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SUNDAY SERMON PREVIEW

Love, Period.



Dear Nelly,

David Mitchel, a dear friend and member of the Park who I had the privilege of marrying two years ago to his partner, Robert Sebastiano shared the communion invitation below with the congregation this past Sunday. Robert and David had been a couple for 32 years and with the passage of the Marriage Equality Act in New York, they were finally able to stand before family and friends and declare their love and commitment to each other and have the full legal backing and sanction of the state. I was so moved by David's words that I want to share them with you and make them the focus of my sermon this Sunday:

Last week, the Collegiate Churches of New York participated in the annual Pride Parade wearing T-shirts that said, "Love Period." I was struck by how simply that sums up the true meaning of the gospels: Love Period. Even in first Corinthians, it says, "Faith, hope, and love, these three. But the greatest of these is love." Period.

This Sunday July 14

Summer Choir Rehearsal
9:45 am

Adult Bible Study
10 am

Children's Sunday School
10 am

Sunday Morning Prayer
Group
10:30 am

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

Kid's Church
11 am

Lifeline Gathering
6 pm

In This Issue

Sunday Sermon Preview

Sunday Morning Prayer
Group

Bluegrass Band at Worship

Summer Holy
Conversations on the 2020
Vision

Of course, it having just been the Fourth of July made me consider this in the context of what is going on in America today. For all the talk of "Christian values" being part of our national discourse, do I see examples of them being shaped by Love? Question mark? True, tradition would have us shape families of one kind, but Love would be more flexible. Yes, fairness might dictate a strict immigration policy but Love would have us be more open. The powerful have one view on the widening economic gap between the rich and the poor, but Love wants to change its direction. Clearly with today's celebrity obsessed, winner take all, who wants to be a millionaire society, we are failing by both the standards Jesus laid out in today's gospel reading, the Sermon on the Plain, and according to the gospel of Love. Period.

At least there is one place where we can always count on Love semi colon; it is here at this Table. Because here the invitation is extended to everyone within earshot and beyond by Love comma, although in this case maybe it should be Love exclamation point! The exclamation point does two things. Firstly, it makes it emphatic. There is nothing that can separate you from God's Love Period. But an exclamation point also makes it an imperative for us to go out and share that Love. Period.

Join us this Sunday for a Love Clinic sponsored for you by your Heavenly Parent, for it is the will of God that all of God's children who are made in God's image be filled with love, live in love and love one another. Love. Period.

And so your prep work for the Clinic is to read: [II Samuel 11:1-13](#) and [Luke 10:25-37](#). No need to make an appointment. Your name is already in the appointment book, because it is really true that nothing can separate you from God's Love. Period.

See you at the Clinic!



Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson

EVERY SUNDAY, 10:30 AM, 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

Latino Outreach Ministry
Proposal

Quotes of the Week

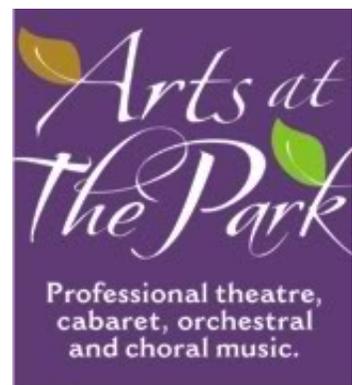
Upcoming Events

Service and Witness

* 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](#)

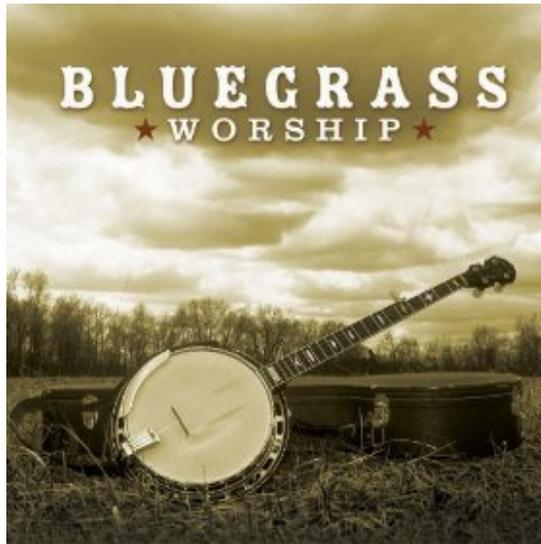


prayer for our church community, our city and the world.

- 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.

SUNDAY, 11 AM, Sanctuary

Bluegrass Band at Sunday Worship



This Sunday morning, we're excited to welcome a Bluegrass Band to worship! They'll be leading us in Southern folk hymns, Gospel songs and Spirituals accompanied by fiddle, banjo, bass and guitar. We'll also begin worship with an old-fashioned Hymn Sing, so arrive at 10:50 and gather at the front of the Sanctuary. We'll take your hymn requests and sing together.

The Summer Choir will also offer a musical selection and help to lead worship. All are welcome to sing with us. Simply arrive at 9:45 a.m. and join in rehearsal at the front of the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 11 & 18, 1-3:00 PM

Summer Holy Conversations on the 2020 Vision

Donations

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

short cuts

[Worship Schedule](#)
[Free Parking](#)

[Church Video Channel](#)
[Past Sermons](#)
[Pastor Jackson's Blog](#)

[Lifeline](#)

[Arts at The Park](#)

[Music Ministry](#)
[XY Factor at The Park](#)
[Facebook Group](#)

[Interfaith Partner:](#)
[Congregation Da'at Elohim/](#)
[Temple of Universal Judaism](#)

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!



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,
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.

**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 18, 1:00-3:00 pm
Holy Conversation**

Calling All XY'ers! Pastor Jackson and Ms. Tina invite all XY'ers of the church (20-30 year olds) to join them for a gathering at the Manse and a Holy Conversation on the future of our church. All XY'ers whether you are new to the group or have been there for years, no matter if you are a regular or just one that pops in and out.

A light lunch will be served.

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

MONDAY, JULY 15, 6:30 PM, Sanctuary

Presentation on the Proposal for a Latino Outreach Ministry



Rev. Ismael Sanchez and Rev. Dr. Daisy Machado will be presenting the proposal as well as joining our discussion and discernment about a focused effort to reach the Latino community in our City. All are welcome.

Quotes of the Week

Always do what you are afraid to do

~**Ralph Waldo Emerson**, 19th century

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion

~**The Dalai Lama**, 21st century

You can safely assume you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do.

~Anne Lamott, 21st century

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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[Contact us via email.](#)

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