
ADVENT AT VILLAGE CHURCH

Join Us Today

for

Tidings of Joy
A Celebration of the Season's Most Beautiful Music
3:00 and 6:00 p.m.

The Village Choir and Orchestra and Village Voices Youth Choir present carols and musical treasures to bring inspiration and hope to the holy season. Tidings of Joy will leave you humming your favorite carols — and will inspire your journey of faith with musical masterworks and thoughtful words composed to bring the warmth, beauty and joy of God's love to your Christmas celebration. All are welcome. There is no admission charge.

December 24 — Christmas Eve

Family Service, 5:00 p.m.

Come hear the angels sing, join the shepherds on their journey and follow the star to the manger where the Christ child is born, during this special 45-minute worship service designed for families with young children. Sing carols, ring bells, light the Christ candle and join others as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Traditional Candlelight Services, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 p.m. (Communion at 11:00)

It's Only Silent in Here — Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

December 25

The News From Presbyville — Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Enjoy singing many favorite carols, including *O, Holy Night*.

[There will be one service only on Christmas Day and New Year's Day at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. **The Gathering will not meet Christmas Day but will meet at 11:00 a.m. on January 1.** (Note: This is a change from an earlier publicized time.)]



*Making
Christmas
Meaningful*

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 18, 2011 • 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

The Christmas season can reorient us in important ways. We live in a world that has been fully consumed by cynicism. There are many reasons for it, no doubt. But that cynicism fails to take into account this one truth: God chooses to dwell with us. That makes all the difference.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow! (8:00, 9:30)
music: arr. Karl Osterland; Elisa Bickers, organist

Meditation on *Quem Pastores* (11:00)
music: Paul Manz; Mark Ball, organist

Call to Worship

Come now to this place of rest and renewal;
let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

**We will sing of God's steadfast love for all people.
God strengthens those who are weak,
comforts those who are broken-hearted,
and God's light is life for all.**

Blessed are those who walk in God's light,
and blessed are all who find their way to the manger's side.

Candle Lighting

Sarah Kimsey, Edith Showalter (9:30)

Lighting the Advent Candle

Bob and Bonita Siemens (8:00)
Adam and Leslie Eakes (9:30)
Adam and Stephanie Painter (11:00)

* Hymn, No. 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
tune: MENDELSSOHN

* Prayer of Confession

Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin

**Gracious and Eternal God,
We have been busy this week.
Life is full of responsibilities and opportunities,
most of which, when viewed from your perspective, are insignificant.**
**Our prayer this week is simple,
but it is one we cannot claim without your strength:
Train our eyes to see what you see,
our hearts to love what you love,
our desire to want what you want.** (Silent Prayer)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

(Week of December 18, 2011)

The following are daily Bible Readings offered for your own personal devotion. You are invited to read the text, think about the reflection 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.

Monday — *John 3:16–21*

God loves the world. There is no end to the love of God for God's creation. The whole of the gospel begins there. There is a mystery to Christmas, and the mystery is less how was this child born, the greater question is why? The response to this greater mystery is God's holy love for you and for the world.

Tuesday — *Isaiah 11:1–9*

The Scriptures are filled with Holy Dreams of God's future, none more beautiful than this passage from Isaiah. In a vision of life completely restored, Isaiah affirms that in the end God is still God. With the birth of the Prince of Peace, such holy imaginings inspire God's people anew. What is your dream?

Wednesday — *Luke 1:26–38*

Let it be with me according to your word. We should not overlook Mary's faithful response. God's plans work through God's faithful children. Each day is a renewed opportunity to say, "Let it be with me according to your word."

Thursday — *Luke 1:39–56*

Mary sings a song of a new world. She knows that her child will bring a new order, a new life to the world. Read it carefully and recognize that Jesus comes to bring justice and peace to the earth. We also sing the deepest promises and dreams of our faith ... from *Joy to the World* to *Silent Night* to *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, we sing our confidence in Christ to redeem the world.

Friday — *Luke 2:1–20*

The child is born. There is so much joy in heaven that it spills over into a shepherd's field, and they learn of God's undying love for the world. The words have been spoken to every generation for centuries, but they are also words that speak God's truth for you: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Saturday — *Philippians 2:5–11*

For centuries Christians have read this passage at Christmas time because it speaks of how Christ emptied himself for us. From the glories of heaven he descends to take the form of a simple person that we might know what it means to be human, and that we might know, someday, what it means to live in glory. In time, every tongue will confess. Today, let this good news be on your tongue.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WORSHIP BAGS are available for children to use as tools in worship. At the end of the worship service, please return the bags to the baskets in the narthex. Thank you.

KID'S KINGDOM, CLUB V6 AND PRESCHOOL CLASSES: At 9:30, 2-year-olds–6th graders are on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors of the educational wing. Signs and Deacon greeters will guide you. Morning Stars meets at 10:30 in Rooms 307, 305, 303. At 10:45 a broadly graded preschool class is in Room 106.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE: There will not be any church school classes on Sunday, December 25, to allow families to worship together. There will be child care for children through age 4.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MISSION SEWING: The Mission Sewing Room will be closed during the month of December and will resume again on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Mission Sewing continues to need crocheted afghans for cancer patients. These afghans are large, 48"x 48" or 48" x 60". If you are looking for a worthwhile place to make donations, we are very low on yarn for making these items. For more information, call Edie Hultman, 913.432.3515.

WOMEN WITH SPIRIT BOOK EXCHANGE AND BRUNCH: Join WWS (women 25 to 45ish) on Friday morning, January 20, 9:30–11:30 a.m., for our annual Book Brunch. Please bring a wrapped new or gently used book to exchange. We'll have a great time discussing our favorites, and everyone will go home with a book to enjoy in 2012! A lovely brunch will be served in the Small Dining Room, and the cost is \$8 (to be paid that morning). Reservations for this event are important. Please RSVP to Martha Mann, msingletonmann@gmail.com or 913.432.5001. Contact Marjean or Pam, 913.671.2322, by January 12 to make child care reservations.



Village Church is a vibrant and exciting community of faith with many activities for all ages. If you would like more information about the life and ministries of Village Church or are interested in becoming a member, please call 913.671.2331, or visit villagepres.org.

* Words of Assurance

* Response of Praise (Hymn, No. 28, st. 3)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

* Passing of the Peace

Welcome and the Ritual of Friendship

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading (p. 933)

Luke 2:1–7

Jim Borthwick (8:00); Larry Sneegas (9:30); Scott Stanley (11:00)

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.

Gospel Reading (p. 933)

Luke 2:8–20

Hymn, No. 50

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow
tune: SPIRITUAL

Sermon

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Making Christmas Meaningful:
"The Grinch or Gloria"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Anthem

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming — The Rose
music: arr. by Craig Hella Johnson

The Village Choir; Stephanie Zuluaga, soloist

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.

Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed;

Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.

Some say love, it is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed;

It came, a Flow'ret bright,

Some say love, it is a hunger, an endless aching need;

Amid the cold of winter

I say love, it is a flower; and you, its only seed.

When half-spent was the night.

*It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance;
It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance;
It's the one who won't be taken who cannot seem to give;
And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.*

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,

When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long;

Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev'rywhere.

And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong;

True Man, yet very God,

Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow;

From sin and death He saves us

Lies the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose.

And lightens ev'ry load.

YOUTH MINISTRY

SUNDAY CLASSES: All 7th–12th grade youth will meet today at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Loft (3rd floor).

HIGH SCHOOL CHEER meets earlier than usual tonight, at 5:45 p.m. in the Youth Loft. We'll head downstairs to see the Village Choir and Orchestra and the Village Voices Youth Choir present *Tidings of Joy*.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEER does not meet this Wednesday, December 21, due to Winter Break. We will return on Wednesday, January 11, 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft.

WINTER RETREAT is right around the corner! Equipment rental is at Adventure Sports in Shawnee. The buses will arrive at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 13, and we return to Village at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 17.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

THE PARALLEL: A Class for Young Adults/All Parents of Children in Kids' Kingdom, Morning Stars and Preschool Church School. What does worship have to do with my life? How do I apply what I learn on Sunday to the other six days of the week? The Parallel will help you connect those dots. Each Sunday, we'll introduce and explore the same theme that will be featured in worship, but with an emphasis on putting it into practice. This class engages the Bible, theology, family life and current events. Taught by Rev. Jarrett McLaughlin at 9:40 a.m. in Room 206.

MISSION

BACKSNACK PROGRAM: Join the Young Adult Ministry of Village Church/Harvesters/Nieman Elementary and Overland Park Elementary Schools to serve those in need and keep 80 kids strong. Volunteers are needed to help pack and deliver BackSnacks once a semester. All ages are encouraged to participate. Contact Lisa Wright, 913.403.9072 or lwright29@hotmail.com.

COOK A MEAL AT CROSS-LINES: On Friday, January 13, Village Church is responsible for cooking and serving a meal at the Cross-Lines Kitchen in Kansas City, KS. We are looking for three to four volunteers to help cook, 9:30–11:30 a.m., and three to four more volunteers to help serve, 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. We also need volunteers to bake two to three dozen cookies. Contact Marianne, 913.671.2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org, to sign up.

BAGGING GROCERIES AND ALL THAT JAZZ: Gather at the Food Pantry to pack sacks of groceries for a group of elder jazz musicians from downtown Kansas City, MO. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. and work until 11:00. **The next volunteer date is January 7.** To volunteer, visit villagepres.org, look under "Get Involved" and follow the volunteerspot.com link. For more information, call 913.671.2333.

ADULT MINISTRY

THE FAITH JOURNEY CLASS is currently studying *Unconditional?: The Call of Jesus to Radical Forgiveness* by Brian Zahnd. In discussing forgiveness, the author brings up ideas about whether there are limitations to forgiveness for extreme cases like the Holocaust or 9/11. Please join us and enhance our discussion with your thoughts, beliefs and ideas. Led by Mark Stowell. Room 230.

VILLAGE UNIVERSITY is a “university inspired layout” of topical short-term courses for people wanting relevant, in-depth and balanced education on a variety of topics. Village University catalogs can now be found throughout the church. Registration for the spring term of Village University has begun. You may enroll for all courses online at villagepres.org, by e-mail (marianne.weber@villagepres.org), by calling Marianne at 913.671.2333 or in person in Room 119 at Village Church.

THE SPRING 2012 SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY COURSE, *The Church Ain't What It Used to Be: Confessions From a Pastor*, will be taught by Rev. Tom Are, Jr., on Tuesdays — February 7, 21; March 6, 20; April 3, 17; May 1, 15 — 6:30–8:00 p.m. in Room 124. Change in how we practice our faith is a constant; however, some suggest that American Protestantism is facing more change than we have seen since the protestant reformation 500 years ago. What will Christianity look like in 20 years? This course will explore ways Christians and congregations need to think anew about the old story. Call Marianne, 913.671.2333, to enroll. This course is free, but space is limited!

COMMUNITY LIFE

SIGN UP FOR A CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT: Volunteers are needed at Pleasant Green Baptist Church to sack groceries, carve turkeys, label dinner carryout containers and deliver Christmas meals to those in need. Call 913.671.2334 for dates and times.

THE COMPUTER MINISTRY REFURBISHING TEAM is in need of donated personal computers. Please call the Community Life Office, 913.671.2334, for specifications for donations. The computers may be dropped off at our 99th and Mission Road location on Tuesdays, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE: Beat the “Winter blahs” at the Village Winter Fest on Sunday, January 29, 4:00–6:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall. There will be new events at this year’s celebration. All ages are welcome — young to young at heart!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: **Computer Ministry** is looking for teachers and computer refurbishing team members. **Meals on Wheels** substitute drivers are needed on Fridays. **Wednesday Night Dinner substitute volunteers** are needed to help set up and clean up. Call the Community Life Office, 913.671.2334, for more information on these service opportunities.

Offertory

Patiently Have I Waited for the Lord (8:00)
music: Camille Saint-Saëns; Stephanie Zuluaga, soloist

Salvation Is Created (9:30, 11:00)
music: Pavel Chesnokov; The Village Brass

* Presentation of Gifts, Hymn, No. 36 (st. 4)

In the Bleak Midwinter
tune: CRANHAM

*What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.*

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn, No. 38 (st. 1, 3, 4)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
tune: CAROL

* Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn, No. 44 (st. 5)

O Little Town of Bethlehem
tune: ST. LOUIS

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

* Postlude

Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending (8:00)
music: arr. Karl Osterland; Elisa Bickers, organist

Christmas Jazz Suite (9:30, 11:00)
music: Bill Holcombe; The Village Brass

* All who are able may stand

Hymn Notes: The original version of our opening hymn, written by the inimitable Charles Wesley, began, “Hark, how all the welkin rings, Glory to the King of kings.” Wesley famously said that this text must be sung to a slow and dignified tune. The tune MENDELSSOHN, to which we sing Wesley’s text, is anything but slow and dignified, and seems to work perfectly with these exuberant words. The spiritual, *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*, became well known in the 1960s through the singing and recordings of Harry Belafonte. It originates from the post-emancipation period of African-American music. *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* is by 19th century Unitarian pastor Edmund Hamilton Sears. It was one of the earliest Christmas hymns to emphasize the message of peace and justice heard in the angel’s song. The composer of CAROL, Richard S. Willis, was also an American, educated at Yale. He took one year of study in Leipzig with Felix Mendelssohn, the composer of our opening hymn tune which bears his name.

The 9:30 service is broadcast live on Radio Bach 1660 AM.

We kindly request that cell phones be turned off during worship.

*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 today,
please hand it to an usher as you leave so it may be recycled at a later service.*

Ministers:

All members of the congregation

Staff:

Thomas L. Are, Jr., senior pastor ❖ Mark Ball, director of music ❖ Patrick Bell, director of communications ❖ Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist ❖ Ruth Davidson, director of children’s ministry ❖ Lindsey Evans, director of middle school youth ministry ❖ Christine Germann, food pantry director ❖ Meridee Jordan, director of community life ❖ Jay McKell, interim associate pastor of pastoral care ❖ Jarrett McLaughlin, pastor of mission and young adult/family ministry ❖ Meg Peery McLaughlin, pastor of pastoral care ❖ Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, pastor emeritus ❖ Dr. Cynthia Holder Rich, executive associate for mission and ministry ❖ Matthew C. Shepard, associate director of music ❖ Molly Sirridge, director of stewardship and endowments ❖ Dwight Tawney, administrative pastor ❖ Hank Tilbury, audio/video engineer ❖ Matt Vaughan, director of high school youth ministry ❖ Cindy A. Wilcox, director of membership

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH! Please join us every week. Following worship services, coffee and lemonade are available in Rooms 232-233.

ROSES ON THE COMMUNION TABLE celebrate the births of Colton Quick Baker (Sarah and Brett Baker, parents), Effy Genevieve Dicus (Michelle and Scott Dicus), Maddox Kalel Seward (Kelly and Wes Seward) and Adele Faye Winter (Rebecca and Cody Winter). If you are a member of Village Church and have a new baby, call Liz or Jennie at the church, 913.671.2359, and a rose will be placed on the communion table following the announcement in the *Good News*.

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS OFFERING is being collected today. The proceeds are designated to either the Joy or Project offerings, and if no designation is made, the amount is divided equally between the two. The Joy Offering supports retired church workers and eight Presbyterian schools and colleges. The Project Offering provides assistance to the Johnson County Christmas Bureau, as well as other social service agencies that help with holiday and emergency assistance needs.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS will resume on January 4, 2012.

FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHES CLOSET: Requests for this week include: hearty soups, canned vegetables, all varieties of crackers, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner and lotions. **THE CLOTHES CLOSET** continues to need household linens, men’s clothing, winter coats and footwear and small appliances. Thank you!

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS: A poinsettia that decorates the Sanctuary this Advent season may be purchased in memory of a loved one. Make your check (\$10) payable to Village Church, clearly printing the memorial name with your donation, and send it to the church: “Attention: Carolyn Eakins,” by December 21.

FACEBOOK AND TWITTER: Village Church is now part of the social media networks, Facebook and Twitter. Go to villagepres.org and click on the media icons at the top of the homepage. This is the most efficient way to keep up with the happenings at VPC. Be sure to “like” us on Facebook and “follow” us on Twitter, and you will be up to date.

GLUTEN-FREE COMMUNION WAFERS will be available on the Narthex credenza before the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Napkins will be provided to hold the wafer until time to partake of the sacraments.

VOTER REGISTRATION LAWS will change January 1. If you have moved, had a name change, have a birthday after January 1 or have never registered to vote, you may do so this Sunday after each service in Friendship Hall. For more information, contact Bill McEachen, 913.649.9566.
