

Former Ground Zero Priest Shares a Story of Forgiveness, Resilience and Renewal After 9/11

CHARLESTON, SC, UNITED STATES, July 1, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Nearly a

quarter century after the attacks of September 11, 2001, [Lyndon Harris](#)—the former Episcopal priest who initiated and led the extraordinary relief effort at Saint Paul's Chapel, directly across from Ground Zero—is bringing his story of trauma, collapse, forgiveness and renewal to audiences nationwide.

“

Forgiveness does not deny the wound or abandon the desire for justice. It is rather the courageous work of refusing to let pain have the final word in our lives.”

Lyndon Harris

In his new memoir, [Forgiveness at Ground Zero: A Journey of Service, Loss and Redemption after 9/11](#) (Bloomsbury Academic, 2026), Harris offers a searing eyewitness account of the months following 9/11, when Saint Paul's Chapel became a round-the-clock sanctuary for recovery workers, first responders, volunteers, and grieving New Yorkers. But the book also tells the more private story that unfolded after the cameras left: Harris's own struggle with

trauma, loss, regret, and the long road toward healing.

“Forgiveness does not deny the wound or abandon the desire for justice,” Harris says. “It is rather the courageous work of refusing to let pain have the final word in our lives.”

During the eight and a half months following the attacks, the relief operation at Saint Paul's Chapel mobilized thousands of volunteers and provided meals, rest, practical care, music, prayer, and companionship to those working at and around Ground Zero. Harris oversaw the development of a place of refuge amid one of the nation's darkest chapters.

Yet the story did not end with the relief effort.

Forgiveness at Ground Zero traces the deeply human journey that began after the public attention faded: the emotional and spiritual costs of trauma, the consequences of personal failure, and the possibility of finding new life beyond bitterness, shame, and despair.

Now a speaker, retreat leader, and forgiveness coach, Harris invites audiences into a timely conversation about resilience, post-traumatic growth and the healing power of forgiveness in a divided world.

Harris has trained in and taught evidence-based forgiveness practices based on the research of Fred Luskin, Ph.D., a pioneering educator in the field of forgiveness and the director of the Stanford Forgiveness Project. Harris co-authored with Luskin The [Forgive for Good Recovery Workbook](#) (New Harbinger, 2025)

As communities, workplaces, families, and faith institutions continue to navigate grief, conflict, trauma, and division, Harris offers a perspective grounded in both lived experience and practical forgiveness work.

Speaking topics include:

- Forgiveness after trauma and tragedy
- Post-traumatic growth and resilience
- Self-forgiveness and recovery from shame
- Healing divisions in families and communities
- Lessons from Ground Zero for a divided world
- Moving beyond resentment and reclaiming your life

Harris is currently available for keynote presentations, conferences, retreats, universities and seminars, faith communities, podcast interviews, radio and television appearances, book clubs and author events.

For speaking inquiries, interviews, or event bookings:

Lyndon Harris

www.lyndonharris.com

ForgivenessGZ@gmail.com

For Author Events and Book Purchasing:

Peter Perez

Assoc. Director of Publicity, Bloomsbury Publishing US

peter.perez@bloomsbury.com

Lyndon Harris

Forgiving Communities Collaborative

forgivenessgz@gmail.com

Visit us on social media:

[LinkedIn](#)



Forgiveness teacher Lyndon Harris

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/923385691>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.