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## SUNDAY SERMON PREVIEW

### Seeing God Sight Unseen

Dear Nelly,

One of my favorite pastimes is reading the New York Times Book Review. It is a part of my Sunday evening ritual, after church, a meal, a nap maybe, phone calls to the family and friends, a quick review of taped Sunday News Talk Shows and to the New York Times and the Book Review I go! I am introduced to new worlds every week!

I became captivated by a book review this past week by Julie Bosman, titled *Seeing Mississippi Sight Unseen*. Being a son of the south and a native Mississippian naturally I would be drawn to this review. The book is actually titled *Southern Cross the Dog* and it is the story of Robert



Chatman, a young African American man displaced by the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and he sets off on an odyssey that over years takes him through the wilds of Mississippi, meeting fur traders, prostitutes, Klansmen and grafters. There are references aplenty to race, poverty, the blues, voodoo and an ill-fated brothel.

But the wonder of wonder is that the author of the book is a young 29 year old Chinese-American from Queens New York who has never set foot in

## This Sunday May 26

Adult Bible Study  
10 am and 2 pm

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

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

XY Factor Gathering  
12:30 pm

Lifeline Gathering  
6 pm

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Mississippi! The book appears to be written by someone who is from the south and who has experienced life as an African American in the '20s, '30s and early '40s. But that is not the case. The author is the son of Chinese immigrants who was born and raised in Queens and now lives in Brooklyn. And yet he creates a story that feels real and authentic of an African American man in 1927 Mississippi!

'How can this be?'

It is the question Nicodemus raised when he came inquiring of Jesus by night of the kingdom of God. And Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." The Greek word is *anōthen*. Some translations say "born again." Others read "anew" or "from above." "No one can see the kingdom of God without being born anew from above."

One of the reviewers who read this book on Mississippi by this young Chinese American who had never set foot in Mississippi said the only way this young man could write a book like this was that he had "transcended his own background." In other words it was something beyond him; a mystery; an out of body experience.

And the only way we can see God sight unseen is to be caught up in something beyond ourselves, a mystery, an out of body transcending experience. It is not just a head experience, but it is moving from head to heart. It is being open to something that transcends our curiosity and transcends our backgrounds.

We often come to God asking for a sign to help us control our lives more or to validate what we think we already know. But God says to us, I want to put you in touch with a whole new world. I want to turn your world upside down to where you will see reality as it really, really is. It is a world totally out of your control. And the only way you can get there is to "born again, anew from above."

Join as Sunday as we explore some of the mystery of God and what it means that God has called us as stewards and ministers of the mystery!

Readings for Sunday: [Psalm 8](#); [John 3:1-17](#)

See you Sunday!



*Alvin*

Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson

SUNDAY, MAY 26, During Worship, Sanctuary

Miriam Martinez Ordination

## 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](#)



Donations  
General Fund



Park Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) cordially invites your presence and prayers for the Ordination to Christian Ministry of Miriam Martinez. Reception will follow after the service.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2 from 11 AM, Sanctuary - Rooftop**

## All-Church Picnic and Music Appreciation Sunday



Come to *The Park* on June 2nd for Worship at 11:00 am and experience all of the many musical offerings as we celebrate Music Appreciation Sunday. After Worship, plan to stay and celebrate with a picnic on the roof. In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

**SUNDAYS THROUGH JUNE 2**

## Young People's Singing Sundays

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](#)

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with Good Search...  
are you?**



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



We will continue each Sunday through June 2 with the kids at *The Park* singing together as follows:

**During Sunday School:**

Young Children (up to age 5): Sing-along in the choir room after the Children's Moment in Worship

Middle Kids (ages 6-8): Sing-along and then Junior Chorus after the Children's Moment

**After Worship on Sunday (12:30-1:30 pm)**

Youth Chorale Sunday Group (ages 9 & up): Weekly Youth Chorale rehearsal preparing for a performance in worship on May 19. To sign up for the Youth Chorale Sunday Group, please contact Nicole Becker at [nbecker@parkavenuechristian.com](mailto:nbecker@parkavenuechristian.com) or (212) 288-3246 (x104).

We eagerly look forward to singing with your children and to widening the circle of young people engaged in the musical life at *The Park*!

## Quote of the Week

*We join the angels in praise, and we keep our feet in time and place . . . awed to heaven, rooted in earth. We are daily stretched between communion with you and our bodied lives, spent but alive, summoned and cherished but stretched between. And we are reminded that before us there has been this One truly divine . . . truly human. . . We are thankful for him, and glad to be in his missional company. Alleluia. Amen.*

**--Walter Brueggemann**

*Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*  
from the book by the same name

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, June 9 - Pastor Daisy Machado, Guest Preacher, Sanctuary**

Join us for worship led by our guest preacher, Daisy Machado, from the Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

**Sunday, June 9 - The Royal Wind Music, 3 pm, Sanctuary**

ATTP is pleased to present the unique award winning Netherlands based ensemble, [The Royal Wind Music](#), an international consort of 13 musicians who specialize in performing Dutch, German, Spanish, Italian and English

music from 1520-1640 on a collection of 45 select Renaissance recorders. Founded in 1997 by the Dutch Early Music expert [Paul Leenhouts](#), The Royal Wind Music has captivated a worldwide audience with remarkable performances that celebrate not only this genre of music but also the Renaissance recorder instrument which first achieved popularity in the 16th and 17th centuries.

**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](http://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 SATURDAY - Artist's Way Study Group, 12:00 - 1:30 pm  
Meetings combine meditation, readings from *The Artist's Way*, and sharing. Affiliated with [A.R.T.S.](#), a 12-step fellowship.

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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