SUNDAY SERMON PREVIEW

A Dream Deferred

Dear Nelly,

That great Harlem poet Langston Hughes raised the question years ago:

\begin{center}
\textit{What happens to a dream deferred?}
\end{center}

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\textit{Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?}
\textit{Or fester like a sore--
And then run?}
\textit{Does it stink like rotten meat?}
\textit{Or crust and sugar over--
like a syrupy sweet?}
\textit{Maybe it just saggs
Like a heavy load.}
\textit{Or does it explode?}
\end{center}

Written in the 1950's by a black man living in a white society, Hughes used his poem to question what happens to the American dream in the black man's life when it disappears.
I have a colleague out in Seattle who works for a social service agency in that city and she says for 20 plus years she has worked with troubled and marginalized teens and she kept this poem pinned on the bulletin board in her office. She says, "like a best friend, this poem has kept me honest, focused and inspired to help youth who faced many barriers to revive to their dreams."

I wonder about the dreams deferred of those young girls who survived the unimaginable horror of captivity, rape and brutality for ten years in that hell of a home in Cleveland, Ohio?

Or the dreams deferred of children of immigrants who are forced to live in the shadows because this country has still not found the courage or the will to live up to its ideals of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all."
Or the dreams of millions of children of the world who are forced to grow up like wild weeds in a field because adults have abdicated our responsibility to care for all of our children.

What happens to a dream deferred?

I am reminded of this poem and deferred dreams as I read the passage from the book of Acts about the beginning of the early church. Though the church started on a high note with big beautiful dreams of impacting and changing the world, so many of the dreams were deferred, delayed and derailed. There were all kinds of drama, detours and disaster.

But this passage reminds us that dreams deferred, delayed, derailed with drama, detours and disaster does not necessarily mean that they are dreams denied.

Join us Sunday, on Mother's Day and the seventh Sunday of Easter as we resurrect our dreams and God's dream for the church and the world.

The readings for Sunday: Acts 16:16-34; John 17:20-26

See you Sunday!

\[Alvin\]
Rev. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson

\[SATURDAY, MAY 11 at 8 PM, Sanctuary\]
Riverside Choral Society: With Strings Attached

*Riverside Choral Society: With Strings Attached
Music for Chorus, String Quartet and Guitar*

Riverside Choral Society will be presenting a rich sampling of melodic choral works by modern and contemporary composers. The pieces range from a setting of Poe with string quartet accompaniment, to ethereal a cappella love songs and reveries, to evocations of Andalusia accompanied by virtuoso guitar.

**Tickets**
$35 and $25

Purchase tickets online at [www.riversidechoral.org](http://www.riversidechoral.org) and at the entrance.

**TUESDAY, MAY 14 at 8 PM, Sanctuary**

*Music for Organ and Guitar
Contrasting works for contrasting instruments*

*Arts at The Park* is pleased to present the virtuosic guitarist *Mak Grgic* (recently

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hailed by the Washington Post as "a lyrical insightful player...playing with "beauty," and "intelligence) along with organist and Arts at The Park's Artistic Director, Paul Vasile, in a program featuring the unique duo of guitar and chamber organ.

The program will include solos and duos for acoustic guitar and chamber organ (a miniature pipe organ), including the "Concerto for Lute in F Major" by Karl Ignaz Augustin Kohaut, the Austrian lutenist and composer of Czech descent who is considered one of the last important composers for Baroque lute. The performers will also offer several contemporary works, including a newly commissioned piece by Brooklyn-based composer and instrumentalist David Crowell of the Philip Glass Ensemble, who has been praised for compositional work that is "notable for its crystalline sonic beauty." Transcriptions of J.S. Bach's well-known "Chaconne" and "Sheep May Safely Graze" will round out this eclectic program.

Tickets
$25 General Admission / $20 Students/Seniors at smarttix.com

SUNDAYS, APRIL 14 - JUNE 2

Young People's Singing Sundays

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 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!

SUNDAY, May 19 at 2 PM, Park Avenue Christian Church
Thirteenth Annual New York City CROP Hunger Walk

As a CROP Hunger Walker or sponsor, you help us reach out to families in Chad, Darfur, Haiti, Bosnia, Iraq, Indonesia - to families around the globe as we move close to a world where there is truly enough for all!

To walk with us, or to sponsor our team, contact Pastor Luis-Alfredo Cartagena at 646-355-5564.

For more information, call: 212-865-6115 or go to www.nyccrop.org

Saturday Community Lunch Program

Members of the Greeter's Team (Lee Grisham, Iris Burroughs & Luis-Alfredo)
Gartagena), recently participated in the Saturday Community Lunch Program.

For over twenty years, The Park has been the host site for the Saturday Community Lunch Program.

Each week, over 200 people show up for a hot meal served by volunteers from The Park and our ecumenical and interfaith partners in this endeavor: Park Avenue Methodist Church, Manhattan Church of Christ, St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, and Congregation Da'at Elohim.

Quotes of the Week

*What you're supposed to do when you don't like a thing is change it.*
*If you can't change it, change the way you think about it.*

--Maya Angelou, 21st century

*You're still in prison if you do nothing better in freedom.*

--Toba Beta, 21st century

*We always pay dearly for chasing after what is cheap.*

--Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, 20th Century

Upcoming Events

**Saturday, May 18 - Immigration Consultation, 9 AM to 1 PM, Parlor**
This clinic is for anyone with an immigration question. Attorneys from Church World Service will be here to answer questions and evaluate your particular situation. Please help us spread the word! Brochures are on the table in the narthex.

**Sunday, May 19 - Rev. Dr. Anne Coffman, Guest Preacher, 11 PM Central Christian Church**'s pastor, Anne Coffman will lead us in worship on May 19.

**Sunday, May 19 - Congregational Meeting, After worship, Parlor**
We will be voting on the proposed Nominating Team as well as continuing the ongoing discussion around Mission, Governance, and Vision and the how/why it all works together to build and nourish life at The Park.

**Monday, May 20 - A Gnostic Passion, 8 PM, Sanctuary**
This concert of contemporary choral music by the world-renowned Cantori New York will feature the world premiere of an evening-length cantata for chorus and instruments based on texts by Ovid, jointly composed by identical twin brothers Brad and Doug Balliett, who will also participate in the performance.

**Sunday, May 26 - Miriam Martinez Ordination, During worship, Sanctuary**
A reception will follow the Worship Service in the Parlor.

Sunday, June 2 - All-Church Picnic and Music Appreciation Sunday

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 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

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. Visit the church website.

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