



PARK AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 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

Hirona Amamiya, *violin*

+HYMN

Kindred, Come and Claim a Vision

Text: Rosanna Eller McFadden

Tune: NETTLETON

Kind - red, come and claim a vis - ion and give wit - ness in this  
 4 place; Joined in faith by our de - ci - sion to en - bo - dy lives of grace. Je - sus'  
 9 follow - ers tell - ing, gi - ving un - til all have seen and heard. By the  
 13 man - ner of our liv - ing we are ground - ed in God's Word.

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

Musical score for the hymn "Give Me a Clean Heart". The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: "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 blessings. Give me a clean heart and I'll follow thee." The score includes measure numbers 6 and 12.

WORDS: Margaret J. Douroux

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

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## 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.*

# THE PEOPLE HEAR GOD'S WORD

## +THE 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

## 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen

this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

**ANTHEM**

**Follow Me**, from *Let God Arise*

**Glenn Burleigh (1949 – 2007)**

**THE SERMON**

### **A CHRISTIAN PRAYER IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL WEEKEND OF PRAYER FOR TRANSGENDER JUSTICE**

Loving Creator, Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations. Let the rain wash away the memory of the heart, and neglect. Then Oh God, let the sun come out and fill the sky with beautiful rainbows.

Let the warmth of the Sun heal us wherever we are broken. Let It burn away the fog so that each of us sees each other clearly. So that we can move beyond labels, beyond accents, gender, sexual orientation, or skin color.

Let the Earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with your beauty, and let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven. Then, Dear God, grant us comfort, give us peace, and allow us strength to enable us to Stand up, Fight for, and be a Voice for Equality. In Jesus' name, Amen!

*Offered by Rev. Debra J. Hopkins, Black trans woman, minister at  
Sacred Souls Community Church in Charlotte, NC.*

## **THE PEOPLE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**+HYMN**

**Use Me**

**Dewitt Jones**

*If you can use anything, Lord, you can use me*

*If you can use anything, Lord, you can use me*

*Take my hands, Lord, and my feet*

*Touch my heart, Lord, speak through me*

*If you can use anything, Lord, you can use me*

## **THE PEOPLE CELEBRATE GOD’S GRACE**

### **THE FEAST OF THE EUCHARIST**

**THE INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

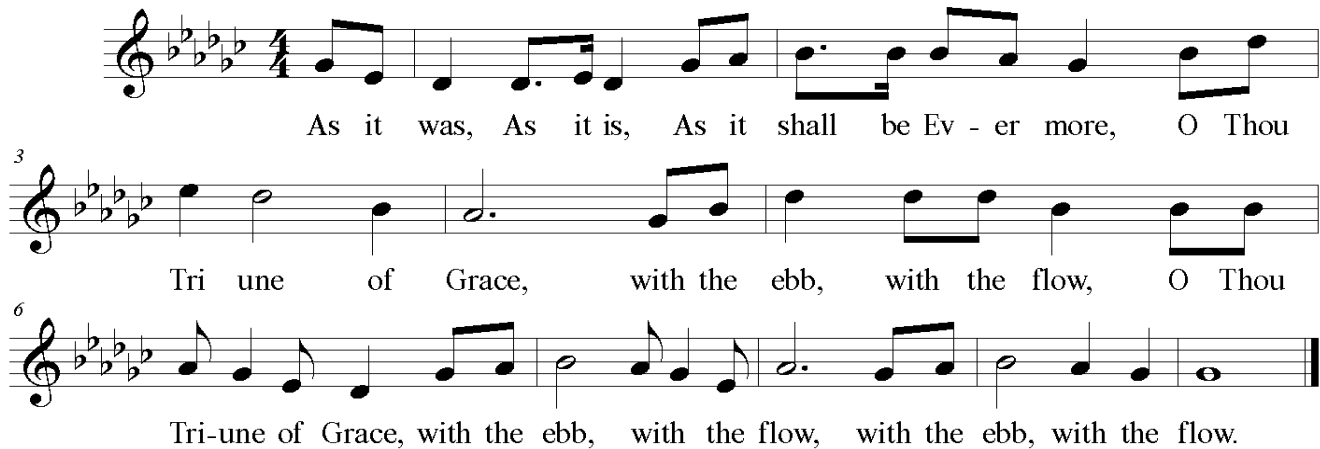
**OFFERTORY**

**Building Up the Kingdom**

**M. Roger Holland**

## 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

**Give Me Jesus**

*Traditional Spiritual*

Ken Alston, Countertenor

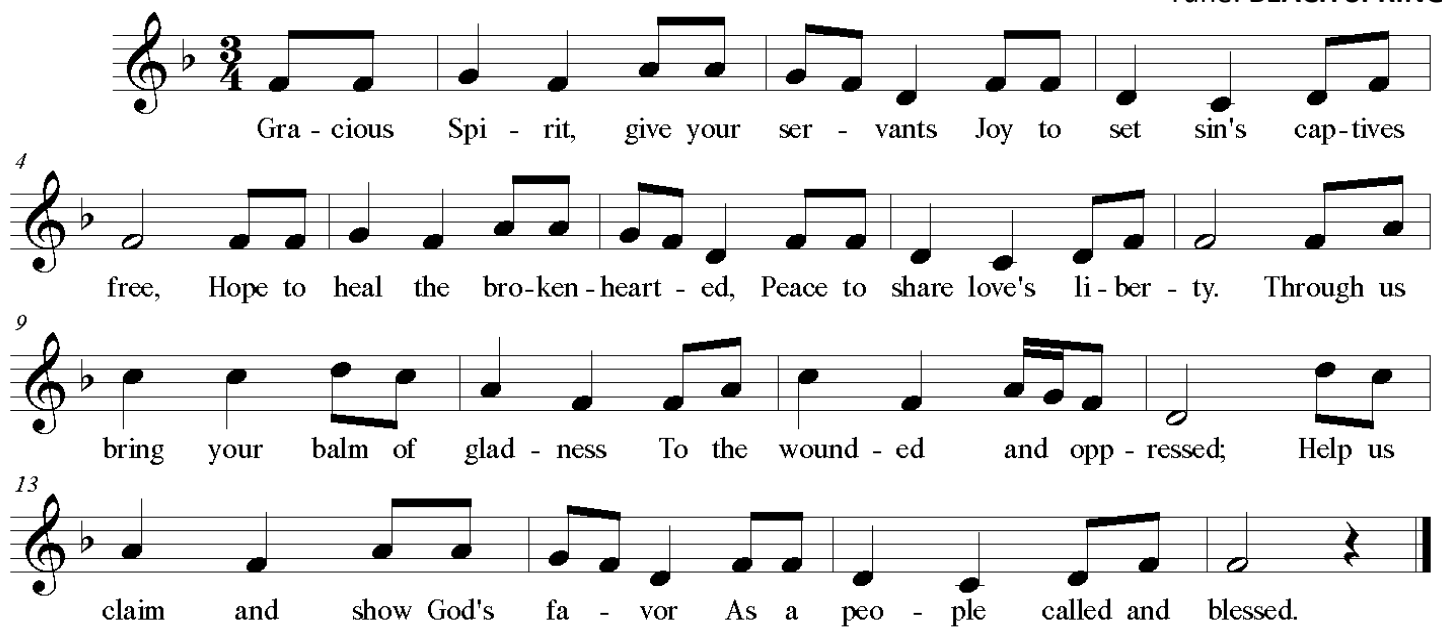
## THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### HYMN

**Gracious Spirit, Give Your Servants**

Text: **Carl P. Daw, Jr.**

Tune: **BEACH SPRING**



Gra - cious Spi - rit, give your ser - vants Joy to set sin's cap - tives  
4 free, Hope to heal the bro - ken - heart - ed, Peace to share love's li - ber - ty. Through us  
9 bring your balm of glad - ness To the wound - ed and opp - ressed; Help us  
13 claim and show God's fa - vor As a peo - ple called and blessed.

## 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

### PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

**Preaching:** Rabbi Jordie Gerson; **Liturgist:** The Rev. Vanessa Falgoust; **Lector:** Myrna Payne; **Elders:** Carl Buckland and Heather Bickham; **Deacon Leads:** Elle Greene and Bruce Carlson; **Director of Music Ministry:** Saya Callner, conductor; **Organist:** John Austin Clark, piano, organ; **Artist-in-Residence:** Dr. Tony McNeill; **Guest Soloist:** Rev. Ken Alston.

***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: Gathering for Justice.** *The Gathering for Justice and its social justice task force Justice League NYC, have been building justice initiatives on multiple fronts. Their work includes leading policy initiatives for police accountability; bringing in individuals and groups from diverse communities to organize as a 'family coalition' in order to capitalize on our combined power and build the agenda for sustained black and brown liberation; being the catalyst for the re-introduction of federal legislation to end racial profiling and stop the militarization of law enforcement; engaging a serious and sustained effort for Raise the Age in NY State; and creating a blueprint – in the form of a substantive list of demands – for criminal justice redress and accountability for NY City and State.*

*The Gathering for Justice and Justice League NYC follow a set of guiding principles. They stand on the radical shoulders of Civil Rights leaders and elders like their Founder Harry Belafonte, who was educated in radical thought by Paul Robeson. They ground themselves in Kingian nonviolence because we understand the power of nonviolence as a tactic in the struggle for social justice.*

## Upcoming Events:

**Saturday, April 22nd**  
**SABADO, 22 de Abril**  
**SAMEDI, LE 22 Avril**  
**10am-12pm**



Park Avenue Christian Church, La Segunda Iglesia Cristiana  
And Church World Service WILL HOST A

### FREE IMMIGRATION CLINIC CLÍNICA GRATUITA DE INMIGRACIÓN ATELIER SUR L'IMMIGRATION GRATUIT

#### CALL 212 288 3246 FOR AN APPOINTMENT

We can help with applications for citizenship, a green card, or other immigration statuses.

**Location:** La Segunda Iglesia Cristina (DdC) del Bronx  
595 East 169th Street  
Bronx, NY 10456

Call ahead to reserve your appointment. We also accept walk-ins.

#### LLAME 212 288 3246 PARA HACER UNA CITA

Lo podemos ayudar con formularios de ciudadanía, residencia, u otros estados de inmigración de los EE.UU.

**Ubicación:** La Segunda Iglesia Cristina (DdC) del Bronx  
595 East 169th Street  
Bronx, NY 10456

Llame con anticipación para hacer una cita. Personas sin citas podrían ser atendidas.

#### CONTACTEZ 212 288 3246 POUR PRENDRE RENDEZ-VOUS

Nous saurons vous assister à remplir les formulaires de citoyenneté, de résidence et d'autres étapes de l'immigration aux États-unis.

**Où:** La Segunda Iglesia Cristina (DdC) del Bronx  
595 East 169th Street  
Bronx, NY 10456

Appelez dès maintenant pour prendre rendez-vous. Nous recevons aussi même sans rendez-vous.

*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, **Pastor for Social Justice & Worship Life**  
The Rev. Luis-Alfredo Cartagena, **Pastor for Outreach**  
The Rev. Ismael Sanchez, **Pastor for Latino Ministry**  
Ms. Marjorie Watrobski, **Pastoral for Youth & Children's Ministry**  
Ms. Saya Callner, **Director of Music Ministry**  
Mr. Paul Vasile, **Worship Consultant**  
Dr. Tony McNeill, **Artist in Residence**  
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](mailto: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, Laura Martin and Richard Turner.



***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

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

#### Contacts:

**Rev. Luis-Alfredo Cartagena** – [lacartagena@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:lacartagena@parkavenuechristian.com);

**Hillary Buckland** – [candhbuckland@optonline.net](mailto:candhbuckland@optonline.net)

### THE-PARK-PRAYS ON-LINE

To be added, contact Pam Wood, [bandpwood@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:bandpwood@aol.com), 917-882-7667.



# EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

## 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 80<sup>th</sup> Street near Madison  
 Avenue

## SoulFood



## Fellowships

*You are invited! Bring a bagged lunch for our monthly gathering. SoulFood Fellowships provide an opportunity to meet once a month for Bible study, conversation, prayer, and fellowship with others. After worship on March 26, we'll meet at the front of the church to walk over to the Manse.*

## 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 Manse.**

**1453 Lexington Ave.  
 New York, NY 10128**

*We will continue meeting for six Sundays. So stay tuned.*

*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.***

## Sponsor a Chair and Help Improve Seating at *The Park*!



*Great news! As a part of The Park's Sanctuary Refreshment, new chairs will be arriving and installed soon. This phase of our work to restore and beautify our sanctuary will improve and supplement the church seating. We anticipate that the new chairs will be arriving on **March 31.***

*You and/or your family can sponsor a chair that will be adorned with a plaque that honors your sponsorship. Sponsoring a chair is a great way in which you can help The Park in its life and ministry, and to be part of its future. You may choose to dedicate your sponsorship to the memory of or in honor of somebody you love. In the coming weeks, more information will be sent out to members and announced in church outlining the possibilities of sponsorship.*

Please visit our website at:

<http://www.parkavenuechristian.com/chairs/>

## Next in *Music at The Park (MaTP): Recovered Voices Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)**