SERVICE OF WORSHIP
February 19, 2017 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY’S SERVICE
The scripture today, Psalm 137, is a psalm of heartbreak. It is a psalm sung from exile. Ancient Israelites were driven from their homes and their homeland, a promised land, and forced to live enslaved in Babylon. The response is grief, and the response is hatred. Some have called this psalm the low point of scripture.
Prelude
Adagio from Sonate I
by Felix Mendelssohn

Introit (11 a.m.)
Steal Away
arr. Brian Tate; Village Voices

Call to Worship
Come now to this place of rest and renewal;
let your spirit rejoice in the presence of God.
We sing of God’s steadfast love for all people.
We pray for God’s peace to dwell in our hearts.
We trust that God will keep God’s promises.
God strengthens those who are weak
and comforts those who are broken-hearted.
God’s light is the life for all.

*Hymn, No. 305
Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!
DARWALL’S 148TH

*Prayer of Confession
Merciful God,
Our little lives, our big problems — we give them to you.
Silence so often challenges us:
we lack the discipline to wait patiently,
and we do not notice the noiseless invasion of your spirit.
Confusion so often runs rampant:
we don’t always remember your promises.
The evils of the world distract us:
our resolve fades as the day wears on.
Pour out upon us whatever we need of surprise, of life, of release,
that we may find strength for these days,
that we may find courage and hope for tomorrow.
With confidence, we rest in your grace which makes possible
triumph in defeat,
gain in loss,
and love in hate.
We rejoice this day to say: our little lives, our big problems — we give them to you. (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia!
Response: Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

Why Village Matters: Stephen Ministry

Patty Zender

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Call to Prayer

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;

set your seal upon my heart and live in me. heart and live in me.
Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem

Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace
music: John Rutter; Village Choir

Prayer for Illumination

Diann Markley (8 a.m.)
Larry Sneegas (9:30 a.m.)
Scott Stanley (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Psalm 137 (pg. 565)

Sermon

The Only Safe Place for Hatred
Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 799

I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry
I LOVE THE LORD

Offertory

Alleluia (8 a.m.)
music: Antonio Vivaldi; Jee-Yeun Kim, soprano

Pian’e forte (9:30, 11 a.m.)
music: Giovanni Gabrieli, arr. John Beyrent; Village Brass

*Response

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start.
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.
*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn, No. 329

God is Our Refuge and Our Strength
WINCHESTER OLD

*Benediction

*Response

I love the Lord, who heard my cry
and chased my grief away.
O let my heart no more despair
while I have breath to pray.

*Postlude

Allegro maestoso e vivace from Sonate II (8 a.m.)
by Felix Mendelssohn

Alleluia (9:30, 11 a.m.)
by Jacobus Gallus; Village Brass

*All who are able may stand
© A-705103 for all hymns

WORSHIP NOTES: OCCASIONAL REFLECTIONS
ON THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

These reflections are written by Village’s staff, and it is our hope that knowing a bit more about some of the individual components of the church service may help us to experience more fully the gifts of this time together.

Prelude written by Dr. Elisa Bickers

The prelude serves as a bridge between “out there” and “in here.” During this musical moment, we can quiet the conversations of the week, and turn our hearts instead toward the potential of this hour of worship. After all, for the next 60 minutes, we will pray, sing, learn, consider and hope together. That’s a big deal, considering all that surrounds us in this world, and so this is not a series of activities that we simply fall into. Whether the prelude is a rousing piece for hand bells, a meditation from the organ, or the offering of a soloist, the music has been thoughtfully selected and prepared to be a tool of transition. Let these few minutes guide your heart and mind into a place that is ripe for worship.
The following daily Bible readings were written by Rev. Jenny McDevitt and are an offering for your own personal devotion. You are invited to read the text, think about the reflection and questions and allow these to lead you in a time of prayer. Pray for your own journey of faith. Pray for Village Church and our mission. Pray for God’s world.

These are some of my “bible by heart” passages — the words of scripture that have engrained themselves on my heart. Consider these texts, and then consider what words have become (or might still become) your “bible by heart.” Sometimes we need the Word of the Lord even when a bible is not lying around…

**Monday, Feb. 20**

Exodus 16

This chapter tells the familiar story of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness and manna falling from the sky. This powerful text reminds us that God always provides — in ways that are extraordinary and ways that are ordinary.

**Tuesday, Feb. 21**

Psalm 23

Psalm 23 is a familiar text, and it contains some of my favorite words. A fun bit of translation trivia for you: this psalm concludes by saying, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your life…” Follow is a poor translation; pursue or chase is much truer to the original intent. “Surely goodness and mercy shall chase after you all the days of your life…” How does that change your understanding?

**Wednesday, Feb. 22**

Isaiah 41:10

This is only one verse, but a great deal of comfort is found within. Read this verse and allow it to comfort you. Read this verse and share it with someone who needs to be comforted.

**Thursday, Feb. 23**

Matthew 1

Full disclosure: I haven’t committed the complete genealogy to memory, but I remember enough of it to find good news within every generation listed. This is not a boring history lesson; actually, if you are only interested in facts, some of the lineage presented is wrong. If you are interested in truth, however, this is the chapter for you. This family tree reminds us that from beginning to end, God is always present with God’s people, and that each person has a role to play in our salvation history. That includes you. And all the rest of us, too.

**Friday, Feb. 24**

John 14

Do not let your hearts be troubled; do not let them be afraid. I say these words more often than any others, perhaps. But read the entire chapter. Further on Jesus says, “I will not leave you orphaned.” We are never alone. We are never alone. We are never alone. Thanks be to God.

**Saturday, Feb. 25**

Revelation 22

The river of life runs through the city, and it nourishes the tree of life. The tree of life produces fruit, and its leaves are for the healing of the nations. This imagery is among my favorite in all of scripture. The leaves are for the healing of the nations. Pray for such healing. Pray for God’s peace to be known in all the nations.
Dr. Beverly Gaventa
Reopening the Letters of Paul

7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24
Reception and book signing follow the program.
9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25

Tickets are available online at villagepres.org and click Connect, Adults, then Visiting Scholar

VILLAGE PRES YOUTH
CHILI COOK-OFF
FREE ENTRY for those who ENTER A CHILI
(traditional, spicy, vegetarian, or other)

Tickets are on sale in FRIENDSHIP HALL
$10 per person ($35 max per family)

6-8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26 - FRIENDSHIP HALL
TODAY AT VILLAGE

WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH! Please join us every week. Refreshments are available in Friendship Hall following the worship service.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL TODAY are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Rick Harman by his family.

WORSHIP BAGS are available for children to use as tools in worship. Please return the bags to the baskets located in the Narthex at the end of the worship service.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

PRESCHOOL CHURCH SCHOOL – Parents may check in their preschool-age child on the first floor in the Preschool wing. Church school classes are available at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

KIDS’ KINGDOM – K–1st GRADES new curricula! Kindergarten meets in Room 311. First Grade meets in Room 303. 9:30-10:30 a.m. 2nd–5th GRADES – Sign-in elementary (2nd-5th) aged students on the 3rd floor. Check the large bulletin boards located in the Children and Family wing for each grade’s class location. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Club V6 (6th Grade) – Relevant discussions for today’s ‘tweens. Room 302. 9:30-10:30 a.m.

CHILDREN SINGING – The Music Department is teaming up with Children and Family Ministry once again to incorporate a singing time for all 3rd-6th graders toward the end of the Sunday School hour. Beginning on March 5, for five weeks, the 3rd-6th Kids Kingdom classes will combine at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday to join in singing for 15 minutes with our interim music director, Ryan Main and Morning Stars director, Jenny Hull. The children will sing in worship on Palm Sunday (April 9), along with the Morning Stars, Village Voices and the Village Choir. We are excited to have this exciting offering for all children to sing their faith! Contact Jenny Hull at 913-671-2385 for more information.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

Upcoming Village U classes include:

SABBATH YOGA WEDNESDAYS – Join us after Wednesday night dinner for a relaxing session of gentle and restorative yoga with centering prayer meditation. Wear comfortable clothing and bring your own yoga mat. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, now-May 17. Rooms 307-309-311.


INTERMEDIATE COMPUTER AND INTERNET – This class allows students with basic knowledge of computers to improve their skills in Microsoft Word and the internet. With the assistance of teachers and teacher assistants (chimes), students will explore topics including: inserting pictures into documents; using margins, indents and tabs. 1–2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 21–March 7. Room 316.

GAME NIGHT – Are you looking for a fun night out? Come to Game Night! Bring your favorite board game or play one provided. Come learn a new game, and meet new friends. 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 23, March 30 & April 27. Room 233. Hosted by Kyle & Sandra Stephens.

SUPER SATURDAY HANDWORKS & E-WORKS – You will see everything from crocheting, to recipe organizing, to catching up on phone calls and emails while your children enjoy making new friends and participating in fun, creative activities. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25. Room 132. Child care is only available from 9:30 a.m.-noon.

INFANT, CHILD & ADULT CPR BASICS-DAYTIME – Learn the critical skills needed to respond and to manage a first aid, choking or sudden cardiac emergency in the first few minutes until emergency services arrive. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28. Room 132. Additional course materials fee: $12/person.
STEAMBOAT ARABIA MUSEUM DAY TRIP – In the year 1856, the steamboat Arabia had just left Kansas City when she sank in just minutes. Over time the river’s course moved, leaving the Arabia and her treasures buried deep beneath a Kansas farm field. Men and machines unearthed remarkably preserved frontier supplies—the world’s largest collection. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, March 2. Facilitated by Georgia Klein. Cost for the tour and luncheon is $20 per person.

PREPARING TO SELL YOUR HOME-A WORKSHOP ESPECIALLY FOR OLDER ADULTS – As many older adults contemplate downsizing and moving, selling their beloved home of many years is a very important step. Come learn about what you should be thinking about whether selling your home is a current possibility or years in the future. 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 4. Room 127. Taught by Carole Mosher.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Are you looking to brush up on your professional development? Come share your personal experiences and learn how to increase your presence at work or on interviews. 6-8 p.m. Monday, March 6. Room 126. Taught by Sandra Stephens.

Adult Sunday Morning Classes:
JOURNEY THROUGH LENT: ENGAGING THE SENSES – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, March 8-April 12, Room 230. Join the Rev. Jenny McDevitt for a fresh, experiential journey through the holy season of Lent. This six-week series will explore the stations of the cross as a way to deepen faith and engage in conversation, creativity, and contemplation.

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME: EXPLORING THE WISDOM OF POPE FRANCIS – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, March 8-29, Room 127. Father Bob Hagan, S.J. of Guardian Angels Catholic Church and Village member Nicola Juricak will lead an exploration of Pope Francis' second papal encyclical titled "Praise be to You—On Care for Our Common Home." In language that is clear and convicting, Pope Francis calls on all Christians to understand that our concern for the natural world is integral to our faithfulness. The paper thoughtfully discusses poverty, the environment, technology, and science with practical guidelines for our lives.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER FEB. 22 – Presidents Day dinner; teriyaki salmon fillets, veggie fried rice, mac & cheese, cherry cobbler a la mode. $7 for full buffet, $6 for salad bar and dessert. Salad bar starts serving at 5:15 p.m. followed by the hot food bar from 5:30-6:30 p.m. $3-children ages 3-10. Children under 3 are free. Reservations are required by noon on the Monday preceding the Wednesday Night Dinner you wish to attend. Call 913-671-2359 or email liz.middleton@villagepres.org or go to villagepres.org/wednesday-dinners to make a reservation.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY – Souper Bowl Sunday brought in over 1,200 pounds of canned soup, which is over 1,000 cans. That's enough cans to last two months at the Pantry! The Pantry is thrilled with your generosity. Now the food request is for canned vegetables of all sorts - spinach, yams, beets, refried beans, etc. The shelves have a lot of corn, green beans and peas. Shoes, boots and good quality socks of all sizes are needed in the Clothes Closet.

ARTS IN PRISON INMATE POETRY READING – Join us for the second annual Arts in Prison Inmate Poetry Reading at The Johnson County Library, 9875 W. 87th St. in Overland Park at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21. Contact Village Church member Arlin Buyert at 913-909-2915 or email arlin85@att.net for more information.

VILLAGE CHURCH COOKS A MEAL AT CROSS-LINES – Friday, March 10, Village will cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Ks. We need two to three people from 9:30-11 a.m. for prep and six to seven volunteers to serve and clean up from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. We also need cookie donations, and they can be dropped off at the church reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, March 9. If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.
**VILLAGE COMMUNITY GARDEN GATHERING** – Those interested in joining or who are already on the Village Community Garden team are invited to the spring kick-off breakfast and social from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Friday, March 10, at First Watch in Fairway. Attendees pay for their own meal. RSVP to Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org by Monday, March 6.

**PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING**

**STEPHEN MINISTRY IS HERE FOR YOU** – Since 1995, Stephen Ministers have nurtured our congregation. Their gifts of listening, praying and supporting others bless those who are having a difficult time. To find out more about Stephen Ministry, come to Friendship Hall or the Welcome Center in between services today. You are also invited to find out about becoming a Stephen Minister at one of the “Tell Me More” sessions, either on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m. or on Thursday, March 2, at 2:30 p.m. Both sessions are in Room 126.

**GROWING THROUGH GRIEF SPRING SESSION STARTS IN APRIL** – Grief is a journey, one that is different for each person. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, consider attending Growing Through Grief. This five-week class is designed to help discover God’s healing presence during a difficult time. There is no cost but registration is required. The next series will be April 5–May 3, every Wednesday from 6:30-7:45 p.m. in Room 124. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org to register.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**BUY YOUR TICKET NOW FOR 2017 VISITING SCHOLAR** – Dr. Beverly Roberts Gaventa, will be “Reopening the Letters of Paul” on Feb. 24-25 at Village Church. Tickets are available in Friendship Hall between worship services. Tickets for Friday only or Saturday only are $15; or combined, $25.

**WOMEN OF WISDOM (WOW)** invites all ladies to join them on Tuesday, Feb. 21, for a noon lunch at Hereford House in Town Center in Leawood (5001 Town Center Dr.) We look forward to an enjoyable lunch and warm fellowship. RSVP by today, to Diane Lee 913-432-4321 or dianelee@att.net.

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

**THURSDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUP** – 6:30 p.m. upstairs at Village Church. Faith is a practice. It cannot be something we learn, or search for, or think about. It must be something we do, and do regularly enough that the lines between sacred and secular are blurred by eyes that can't help but to see the holy. We're reading Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar In The World* and practicing community together. All 20s and 30s invited. Pizza provided.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

**HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** – Will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Loft Room 333/332.

**SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE (SNL)** – The new name for our high school youth group! SNL meets tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All are welcome for a night of discussion, amazing people and a great time!

**ESCAPE ROOM KC** – We are heading to Escape Room on Presidents’ Day, Feb. 20! All 7th-12th graders meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. (we’ll return by 1 p.m.), bring $10 and money for lunch, and we’ll head downtown for this super fun activity. More info can be found at escaperoomkc.com.

**TWOSDAYS** – Middle schoolers join us Tuesdays for our after-school program from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft, Room 333. All are welcome!

**GPS** – Middle school youth group, meets Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join us for a great night of people, games and conversation. We hope to see you there!

**CHILI COOK OFF TICKETS ON SALE IN FRIENDSHIP HALL** – This year's Cook Off is 6-8 p.m. next Sunday, Feb. 26, and supports our youth mission trips. Tickets are $10/person or $35/family (entry is free if you enter a chili!). We hope you can join us for this fun church event for a great cause!
**Giving Through Your Estate Plan**

Every year, we receive bequests from the estates of deceased members and friends. These gifts make a tremendous difference to Village Church and the people it serves.

As you revise or create your estate plan, we hope you will include Village Church Endowment Trust and help secure our mission and ministries into the next generation.

Please let us know if you have included Village Church in your estate plan and become a member of the Meneilly Society. Contact Molly Sirridge, 913-671-2325 or email molly.sirridge@villagepres.org.

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**WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY** - If weather is predicted to have 4 inches or more snowfall during Saturday night, the 8 a.m. service will be cancelled.

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**SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 VILLAGE CHURCH OFFICERS**

The Village Church Nominating Committee needs your help in matching abilities with responsibilities. They are seeking recommendations for elders, elder trustees and deacons for 2018. Submit the form on our website: villagepres.org under the “About” section and “Officers” page. The link is at the top of the Officers page. Printed forms are also available at the Receptionist Desk. Forms must be received by Sunday, March 26, 2017.

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**Village Church Town Hall Meeting**

5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, in Friendship Hall

What are the strengths of Village Church? What are our challenges? What is the future to which God is calling us?

Come for a conversation with members of the Strategic Planning Committee. The Strategic Planning Committee has been tasked by the session to create a plan for the way forward for Village Church. The committee began its work in the fall and has been engaged in a number of strategic conversations and now seeks the collective wisdom of the congregation as a whole. Come to listen. Come to talk. Come to share your hopes and concerns.

A light supper will be provided. Please RSVP by calling the church at 913-262-4200 or through the church website at villagepres.org under the “Stay Informed” tab and “Upcoming Events.”

There will further opportunities to engage the committee in conversation.

Committee members are Tyler Nottberg, chair, Abbey Thomas, George Saterlee, Henry Sewing, Kenyon Vrooman, Lucy Tidwell, Michelle O’Neal, Mike Stradinger, Rev. Tom Are, Jr. and Dr. Rodger Nishioka.
SERMON SERIES

I Know That's What It Says, but That's Not What It Means!

The Bible is a complicated book, written over hundreds of years in various context and diverse circumstances. And then, it is read 2,000 years later in a world and culture the Biblical writers could not have imagined. Given all of that, it’s easy to misunderstand the Bible. When it is misunderstood the good news can often sound like bad news for some folks. When it is misunderstood it can often make the Bible more difficult to trust. In this sermon series, we will take just a few passages that have often been confusing and see if there is a life-giving word for us.

Jan. 1  The Story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation
Jan. 8  “Women Keep Silent?” This Doesn’t Sound Like Good News
Jan. 15 Family Matters and the Cost of Following Jesus
Jan. 22 Divorce – Why the Church Has Read This Text to the Wrong People
Jan. 29  Is There a Devil?
Feb. 5  “Jesus is the Only Way to Salvation.” This is Not About You. This is About God.
Feb. 12  “Be Perfect as Your Heavenly Father is Perfect.” Intimidated Yet?
Feb. 19  The Only Safe Place for Hatred
Feb. 26  Pray Without Ceasing

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Thomas L. Are, Jr., senior pastor  Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist
Rev. Len Carrell, pastor of pastoral care  Cheryl Couch-Thomas, director of children and family ministry
Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry and bridge site pastor of Village on Antioch
Marjean Lindquist, director of child care  Kathy Lueckert, director of finance and administration
Ryan Main, interim director of music  Rev. Jenny McDevitt, pastor of pastoral care
Dr. Rodger Nishioka, director of adult educational ministry  Matthew C. Shepard, associate director of music
Molly Sirridge, director of stewardship & endowments  Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries
Deborah White, director of mission  Cindy A. Wilcox, director of connectional ministries
Rev. Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, pastor emeritus

Streaming video of all the Sunday morning Sanctuary services is available at villagepres.org.
Click the home page link “Live Sermon and Sermon Archives.”
The 8 a.m. Sanctuary worship service is broadcast live on 1660 AM KMBZ, The Business Channel.
We kindly request that cell phones be turned off during worship.
Large-print Bibles and hymnals are available for worship. Ask an usher if you need these items.
Please note that additional parking is available across Mission Road in the Prairie School parking lots.
If you are not taking your bulletin with you, please hand it to an usher so it may be recycled.