tent, trust - ing that grace which knows no / ser - vice faith - fu - ly, and trust God's word, though un - de -". The third staff continues: "side you, to bear the worst of e - vil days; For those who trust God's / mea - sure will by un - bound - ed Love be sent; Nor doubt our in - most / serv - ing, there find the truth to set you free; God will not fail to". The fourth staff concludes: "change - less love build on the rock that will not move. / wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways near. / guide and bless those who em - brace God's faith - ful - ness."

Tune: NEUMARK 9.8.9.8.8.8.
Gerg Neumark, 1657

THE BLESSING

SHARING A SIGN OF GOD'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And always with you.

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

THE POSTLUDE

Music from her upcoming concert Recovered Voices
Kristina Bachrach, Soprano

The postlude today is provided by Soprano Kristina Bachrach as a teaser for her upcoming Music at The Park performance. Please remain seated for this musical reflection.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Preaching: The Rev. Ismael Sánchez; **Liturgist:** The Rev. Dr. Richard Sturm; **Lector:** Casey Watrobski; **Elders:** Hillary Buckland and Johnson Liu; **Deacon Leads:** Iris Burroughs and Noel Cline; **Director of Music Ministry:** Saya Callner, conductor; **Organist:** Jason Wirth, piano, organ.

Today's flowers honor/celebrate justice, freedom, equality, diversity and human rights.

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: Empowering the Voices of Girls in the Juvenile Justice System: Narrative Therapy Group.

The "Empowering the Voices of Girls in the Juvenile Justice System" narrative therapy group seeks to create a trauma informed and gender responsive space for girls in the juvenile justice system. The purpose of the narrative therapy group is to support girls in examining their personal narratives, to empower their voices and to promote healing. Developed by Michael White and David Epston, narrative therapy is a therapeutic technique, which centers people as the experts in their own lives. Through narrative therapy, people are empowered to view their problems as separate from themselves, enabling them to externalize sensitive and traumatic stories. This way, persons are somewhat protected from the difficult emotions associated with a particular event. As a result, people are encouraged to utilize their skills sets to redefine and associate new meaning to their personal narratives. A major outcome of narrative therapy is greater self compassion and an increased capacity to bring about change. Utilizing an intersectional lens, I also intend to assist girls in recognizing the role of race, class and gender oppression in their incarceration experience. At the conclusion of the narrative therapy group, girls in the juvenile justice system will have the tools to process personal and traumatic narratives, externalize the issues in their narratives, gain a new perspective of their narrative, situate their narrative in broader social context and to use their narrative as a source of empowerment and advocacy.

***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. Sydney M. Avent, **Associate Pastor/Social Justice Ministry**
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

The Park WEEKLY FORWARD

Welcome

**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, Clara Watrobski, Tomás Andrew, Sterling Ashby, Barbara Sanders, and Laura Martin.



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@parkavenuechristian.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 Monday and Wednesday - **CPE**, 6:30 pm, *The Park*
 Every Tuesday, **Recorder Consort Rehearsal**, 6:00 pm, *The Park*
 Every Saturday, **Saturday Community Lunch Program**, 1:30 pm,
 Manhattan Church of Christ, 48 East 80th Street near Madison
 Avenue

Today, March 19, **Bilingual (Spanish/English) Worship Service**, 1:30 pm
 Tuesday, March 21, **Ministry Council Meeting**, 7:00 pm,
 Room A



You are invited! Bring a bagged lunch for our monthly gathering on March 26, after worship.

Pastoral Compassionate Care in Jail/Prison Setting



Join us for the start of the program on **Sunday, March 26, at 3:00 PM at The Park.**

We will continue meeting for six Sundays. Mark your calendars for:

March 26, April 9, April 16, April 23, April 30, and May 14.

Light refreshments will be provided. Each meeting will last approximately 2 hrs., running from 3:00 PM -- 5:00 PM.

After the training, volunteers will be posted at one of the facilities at Rikers Island. A certificate will be issued on behalf of The Park to those who complete this program.

FINAL GATHERING

The Gathering: Spiritual Conversations to Engage, Activate & Nurture Your Call of Activism



Led by Klay S. Williams, The Gathering is a group of awakened activists, visionaries and burgeoning community leaders interested in creating spiritual pathways to develop/nourish one’s purpose, build community and discovery of wellness practices to live an empowered life.

Klay S. Williams is an author, holistic lifestyle expert and media personality specializing in holistic personal and professional development. Klay has created a lifestyle-consulting firm, Plan A Enterprises, LLC that is a one-stop-shop for the entire person. Whether he is leading a conversation on spiritual progression of the self, supporting clients with closing the gap between their past and present or having a full service image/wellness conversation, it all points towards living what Klay calls, one’s "Plan A". He is the author of *There Is Only Plan A— A Journey Toward Self-Discovery and Renewed Purpose* and *365 Plan A Nightly Meditations*. A graduate of Kalamazoo College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religion with a double minor in Economics and Business, he also holds a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. Klay has appeared/partnered with a host of media platforms, including but not limited to: Fox 5 NY, fyi, NPR, iHeart Radio, Lululemon and ABC. For more information on Klay, visit: KlaySWilliams.com

Next in Music at The Park (MaTP): Recovered Voices Sunday, April 2nd at 5:30 PM at The Park



Please join soprano Kristina Bachrach and pianist Miori Sugiyama on a journey through some of the forgotten vocal music by composers whose voices were needlessly suppressed or eliminated by the Nazi

regime, and those artists who inspired them. (This duo, who won the inaugural International Ziering Conlon Recovered Voices Competition, will present works by Alexander Zemlinsky Hanns Eisler, Kurt Weill, Arnold Schoenberg, and more.)

\$25/\$15 for students (\$15 for Park members)