



The Second Sunday of Lent
February 25th, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Quote of the Week

When one has once fully entered the realm of love,
the world — no matter how imperfect — becomes rich and beautiful, it consists solely of opportunities for love..

Søren Kierkegaard

The Season of Lent

The season of Lent is a time in which believers are invited to journey with Jesus as he makes his final journey to Jerusalem and the cross. The period of 40 days leads into Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Resurrection morning which are the axis around which our faith is formed. It is time marked with reflection, prayer, and intentionality as we tend to the business in our lives and reflect on what God is doing through Christ for all the world.

During this season, the altar is stripped of flowers and replaced by a single Christ candle, the minister wears a purple stole symbolic of Christ's passion, and the word "Alleluia" is removed from the liturgy. It is our prayer that you will join us and that we, the people of God in this place, will rise together to greater glory in celebration of Christ's own life and sacrificial love.

Please stand as you are able whenever an asterisk (*) precedes a heading.

Restrooms, including children's facilities with a changing table and a gender-neutral accessible restroom, are located in the basement.

Prelude | Tania Jones

The prelude is an integral part of worship, as we open ourselves to God's presence. Please enter quietly, being sure to silence your devices.

Welcome | The Reverend Dr. Cathy S. Gilliard

If you are new to our church, we encourage you to fill out a visitor card, found in the pew in front of you or online at paumcnyc.org/visitor.

*Opening Hymn | UMH #100 - "God, Whose Love is Reigning O'Er Us"

Invocation

Children's Moment | Liz Sweeney

*Christ's Peace

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Please greet one another with a sign of peace.

*Gathering Hymn | UMH #349 - "Turn Your Eye Upon Jesus" (Sung Twice)



Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, look full in his won - der - ful face,



and the things of earth will grow strange - ly dim in the light of his glo - ry and grace.

Prayer for Illumination | Leleah James

All: Holy God, may the brightness of heaven shine through the Scriptures today, and shine in on us as we listen. May your Spirit speak and teach us to be citizens of your kingdom that is coming into being. Prepare us to receive with joy the feast that you have prepared, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson | Psalm 22:23-31 (p. 491)

One: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn** | *UMH #534*- "Be Still, My Soul"

Sermon | Minister Okema Diaz

Solo | *UMH #140*- "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Soloist: Melanie Goerlitz

Offertory Prayer

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

If you wish to give online, you can do so by scanning the QR code on the back or by visiting paumcnyc.org/give.

Offertory Anthem | "God is on the Throne" by Cain

***Presentation Hymn** | *UMH #94* - "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from who all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures here be - low;". The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The lyrics are: "praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men." The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Prayers of the People

Minister: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

If you have a prayer request that you wish to share with the church, you may do so by filling out a prayer request form available in the pew in front of you, submitting a prayer request at paumcnyc.org/prayer, or by texting your name and request to (914) 627-9286.

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn | TFWs #2130 - "The Summons"



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name? _____
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name? _____
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name? _____
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name? _____
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name. _____



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same? _____
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same? _____
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same? _____
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same? _____
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same. _____



Will you let my love be shown, _____ will you let my name be known, _____
Will you risk the hos - tile stare _____ should your life at - tract or scare? _____
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, _____ and do such as this un - seen, _____
Will you use the faith you've found _____ to re - shape the world a - round, _____
In your com - pa - ny I'll go _____ where your love and foot - steps show. _____



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me? _____
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me? _____
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me? _____
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me? _____
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me. _____

*Benediction

Postlude

About Today's Preacher

Okema Diaz is a minister and co-layleader at Park Slope United Methodist Church in Brooklyn, New York. She is currently a second year MDiv student at Union Theological Seminary and just became a certified candidate for ordination as an elder. Minister Okema is a practical theologian with ministry rooted in womanism, social justice, and transformational discipleship. She sings, travels and has a passion for cooking in her home in Harlem that she shares with her sister, her young adult daughter and their two cats Zulu and Fendi.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Space Rentals

Do you need a space for your next birthday party, board meeting, holiday function, film screening, or other gathering? Park Avenue is happy to host your next event! For more information, email rentals@paumcnyc.org.

Walking Together: Meditations for the Journey

Pastor Cathy's daily podcast is back for one more season! Tune in at paumcnyc.org/walkingtogether or you wherever listen to podcasts. And be sure to follow to not miss an episode!

To receive these in your email each morning, sign up for our mailing list at paumcnyc.org/podcastlist.

✦ WELCOME TO PARK AVENUE! ✦

Visitor Card



If you're new to our community, here are a few ways to get to know us:

- **Fill out a Welcome Card** in the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate, hand it to an usher, or to a staff member following service. Cards can also be found online at paumcnyc.org/visitor.
- **Join us for coffee hour on the third floor after service.**
- **Join our mailing list.** Emails are the primary way that we communicate any important messages for the entire community. If you do not receive our emails, we encourage you to subscribe at paumcnyc.org/maillinglist.

Park Avenue United Methodist Church is:

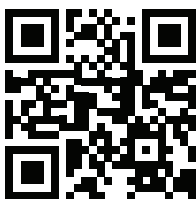
- A community of believers who affirm Christ's call to love God with all that we are and our neighbors as ourselves.
- A place that is open and affirming to our visitors. All people are welcome here.
- An anti-racist congregation under construction. Visit paumcnyc.org/antiracism to learn more.
- A member of the Reconciling Ministries Network, which mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform our Church and world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love. Visit rmnetwork.org for more information.

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PARK AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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