

# VILLAGE CHURCH



# BIBLICAL GARDEN

1

## **ALOE**

*Aloe vaombe*

“Nicodemus...brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths...”

– *John 19:39-40*

2

## **FRENCH SORREL**

*Rumex acetosa*

The Lord said, “Tell the Israelites...they are still to celebrate the Lord’s Passover... They are to eat the lamb, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.”

– *Numbers 9:10-11*

3

## **MINT**

*Mentha spicata*

Jesus said, “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God.”

4

## **RUE**

*Ruta graveolens*

– *Luke 11:42*

5

## **CARAWAY**

*Carum carvi*

“When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter cumin?...His God instructs him and teaches him the right way.”

– *Isaiah 28:25-26*

6

## **HYSSOP**

*Hyssop officinalis*

“A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, ‘It is finished.’ Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

– *John 19:29-30*

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**SPANISH  
LAVENDER**

*Lavandula stoechas*

“Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard (lavender), anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”

— John 12:3

8

**ALGERIAN  
TANGERINE**

*Citrus clementina*

“Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce.”

— Proverbs 3:9

9

**FRENCH  
LAVENDER**

*Lavandula dentata*

“While Jesus was in Bethany...in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard (lavender). She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.”

— Mark 14:3

*Ancient Greeks called Lavender ‘nard’ based on a city in Syria where the herb grew. The ‘nard’ cited in the bible also may refer to a plant called Spikenard grown in the Himalayas and treasured as a perfume.*

The Village Church is blessed to share the temperate climate of the Holy Land, home to many fruits, flowers, herbs and trees mentioned in the Bible. Enjoy these Biblical Garden specimens chosen to educate and captivate visitors outside of traditional worship.



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**ROSE**

*Rosa 'Iceberg'*

“The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.”

— *Isaiah 40:8*

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You will find more plants at the entrance to the Fellowship Center.



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## FIG TREE

*Ficus carica 'Violette de Bordeaux'*

“For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land..., a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates... bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.”

— *Deuteronomy 8:7-10*



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## OLIVE TREE

*Olea europaea 'Montra'*

“As Jesus was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

— *Luke 19:37-38*



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## POMEGRANATE TREE

*Punica granatum 'Wonderful'*

“For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land..., a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates... bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.”

— *Deuteronomy 8:7-10*



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## LEWIS FLAX

*Linum lewisii*

“And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following (Jesus) on white horses...

On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

— ***Revelation 19:14 & 16***

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Flax has been harvested for thousands of years to create fine linen cloth. The linen mentioned in the bible comes from the plant *Linum usitatissimum*, a close relative of this perennial Lewis flax.

Named for explorer Merriweather Lewis, *Linum lewisii* was used by Native Americans to make baskets, fishing nets and medicines.



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## LIQUIDAMBAR

*Liquidambar styraciflua*

“Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?  
Why then has the health of my poor  
people not been restored?”

— *Jeremiah 8:22*

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The sap of liquidambar trees in the Middle East – *Liquidambar orientalis* – has been used for millennia as a balm to heal or sooth skin. The Village Church’s many liquidambar trees are a close relative. Native Americans used the sap of *Liquidambar styraciflua* for medicine and chewing gum.



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## DAYLILIES

*Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus (yellow)*

*Hemerocallis fulva (orange)*

Jesus said “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?”

— *Matthew 6:28-30*

The lilies cited here may have been anemones, poppies, or Madonna lilies, common in the Holy Land. No one knows for certain what flowers Jesus was talking about, but these colorful daylilies – which are not actual lilies – have grown wild for centuries. They are like so many other flowers that receive little care yet yield exquisite beauty.



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## **ALOES**

“How fair are your tents, O Jacob, your  
encampments, O Israel!  
... like aloes that the Lord has planted, like  
cedar trees beside the waters.”

— *Numbers 24:5-6*



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## **APPLE TREE**

*Malus domestica 'Anna'*

“The earth brought fourth vegetation...  
trees of every kind bearing fruit with the  
seed in it. And God saw that it was good.”

— *Genesis 1:12*



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## PINE TREE

*Pinus halepensis*

“The glory of Lebanon shall come to you,  
the cypress, the plane and the pine,  
to beautify the place of my sanctuary...”

— *Isaiah 60:13*

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*Pinus halepensis*, commonly known as the Aleppo pine or Jerusalem pine, is native to the Mediterranean region.



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## **PALM TREE**

*Chamaerops humilis*

“...the great crowd that had come to the festival heard Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord’...”

— *John 12:12-13*

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*Chamaerops humilis* is commonly known as the Mediterranean Fan Palm. There is no way to know what type of palm was used to honor Jesus, but this very accessible tree grows throughout the Mediterranean region.



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## ACACIA TREE

*Acacia baileyana*

“You shall make an altar on which to offer incense; you shall make it of acacia wood.”

— *Exodus 30:1*



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## **PALM TREE**

*Phoenix dactylifera*

“The righteous flourish like the palm tree,  
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.”

— ***Psalm 92:12***



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## **ALOE**

*Aloe arborescens*

“You love righteousness and hate wickedness.  
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your  
companions; your robes are all fragrant with  
myrrh and aloes and cassia...”

— ***Psalms 45:7-8***



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## CHERRY TREE

*Prunus illicifolia 'Catalina Cherry'*

“And God said ‘Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.’”

— *Genesis 1:29*



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## GRAPES

*Vitis vinifera*

“I am the vine; you are the branches.  
Those who abide in me and I in them  
bear much fruit, because apart from  
me you can do nothing.”

— *John 15:5*



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