



MANHATTAN CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 25, 2021

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

Senior Minister & Elder Dr. Thomas Robinson

9.30a – Youth Church, Zoom
Led by Jason Isbell

10.30a – Worship, Sanctuary & Online
Sermon Series – *The Gospel of Luke: Anointed with the Spirit of God*
Sermon – Dr. Thomas Robinson
A Good Boy who Causes Trouble, Luke 2:39-52

12.00p – Fellowship in Central Park
(Southwest corner, 5th Ave & 79th St)

SPANISH MINISTRY

Spanish Minister & Elder

Sunday 10.30a – Worship, Library

Monday 7.00p – Small Group, Zoom

Saturday 3.00p – Women’s Prayer, Zoom

Angel Reyes

Angel Reyes

Miguel Cañizares

Elsa Cañizares

MINISTRY & MEETINGS

Zoom meetings | Connect through our website

Monday 12.00p – Book Discussion – *Affirming* Book by Sally Gary

Led by Matt Henegar

Monday 7.00p – Outdoor Small Group – Upper East Side, Carl Shurz Park

Bethany Schneider

Monday 7.30p – Bible Study – *The Gospel and Israel’s Scriptures: OT in the NT*

Kyle Swann

Wednesday 6.30p – Bible Study – *Why These Books? Writings Inside & Outside the Bible*

Dr. Thomas Robinson

Thursday 6.30p – Scripture Meditation – *Christian Mindfulness*

Spencer Wan

Friday 6.30p – Small Group Fellowship – New Jersey

Simon Smart

Friday 7.00p – Small Group Fellowship – Harlem (alternating weeks)

Julie Short

Saturday 9.00a – Women’s Prayer Hour

Denise Cherenfant

Saturday 10.00a – Community of Hope – Volunteers serve “Grab & Go” lunches at MCOC

Carl Garrison

WE SEEK TO WORSHIP AND GLORIFY GOD,
TO PROCLAIM THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST,
TO STUDY AND FOLLOW THE BIBLE,
TO CREATE A LOVING, DIVERSE COMMUNITY,
TO SERVE PEOPLE IN NEED.

CALENDAR

- Jul 26 Outdoor Small Group (see Announcements)
- Jul 28 NO meeting, Bible Study led by Tom Robinson, next Aug 11
- Aug 1 Sermon, Dr. Amy Bost Henegar
- Sep 24-26 Retreat 2021 – Save the Dates! MCOC & Central Park
- Oct 15-17 Rain Dates, Retreat 2021 (see Announcements)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- Jul 25 Victor E
- Jul 26 Teresa F
- Jul 27 Zeke I
- Jul 27 Diana S
- Jul 28 Elizabeth D
- Jul 30 Hans C
- Jul 30 Yonbue G
- Jul 30 Alexandra S
- Aug 1 Titus B
- Aug 1 Beryl D
- Aug 1 Tom R

PRAYER

- † Diamond McDonald & Family grieve the death of three loved ones: great grandmother Margaret Bell (age 99 1/2), maternal aunt Marie Jackson, and cousin Travis Bell (age 30)
- † Harry Ruff's father Harry Sr. suffers lung cancer stage 4 and has been in the hospital to remove fluid from his lungs
- † Ivy Smart's friend Martin M (in Uganda) is battling a series case of Covid-19 and is hospitalized in an induced coma
- † Health: Lynette D; Phyllis H; Qin W; Rick T's cousin Jeanette, Spencer W's friend Matthias (age 3)
- † Coronavirus: The pandemic, variants, health safety, herd immunity, global impact and losses, and those grieving

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Retreat 2021: Save the dates: the weekend of September 24-26, rain dates October 15-17. Our annual retreat is local this year rather than an overnight stay outside of NYC. We'll make use of technology, our church building, Central Park, and playgrounds nearby to be on retreat with God and one another

Outdoor Small Group: Gather outdoors for a Bible reading Mondays 7.00-7.30p in Carl Shurz Park, with hang time before and after. Text Mike at 917-776-9923 for precise location within the park

Worship through Giving: Your offerings are very important for our church family and ministries. Giving options include our website, by text, e-banking, or mail a check to the church

A Good Boy Who Causes Trouble

Thomas Robinson, *Luke: Anointed with God's Spirit* 7, July 25, 2021

Luke 2:39-52 Trans. TR

³⁹ Sometime after they completed everything pertaining to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the infant grew, and he was increasing in strength as he was filled with wisdom. And God's grace was on him.

Mary and Joseph take Jesus to Jerusalem for Passover. He stays behind.

⁴¹ Now his parents used to travel every year to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he turned twelve years old, they went up for the feast as was their custom.

⁴³ Then, when the days were completed, as they started back home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, and his parents didn't know. ⁴⁴ But because they thought he was among their group of traveling companions, they traveled a whole day's journey, and then they began searching for him among their relatives and people they knew. ⁴⁵ And when they didn't find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

After Three days of Searching, they find Jesus in the Temple.

⁴⁶ And it happened after three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, both listening to them and questioning them. ⁴⁷ But everyone who listened to him was amazed at his understanding and his responses.

⁴⁸ And when Mary and Joseph saw him, they were overwhelmed. And his mother said to him, "*Child! Why did you do something like this to us? Look, your father and I were searching for you in agony over what had happened to you.*"

⁴⁹ And he said to them, "*Why did you have to search for me at all? Didn't you know that I must be in the places that belong to my father?*"

⁵⁰ And even they didn't understand the saying that he spoke to them.

Jesus Grows up as Mary and Joseph's Son in Nazareth.

⁵¹ Then he went back with them and came to Nazareth, and he willingly submitted to them. And his mother stored up all the things he said and did in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus progressed in wisdom and in maturity and in grace before God and people.

Luke 2:17-19 The Testimony of Shepherds at the Birth of Jesus

¹⁷ But as soon as they saw it all, they told about how the story about this infant had been described to them. ¹⁸ And everyone who listened to them marveled over the things recounted to them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary stored up all these events, bringing them together in her heart.

Luke 24:25-27, 32 Jesus and the Disciples on the Road to Emmaus

²⁵ And he said to them, "*You're so unthinking, with hearts slow to put trust in all that the prophets said!* ²⁶ *Wasn't it necessary for the Anointed King (Christos) to suffer these things and to enter into his glory?*" ²⁷ And he started from Moses and from all the Prophets, and interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:32

³² They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts burning inside us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

Why Does Luke Tell Us this Story?

Luke knew Mark began Jesus' story with his baptism and calling disciples. Lk chose to add a section about Jesus' & John's births to introduce the story – information & much more. We learn about meeting Jesus in the Gospel before we meet Jesus. We've vividly seen the human realm & God's realm. A. Zechariah & Elizabeth, childless. Joseph & Mary must register. Simeon & Anna longing for deliverance. Shepherds. B. Also, Gabriel announcing; Angels; prophecy breaking out; miracle births! We're in our human realm, but Lk gives us a privileged view of God's amazing intervention. Lk takes time for this moment when Jesus is 12. Why? Human empathy – we feel for Mary. Portrayal of Jesus' devout family. Passover at beginning and end of Gospel: Tradition, week-long retreat, crowds, shared community, trust: they know Jesus.

The First Words of Jesus – A Question

Yes, all that. But Lk here tells a memory as a parable of the challenge of meeting Jesus through the whole Gospel. The story takes us to the vivid moment when parents find their lost son and love & fear turn to exasperation. We understand! Jesus should apologize, hug, promise. That's human, a good son. But then Lk gives us Jesus' first words in the Gospel: *Why did you have to search... Didn't you know...?* A slap? Talking to your frantic mother? Lk wants us to feel how awkward it is. But no apology. I knew you'd come back. Surely you knew where I was. Mom, you talked to Gabriel! You prophesied! But our human realm makes it hard. Passover shows a mighty God of a great past and hoped for future. We always have trouble with that God who chooses to come as us, a baby, a 12-year-old, a crucified man. Lk adds, "Even they didn't understand..." But Mary stored it up and pondered.

The Experience of Mary and Joseph and of All of Us

Jesus asks his parents the basic question of the Gospel: *Why are you seeking me?* Obvious answers: Fear, insecurity, unexpected loss. More: Didn't know, understand. Crowds seek Jesus to keep his healing in reach, 4:42; to touch him for power, 6:19. Herod wants to figure him out, 9:9. Make God prove himself, sign from heaven, 11:16. A useful Jesus, to solve our problems, take our side, viewpoint, politics, help us out. Jesus does accommodate! But doesn't take our side; he draws Mary/us to His side. Jesus opens new discoveries. Ask, Knock, Seek & you will find, 11:9. Stop seeking stuff! Seek God's kingdom... Don't be afraid, 12:29ff. Expand your search, your hearts! God opens unimagined vistas: *Why seek the living among the dead?* 24:5 Death, New Life. The Emmaus disciples are like Mary, so much stored up, but hearts slow to expand. Luke starts to plant seed & invites us into the journey of seeking Jesus.