

A Christian Community that Embraces the Divinity of Difference

parkavenuechristian.com

Palm Passion Sunday

April 9, 2017

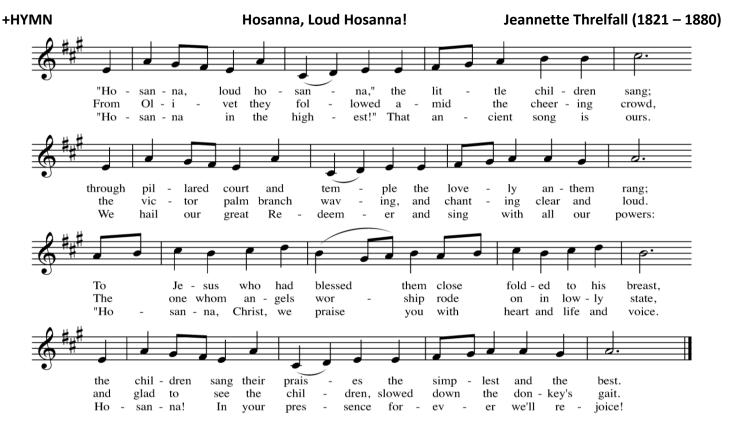
THE PEOPLE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

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

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

GATHERING

WELCOME



+THE CALL TO WORSHIP

They brought the donkey and her colt, and after they laid their cloaks on the animals, Jesus mounted and rode toward the city. Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while some began to cut branches from the trees and lay them along the path. The crowds—those who went in front of Jesus and those who followedwere all shouting:

"Hosanna to the Heir of the House of David!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Most High!

Hosanna in the highest!"

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred to its depths, demanding, "Who is this?" And the crowd kept answering, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee!"

"Hosanna to the Heir of the House of David!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Most High!

Hosanna in the highest!"

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

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 PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

There is an ancient practice in the Christian Church of reading the Passion story on Palm Sunday. The Church instituted this practice to remind Christians that Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem must be understood in light of the Passion and as leading up to it. In a change from traditional practice, the congregation is invited to read the words of Jesus in **bold**. As we put ourselves in Jesus' place, as the literal body of Christ, we stand in solidarity with all who wrongly suffer persecution, marginalization, violence, and death.

SONG OF PREPARATION

Have You Died Before?

Lindsey Nye

Have you died before? Have you died before? Have you died before, too? Was there a time when Jesus on the cross was you?

Reader 1: Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said

"Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples."

Reader 2: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

"Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

Reader 3: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied,

"You have said so."

Reader 1: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

"Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Reader 2: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them,

"You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

Reader 3: Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him,

"Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

Reader 1: Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

"Sit here while I go over there and pray."



Reader 2: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

"I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

Reader 3: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

Reader 1: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

"So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Congregation (singing urgently):

Stay with me, remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray.

Reader 2: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

"My Abba, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

Reader 3: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

"Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Reader 1: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

"Friend, do what you are here to do."

Reader 2: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

"Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Abba, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."

Reader 3: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

SOLO RESPONSE

Erbarme dich, mein Gott from St. Matthew Passion **J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750) Georga Osborne**, soloist; **Hirona Amamiya**, violin

Erbarme dich, mein Gott, um meiner Zähren willen! Have mercy, my God, for the sake of my tears! Schaue hier, Herz und Auge weint vor dir bitterlich. See here, before you heart and eyes weep bitterly.

Reader 3: Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him,

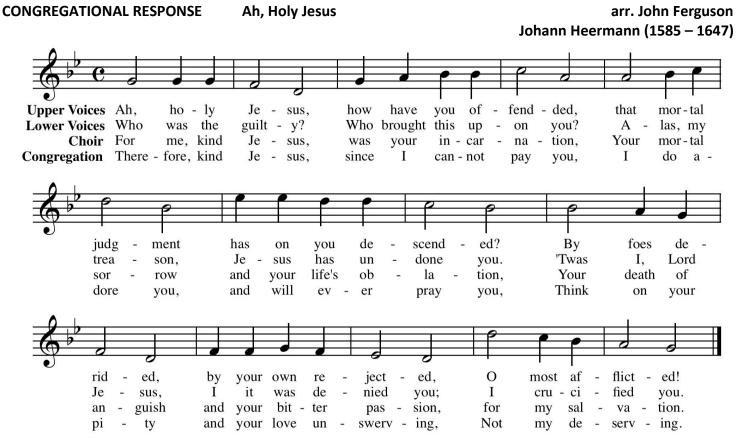
"You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Reader 1: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death."

Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophesy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of

them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.



Reader 2: When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said,

"You say so."

Reader 3: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For

he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

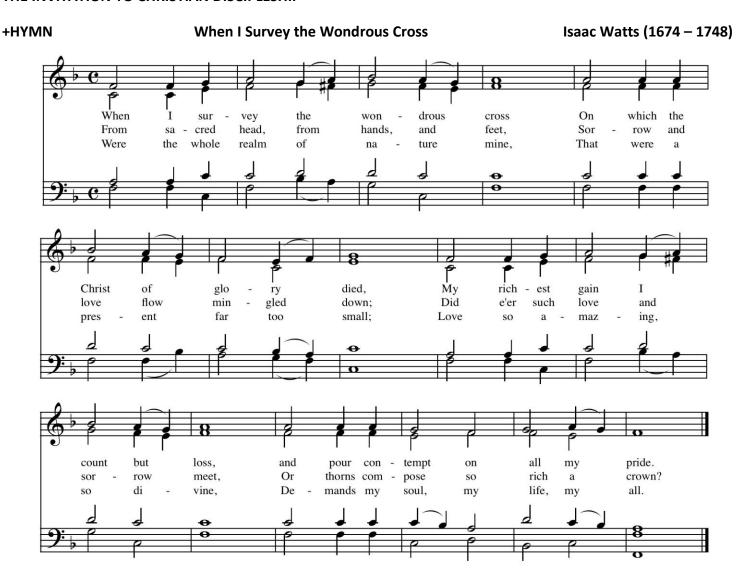
SOLO REFLECTION

Calvary

African-American Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan

THE PEOPLE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP



THE INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

Eric Lindsey, soloist; Alan Cox, flute

Michael Corzine, arr. Ferguson

Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories that they bring. Some are weeping, some are laughing, some have songs they want to sing. Others ask why they're invited, burdened by the wrong they've done. Christ insists they all are welcome. There is room for everyone.

Clouds of light surround the table, ancient followers appear.

Saints confessing how they wrested with their guilt, their doubt, their fear.

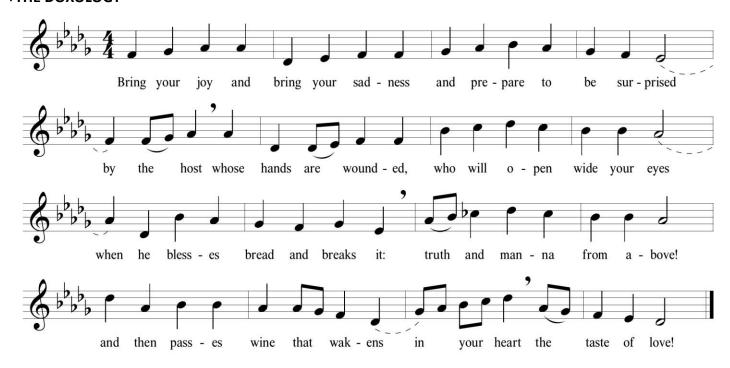
Peter tells of his denying – Christ was ever in his sight;

Paul related his fruitless efforts to obliterate the light.

Their sad stories are repeated in a thousand diffrent ways, but they share one thing in common: they all end in thanks and praise For the host who has invited north and south and east and west to converge around this table, where all life is fed and blest.

Please rise in body or in spirit, as you are able, to sing the final verse as the Doxology. Please remain standing through the Words of Institution.

+THE DOXOLOGY



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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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

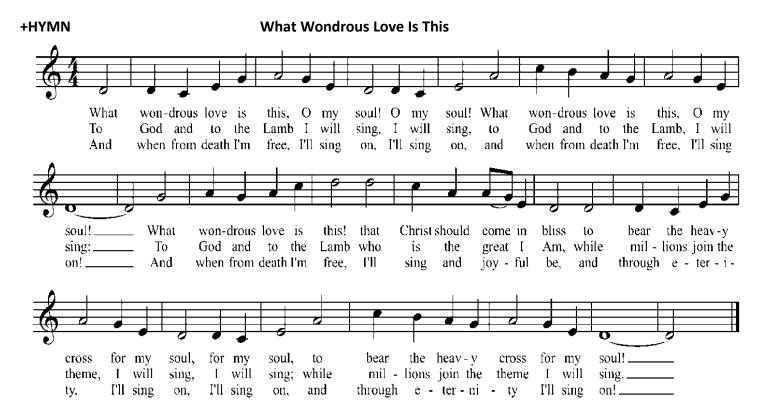
Christ has risen.

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.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING



+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

Fugue in F

G.F. Handel (1685 – 1759)

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Liturgist: Marjorie Watrobski; Lectors: Anita Edson, Bruce Carlson and The Rev. Vanessa Faloust; Elders: David Mitchell and Heather Bickham; Deacon Leads: TBD; Director of Music Ministry: Saya Callner, conductor; Organist: John Austin Clark, piano, organ; Artist-in-Residence: Dr. Tony McNeill.

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: Micah Faith Roundtable. *Inspired by the Hebrew prophet Micah's call to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God, we seek to inspire and educate faith leaders to fight poverty and injustice.*





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, Laura Martin, Richard Turner and Roberta Brodfeld.

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.

INTERCESSORYPRAYER

(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 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

Join Us For Holy Week at The Park

Palm/Passion Sunday – April 9, 11:00 AM Worship in Story and Song Maundy Thursday – April 13, 7:00 PM Tenebrae: The Growing Darkness Good Friday – April 14, 12:00 PM Worship Remembering the Way of the Cross

Good Friday – April 14, 6:00 PM Shared Faith Passover with TUJ Easter -- April 16, 11:00 AM Festival Celebration of the Resurrection



Pastoral Compassionate Care in Jail/Prison Setting



Join us for the next session of the program on Today, April 9, at 3:00 PM at *The Manse*.

1453 Lexington Ave. New York, NY 10128

We will continue meeting for four more 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.

SCREENING: Holler If You Hear Me: Black and Gay in the Church, 5:00 PM, today



This one-hour film chronicles the lives of queer black men and women who express their journey with faith and sexuality.

Produced by Clay Cane, HOLLER IF YOU HEAR ME offers a wonderful point of departure for our post-doc panel discussion focused on the role and function of masculinity in predominately black sacred spaces.

Joining us for the discussion will be Indiana University **Professor Rev. Dr. Alisha Lola Jones, Dr. Tony McNeill,** Artist-in-Residence at The Park, and **Minister Charles Anthony Bryant,**Minister of Music, First Corinthian Baptist Church of NYC. Dr.

McNeill and Min. Bryant are profiled in the documentary.

Plan to join us! Light refreshments will be served in the Sanctuary of Park Avenue Christian Church. This event is free and open to the public.

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



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/