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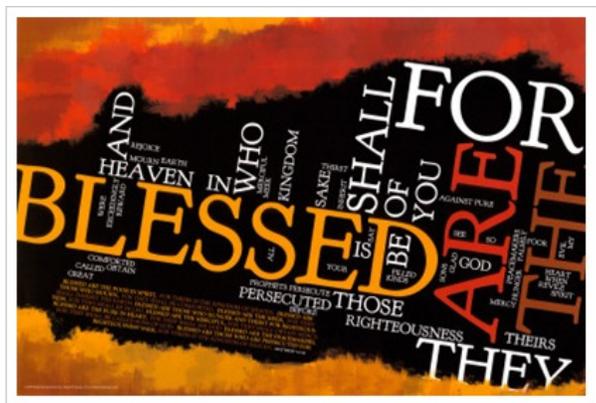
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This Sunday July 7

SUNDAY SERMON PREVIEW

Imagine!



Dear Nelly,

Imagination gives us the ability to see the potential in things, to observe things as they are and ask what they might become. When we are children, imagination is what allows bicycles to become airplanes and kitchen tools to become musical instruments. Imagination allows a blanket to become the canopy of a tree house or the roof of a secret bunker.

Imagination has tremendous value for faith, not because what we as people of faith believe is untrue, but because imagination is what gives us the potential to see more than what meets the eye. Without imagination, it is difficult to conceptualize anything other than what we already have in front of us, and that presents a serious problem for people of faith: you see, without imagination, there is no hope.

And it seems to me that in the 6th chapter of Luke's gospel in what Luke calls the Sermon on the Plain. Matthew calls it the Sermon on the Mount. It's all a matter of perspective I guess, maybe Matthew was looking up and Luke was looking down on Jesus.

Adult Bible Study
10 am

Children's Sunday School
and Kids' Church
10 am and 11 am

WORSHIP CELEBRATION
11 am
Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson

Summer Holy
Conversations on the
2020 Vision
1 pm

Lifeline Gathering
6 pm

In This Issue

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Service and

Witness

According to Luke, Jesus moves down to a "level place," which means he is standing smack dab in the midst of this needy crowd, squarely in the center of this sick, poor, destitute, possessed, smelly, milling crowd, and these are the folks he chooses for his team!

Talk about irony of ironies! The very ones you would think would never be chosen, He calls their names first. He chooses them first. Come on you are on my team! Hey, you back there, all the way in the back, at the backdoor, you at the bottom of the economic totem pole, you are on my team. Come on up here!

And so Jesus says, blessed are you poor, yours is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you that hunger, you shall be filled and satisfied.

Blessed are you that weep, now you shall laugh. Come on, I choose you for my team!

On the other hand he said to those who looked like they had it all together and would be chosen first for any team...Woe! Get back!

Woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. There is a great reversal. Things are not really what they seem!

I think what Jesus is saying here is that it takes imagination to see the world as God sees it. Jesus offered this remarkable list of "blessings" and "woes" to warn against a Lilliputian shrinking of his disciples' outlooks and dreams and to demonstrate what kind of dreams Jesus' disciples should be dreaming.

In Luke's version of Jesus' teaching, these eight sayings are announcements. They are nothing less than the outline of God's program. This is, Jesus says, what God is up to in the world and in human history.

I want on Sunday to invite you to hear the words of Jesus and then to dare use your imagination to see the kind of world and cities and communities God is calling us to work for and pray for in our day and time.

Readings for Sunday: [Isaiah 66: 10-14](#); [Luke 6:17-26](#)

See you at *The Park*!



Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson

* The [Saturday Community Lunch](#) program welcomes volunteers every Saturday. Contact [Rev. Luis-Alfredo](#) to participate.

* For information on free food and assistance programs throughout the five boroughs, visit the [New York City Coalition Against Hunger](#).

[Visit the church's volunteer webpage for more opportunities](#)



Donations

- General Fund
- Flowers and Decorations Fund
- Stewardship Campaign Building Fund
- Sanctuary Book Fund

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 1-3:30 PM

Summer Holy Conversations on the 2020 Vision



God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

Vision

We dare to SEE a faithful, growing healthy congregation of thousands over the next ten years that seeks to demonstrate true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.

Values

We dare to BE a church that embraces 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.

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 our witness as we strive to build and model the beloved community of God.

Sunday,

July 7, 1:00-3:30 PM

Leadership Retreat and Holy Conversation

Calling All Elders, Deacons, Clergy and Team Leaders of *The Park*! Join us for a Retreat and the first in a series of Holy Conversations on Worship and Mission.

The primary question of our time together will be: **If money were not an object what would we do in the area of mission, outreach and service for the community - is there a big, bold, beautiful, bodacious signature mission we are being called to? And secondly, how might we enhance and refresh our worship space?** The Reverend Donald Schell, President of the All Saints Company of San

short cuts

[Worship Schedule](#)

[Free Parking](#)

[Church Video Channel](#)

[Past Sermons](#)

[Pastor Jackson's Blog](#)

[Lifeline](#)

[Arts at *The Park*](#)

[Music Ministry](#)

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We're registered with
Good Search...
are you?



When you use
GoodSearch.com and
GoodShop.com to search
and shop on-line, *The Park*
earns a commission!

Francisco, CA will facilitate our conversation together.

Lunch will be served.

To attend, please RSVP to Nelly x110 or Kim x102 in the church office.

**Sunday,
August 4, 1:00-3:00 PM
Holy Conversation**

Calling All Couples! Pastor Jackson and Ms. Tina invite all couples of the church to join them for a gathering at the Manse for a Holy Conversation on the future of our church. Those couples who have joined *The Park* and those who are yet discerning about their place at *The park*.

A light lunch will be served.

To attend, please RSVP to Nelly x110 or Kim x102 in the church office.

**Sunday,
August 11, 1:00 pm-3:30 PM
Holy Conversation**

Calling the Entire Congregation of *The Park*! Join us for the third Holy Conversation on the future of our church.

A light lunch will be served.

To attend, please RSVP to Nelly x110 or Kim x102 in the church office.

EVERY SUNDAY STARTING JULY 7, Back of the Sanctuary

Sunday Morning Prayer Group



Pastor Jackson invites you to join him in the back of the sanctuary for a time of prayer for our church community, our city and the world.

- July 7th at 10:30 am - specifically the Elders, but everyone is invited.
- July 14th at 10:30 am - specifically the Deacons, but everyone is invited.
- July 21st at 10:30 am - specifically the Ministry Council, but everyone is invited.
- July 28th at 10:30 am - specifically the Team Leaders, but everyone is invited.

Quote of the Week

The prophet engages in a futuring fantasy. The prophet does not ask if the vision can be implemented, for questions of implementation are of no consequence until the vision can be imagined. The imagination must come before the implementation. Our culture is competent to implement almost anything and to imagine almost nothing. . . . It is the vocation of the prophet to keep alive the ministry of imagination, to keep on conjuring and proposing alternative futures

~Walter Brueggemann

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 13 - General Assembly, Orlando, Florida

Mark your calendars and make your plans to join your Disciples family from the US and Canada for our biennial General Assembly. The 2013 General Assembly theme, "Lord, Teach Us to Pray," calls us to pray deeply for God's direction, strength, courage, and initiative in mission. It offers the opportunity for praying communities of Disciples to connect with each other as the family of God. For more information, visit www.disciples.org/ga.

Did you know that there are scores of events -- bible study, concerts, committee, common interest, and self-help meetings -- happening every month at 1010 Park Avenue and around the city?

[Visit our website calendar](#) to find an activity that calls to you!

EVERY SATURDAY - Saturday Community Lunch Program

For over 20 years, *The Park* and its partnering congregations serve lunch to approximately 200 guests. [Contact Rev. Luis-Alfredo to volunteer.](#)

EVERY SUNDAY - [Lifeline](#), 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Lifeline is a spiritual gathering for people recovering from all kinds of addiction, affected family and friends, and others who seek the promise of healing and restoration that only God can provide. Beginning at 6 pm, there is an hour of meditative music, prayers and speaker who shares his or her experience about addiction, recovery and spirituality. Fellowship and food afterwards.

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CLICK ON EVENT TITLES (WHEN [HIGHLIGHTED](#))
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TICKETED EVENTS

This Week at The Park is published every Thursday by

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Church office: 212-288-3246. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

[Contact us via email.](#)

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