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## This Sunday July 28

### SUNDAY SERMON PREVIEW

## Tenth Sunday After Pentecost



Dear Nelly,

The lesson from the gospel of Matthew is the story of Jesus calling a group of very ordinary people to drop their fishing nets, to leave their families to venture forth with him on a perilous sea called discipleship.

Jesus is always the one who extravagantly, even recklessly, commands us to leave the safety of the boat, to step into the sea, to test the waters, and show what our faith is made of. That's Jesus.

"Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me," goes an old gospel hymn that I remember singing, it seems almost every Sunday in the little church that I grew up in Indianola, Mississippi. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling us to risk our lives, to throw caution to the wind, to step out of the boat and defy death. "Jesus calls us over the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea, in our joys and in our sorrows,

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  
Stephen Epps, Guest  
Preacher

Kid's Church  
11 am

Lifeline Gathering  
6 pm

### In This Issue

Sunday Sermon Preview

Sunday Morning Prayer  
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Conversations on the 2020

'Christian come and follow me.'

But in the gospel story in Matthew, Jesus doesn't simply call us over the tumult. Jesus doesn't call us out of the tumult. No, in gospel story, Jesus calls Peter into the tumult.

Jesus calls Peter out of the boat and on to the waves. And Peter, on the basis of all his past experience with Jesus, calls out, "Lord, if it is you, command me to walk on the waves."

The good news is that when Peter ventured forth, even though the going was rough, even though he almost sank and perished, Jesus reached out his hand and he caught him, just at the right moment. He helped Peter back into the boat. He stilled the wind and the waves, and Peter was saved. But if Peter had not ventured forth, had not obeyed the call to walk on the water, then Peter would never have had this great opportunity for recognition of Jesus and rescue by Jesus.

I wonder if too many of us are merely splashing about in the safe shallows and therefore have too few opportunities to test and deepen our faith. The story in Matthew's gospel implies if you want to be close to Jesus, you have to venture forth out on the sea, you have to prove his promises through trusting his promises, through risk and venture.

I will be thinking about you this Sunday and lifting you and the preacher up in prayer as Stephen Epps preaches from this text in Matthew's gospel. I will return to the city on Monday from my family's reunion in Mississippi.

See you at *The Park*!



Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson

**EVERY SUNDAY, 10:30 AM, Back of the Sanctuary**

## Sunday Morning Prayer Group



We invite you to join us in the back of the sanctuary for a time of prayer for our church community, our city and the world.

### Vision

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



### Donations

- July 28th at 10:30 am - specifically the Team Leaders, but everyone is invited.

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

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

## Summer Holy Conversations on the 2020 Vision



### 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](#)

*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.

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 earns a commission!

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

**Calling all the Congregational members 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.

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**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.

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**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.

## Quotes of the Week

*You must do the thing you think you cannot do.*

~Eleanor Roosevelt, 20th century

*Every calling is great when greatly pursued.*

~Oliver Wendell Holmes, 19th century

## Upcoming Events

**Sundays, July-Aug - Summer Choir, Sanctuary**

Join the summer choir in leading 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.

**Daily, July 29-Aug 2 - Deanna Witkowski in Bryant Park, 12:30-2:30, Aug 1, 2-4 pm**

Deanna Witkowski would like to invite all friends of the Park to her annual week of solo jazz piano in Bryant Park (42nd St btw 5th/6th Aves)! The piano is located between the outdoor café and the Bryant Park Grill, right next to the statue of Mr. Bryant. For more info, check out Deanna's website at [deannajazz.com](http://deannajazz.com).

**Sunday, Aug 4 - Dr. Glenn Carson, Guest Preacher**

**Sunday Aug 25 - A Called Congregational Meeting, After Worship, Sanctuary**

Topic is based on the 2020 Vision and the future of the church.

**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.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

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