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**This Sunday
Sept 15**

SUNDAY SERMON PREVIEW

A Conspiracy of Love



Dear Friends,

The human tendency has always been to constrict God and God's love, to fashion a God who acts the way we act, a God who gets upset about all sorts of things human beings do and frowns a lot and punishes the wrongdoers.

Most of us, the writer Anne Lamott says, envision God as a stern high school principal, riffling through our files and not liking at all what he's finding.

And so it is not uncommon to talk about God in terms like: God as creator, God as law giver, God as law enforcer, God as punisher, God as the random power coursing through the universe-those are terms everyone understands.

But Jesus of Nazareth comes on the scene and teaches us a different way of talking about God. He was always associating with people no self-respecting, religiously observant person would be seen with: sinners, tax collectors, prostitutes. Religious officials were grumbling. Religious people are always the first to grumble about a

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

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**Service and
Witness**

love that has room for sinners, a love that reaches out to include the excluded.

So they grumbled, and he heard it, and he told a series of little stories to teach them a new God concept, but also as a subtle way to convince them to quit grumbling and fussing about who God is letting into the kingdom and to start enjoying the gift of love that God has for every one of us.

He even suggests in the telling of these stories that God is engaged in a conspiracy of love for us! Have you ever thought about God as a conspirator? God as a radical revolutionary counter-culture force in the world involved in a cabal to love without restraint or precondition.

That is the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and once we hear it and receive it we too are moved to join this radical revolutionary counter culture movement involved in a conspiracy of love!

Corey Booker, the Mayor of Newark, New Jersey and running to fill an unexpired US Senate term said in a Commencement speech last year at Stanford University to the graduating class: "Join the conspiracy to be a class of people that reject cynicism. Be lovers. Join the conspiracy and love with all your heart and with all your courage. Show up for the fight and embrace discomfort. People who get comfortable in their spirit, miss what they were created for."

This is our work as the people of God.

The readings for Sunday: [1 Timothy 1:12-17](#); [Luke 15:1-10](#)

See you at *The Park*!



Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, After Service, Sanctuary

Deacon Workshop Retreat

New Deacons, Old Deacons or just interested in becoming a Deacon?

Here is your chance to...

"Learn" what the Deacon Ministry is all about!

"Get Acquainted" with other Deacons...let's put names with those faces!

* 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

short cuts

"Let's Eat!" While preparing the meal is essential to being a Deacon, sharing a meal is also essential to community.

WHEN: Sunday, September 22nd

TIME: After Worship

PLACE: In the Sanctuary

RSVP: office@parkavenuechristian.com

(So we don't have to attempt to turn five loaves and two fishes into lunch!)

See you there!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1:30-2:30 PM, Sanctuary

Blessing of the Animals



In celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we invite all pet lovers to come for a brief liturgy and Blessing of the Animals service. All pets and their human companions will receive a blessing.

Quotes of the Week

I do not understand the mystery of grace - only that it meets us where we are and does not leave us where it found us.

~**Anne Lamott**, 21st century

This grace of God is a very great, strong, mighty and active thing. It does not lie asleep in the soul. Grace hears, leads, drives, draws, changes, works all in man, and lets itself be distinctly felt and experienced. It is hidden, but its works are evident.

~**Martin Luther**, 16th century

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday - Sunday Morning Prayer Group, 10:30 am, Back of the Sanctuary

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.

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

[Church Video Channel](#)
[Past Sermons](#)

[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!

Sunday, September 27 - Couples Ministry at *The Park*, 7 pm, Manse

Come, Join the Couples Ministry's First Fall Gathering for dinner and conversation at the [Manse](#). For more information about the Couples Ministry, contact Rev. Peter Heltzel via [email](#) or call 646.279.6690. Please RSVP for the lunch to office@parkavenuechristian.com

Sunday, October 6 - XYers Lunch with Pastor and Tina Jackson

All XYers are invited to lunch on Sunday, October 6th after worship at the [Manse](#) as guest of Pastor and Tina Jackson. RSVP to office@parkavenuechristian.com.

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

This Week at The Park is published every Thursday by

Park Avenue Christian Church

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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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