

Welcome
TO THE HEART OF THE MECCA



**THE ANDREW RANKIN MEMORIAL CHAPEL
HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

**ORDER OF SERVICE
SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025
CRAMTON AUDITORIUM
REV. BERNARD L. RICHARDSON, PH.D.
DEAN OF THE CHAPEL**

FAITH

SERVICE

JUSTICE



The Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel
Rev. Bernard L. Richardson, Ph.D., Dean of the Chapel
Sunday, March 30, 2025
11:00 A.M.

Ringling of the Bell

Jaleah McDonald
Howard University Chapel Assistants

Call to Worship

Rev. Hazel M. Cherry
Assistant Dean of the Chapel

Lighting of the Unity Candle

Donna Whitman
Friends of the Chapel

Scripture Reading

Natoy Fowler-Rowe
Evans E. Crawford Graduate Assistant
Psalm 32:1-2 NRSVue

Offering

Announcements & Greetings

Mary Betterson
1st Vice President, Howard University Chapel Assistants

Music Selection

“The 100th Psalm”
Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel Choir

by: Charles Coleman

Meditation

Rev. Bernard L. Richardson, Ph.D.
Dean of the Chapel

Introduction of the Speaker

Musical Selection

“We Offer Praise”
Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel Choir

by: Rodnie Bryant

Sermon

Rev. Lawrence Aker, III
Senior Pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church
Brooklyn, NY

Closing Hymn

“Total Praise”

by: Richard Smallwood

Benediction

We would like to thank the speaker’s assistant Chavi’ Lassiter graduating senior honors elementary education major and the bell ringer Jaleah McDonald a sophomore political science and criminology major.

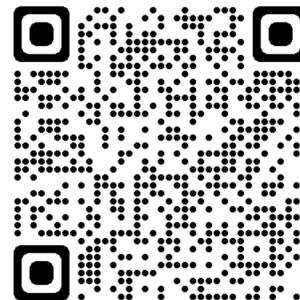
Scripture

Psalm 32:1-2 (NRSVue)

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are
forgiven, and whose sin is out away!
2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no
guilt, an in whose spirit there is not guile!

**This is the word of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.**

Offering Link



Or visit: giving.howard.edu/rankinchapel



**Rev. Lawrence Aker, III
Senior Pastor,
Cornerstone Baptist Church,
Brooklyn, NY**

Reverend Lawrence E. Aker, III currently serves as senior pastor of the Cornerstone Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York. In 2003, he was elected as the eighth pastor in the church's history succeeding his spiritual mentor, Rev. Dr. Harry S. Wright, Sr. Pastor Aker, a native of Oakland, California, was raised in Dallas, Texas.

Under his leadership in 2022 Cornerstone Baptist Church served as a vaccination center throughout the pandemic, collaborated with the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office to host the largest community gun buy back in Brooklyn's history, and partnered with Chef Andrés of World Central Kitchen to provide hot meals daily to the community.

Recognized as one the top 100 Faith Leaders in NYC, Rev. Aker has been called upon to speak throughout his community, country, and internationally. He has been featured on local television programs and works to improve the physical and mental health in the Brooklyn community. Rev. Aker partnered with United Health to provide weekly onsite healthy living workshops, food preparation classes, and blood pressure monitoring. He also partnered with local community groups to address food insecurity in the Bed-Stuy community.

As senior pastor, Rev. Aker and the Cornerstone Baptist Church (CBC) Development Center manages the churches Sandy F. Ray Nursing home, an apartment complex and brownstone residence/offices. Under his leadership, the church has successfully renovated the exterior of the edifice, established a community youth basketball program, and increased its membership.

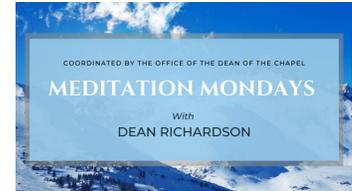
He has also been blessed with the opportunity to study Biblical Archaeology at The Holy land Institute in Jerusalem and has had the opportunity to preach in Zimbabwe, Africa, London, England, and Seoul, South Korea. He graduated cum laude from Howard University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. He holds a Master in Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary; a Master of Sacred Theology from Yale University, and is presently a Doctor of Philosophy candidate at Baylor University, Waco, Texas. He is aa founding board member of IC3 (Issachar Conference).

Rev. Aker is a family man and resides in Brooklyn with his wife and college sweetheart, Cynthia. They are the proud parents of one son Lawrence IV, and two daughters, Karina Vivian and Nyla Victoria.

This Week at Rankin

Join us online for **Meditation Mondays** with Dean Richardson every Monday morning at 9 AM on all Rankin Chapel social platforms.

@HowardUChapel on IG, X, & FB
@RankinChapel on YouTube



Bible Study

Finding Yourself:
A Journey Through Biblical Stories
Every Tuesday at 7 PM
Carnegie Building | Little Chapel

HU THRIVE
Yoga
Every Wednesday at 6:00 PM
Carnegie Building | Little Chapel

This Week's Calls to Chapel

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., Delta Phi Chapter

Howard University Discern Student Group

If your organization would like to do a Call to Chapel, please visit bit.ly/acalltochapel

Chapel Staff

Dr. Bernard L. Richardson, *Dean of the Chapel*

Ms. Deborah Boatwright, *Operations Coordinator*
Rev. Hazel M. Cherry, *Assistant Dean of the Chapel*
Mr. Joseph Dillard, *Assistant Dean of Community Outreach and Engagement*
Mr. Joseph Hargett, *Sexton*
Dr. Kanika A.M. Jones, *Special Assistant for Interfaith Programming*
Mr. Donnell A. Knighten, Jr., *Administrative Coordinator*

Ms. Erica Middleton, *Assistant Program Coordinator*
Dr. Nisa Muhammad, *Assistant Dean of Religious Life*
Dr. Eric O. Poole, *Director of Music*
Ms. Kayla Reid, *Assistant to the Dean of the Chapel*
Ms. Cynthia Rodwell, *Director of Administration and Operations*
Ms. Kahleelah Harris, *Evans E. Crawford Graduate Assistant*
Ms. Natoy Fowler-Rowe, *Evans E. Crawford Graduate Assistant*

Interfaith Advisory Board

Rev. Bernard L. Richardson, Ph.D., *Dean of the Chapel, Chair*
Zainab Alwani, Ph.D., *School of Divinity*
Aneesah Lawrence, *Muslim Students Association*
Bradford Grant, M.Arch., R.A., *College of Engineering and Architecture*
Donna Grant-Mills, RDH, M.Ed., DDS, *College of Dentistry*
Altaf Husain, Ph.D., *School of Social Work*
Fatimah Jackson, Ph.D., *College of Arts & Sciences*
Kanika A.M. Jones, Ph.D., *School of Business*
Molly Levine, Ph.D., *College of Arts and Sciences*
Bahiyah Muhammad, Ph.D., *College of Arts and Sciences*
Nisa Muhammad, D.Min., *Office of the Dean of the Chapel*
Kwesi Kwakye-Nuako, Ph.D., *School of Divinity*
Jael Johnson, *Howard University Chapel Assistants*

Chapel Assistants Officers

Jael Johnson, *President*
Mary Betterson, *1st Vice President*
Jayda Gray, *2nd Vice President*
Aaliyah Wilson, *Chaplain*
Milan Mitchell, *Secretary*
Giovanna Brooks, *Treasurer*
Alyssa Belise, *Historian*
Willie White III, *Public Relations Chair*
Arielle Carter, *Community Service Co-Chair*
Tierra Jackson, *Community Service Co-Chair*
Christopher Fowler, *Sergeant at Arms*
Destiny Perry, *Events Coordinator*

Quote of the Week

"There are two ways of exerting one's strength: one is pushing down, the other is pulling up."

Booker T. Washington



The Office of the
Dean of the Chapel
Faith · Service · Justice

Chapel Music Staff

Mr. Edmond Charles, *Organist, Pianist*
Mr. Royce Bouknight, *Bassist*
Mr. Terron Whitehead, *Drummer*

Friends of the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel Officers

Mr. Chauncey D. Manson, III, *Chairperson*
Ms. Patricia L. Plummer, *Vice Chair*
Mrs. Anita Moore-Hackney, *Chair Emerita*
Rev. Tracy Ross, *Recording Secretary*
Ms. Pamela L. Johnson, *Treasurer*

Chaplaincies & Events

Roman Catholic – Fr. Robert P. Boxie, III
United Methodist – Rev. Jacob Cogman

Roman Catholic – Fr. Robert P. Boxie, III
Catholic Mass on Sundays at 6 PM, Douglass Hall Room 120
Fellowship on Wednesdays at 7 PM, Douglass Hall Student Lounge

United Methodist – Rev. Jacob Cogman
Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7 PM, Douglass Hall Room 017/019

Have a Great Week!

Upcoming Speakers

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Cornel West, Ph.D.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer Chair,
Union Theological Seminary
New York, New York

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Rev. Renita Weems, Ph.D.

Author, Scholar, Clergy, & Public Intellectual
Nashville, TN

Sunday, April 20, 2025

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie

President/General Secretary,
National Council of Churches
Baltimore, MD

Re-watch all of our services at

www.YouTube.com/RankinChapel

We would like to thank our interpreters:

Zibora Gilder & Bobby Lancaster