
Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Candlelighting Procedures

When passing the flame, always keep your lit candle upright while the next person tilts his or her unlit candle to yours. Candles can be extinguished following the Benediction and returned to the Narthex. Have a blessed Christmas!

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt, words by Jaroslav J. Vajda © 1987 Augsburg Publishing House, reprinted with permission through onelicense.net no. A-705103.



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2011 • 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

The Village Presbyterian Church • 6641 Mission Road • Prairie Village, KS 66208
913.262.4200 • villagepres.org

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Service

Pre-Service Music

Welcome Rev. Dwight Tawney, Dr. Cynthia Holder Rich (7:00)
Rev. Jay McKell, Dr. Cynthia Holder Rich (9:00)

In Those Days

* Hymn, No. 41 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
tune: ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the king of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! (Refrain)

Lighting the Advent Candles

Scripture Reading (p. 624) Isaiah 9:2–7

BE A PART OF ...

We hope you will join us again for the special events planned for the months ahead that are highlighted below. Let the joy of this season inspire you to begin a time of discovery and learning this coming year.

Winter Fest

Get rid of the winter “blahs” on January 29, 4:00–6:00 p.m. at the Village Church Winter Fest! There will be food and fun games and activities for all ages. For more information on this all-church event, contact Community Life, 913.671.2334.

Visiting Scholar: Brian McLaren

Presbyterian Women of Village Church welcome author, activist and public theologian Brian McLaren as the next Visiting Scholar on Friday, March 9, and Saturday, March 10. He will speak on “A New Kind of Christianity.” McLaren’s book by the same title has become one of the pivotal texts for what is increasingly called “Emergence Christianity.” For more information and to register, visit villagepres.org, and click on the Quick Link labeled “Visiting Scholar.”

Branching Out — A Small Group Ministry for Young Adults

Village Church believes in the power of a small group — a place where you can know and be known without the name tags, a community of friends in which you can explore your faith. We have small groups for young singles and young married couples, both with or without children. This winter, Pastor Jarrett McLaughlin will lead a study based on Rob Bell’s book *Love Wins* with help from Pastors Tom Are and Meg Peery McLaughlin. Branching Out small groups meet every other week for a total of four meetings, beginning in February (Dates TBA). For more information or to join a “Branching Out” small group, contact Jarrett McLaughlin, 913.671.2328 or jarrett.mclaughlin@villagepres.org.

Already Time to Register Your Children for Summer

Village Church has many opportunities for your children to grow with us this summer. Our summer brochure of options will be available in mid-February and will include Vacation Bible School, field trips, Kids’ Day Out, day camp, music camp, Creations by Kids summer camp (six weeks of morning and afternoon sessions), plus summer day care at the Village Church Child and Family Development Center. Call the Children’s Ministry Office, 913.671.2359, to receive this mailing. Registration for members is February 27, 8:00 a.m.–12 :00 p.m., and community registration is March 5, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

For more information about these and other programs at Village Church, visit villagepres.org, or call 913.262.4200.

UPCOMING

The Church: We Are Not What We Used to Be: New Life in the Wilderness

Change. It is all around us and taking place a breakneck speed. We are in the midst of a communication revolution that rivals the days following the invention of the printing press. Global religions that once lived only in foreign lands now spot not only major cities but small towns in America. The mainline protestant church, that once held a place of moral suasion in the country, has forfeited the moral authority and often seems to stand on the sidelines. Some are saying that religious life is experiencing change unlike anything we have known since the Reformation.

What does it mean to be the church in our time and in our context?

What are the most important things Christians need to do?

What does the world need most from us now?

Come and find out beginning next Sunday, January 1, as Rev. Tom Are begins a new sermon series, The Church: We Are Not What We Used to Be: New Life in the Wilderness.

Village University School of Theology Spring 2012

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 and 21, March 6 and 20, April 3 and 17 and May 1 and 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 is contributing to the change, and more importantly, what is the way forward? What will Christianity look like in 20 years? The answer to these questions will shape the vitality of congregations for the next generation. 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!

Christmas and January 1 Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m., Sanctuary

The Gathering does not meet Christmas Day
but will meet January 1, 11:00 a.m. in Friendship Hall.

Regular Worship Service Times Resume January 8

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary; The Gathering, 10:45 a.m. in Friendship Hall

Responsive Prayer of Praise

Mighty God,
Prince of Peace,
Everlasting Father,
Swaddled, crying, hungry, cold baby:

You came not in majesty but in a manger.

**You came when it was dark,
not the friendly darkness
as when sleep rescues the weary;
but the frightening darkness,
in which people have lost their hope,
or their friend,
or their reason for tomorrow.**

You came when the world was dark,
looking so much like one of us,
and yet inviting us,
even calling us to become like you.

**You came as light,
a kind of light we had never seen before,
the kind of light that made us aware,
perhaps for the first time,
just how dark the darkness had become. ...**

You came as light,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

**For tonight even we who walk in the dark have
seen a great light.**

**Mighty God,
Prince of Peace,
Everlasting Father,
Swaddled, crying, hungry, cold
baby ... born for the people who
walk in the dark.**

Amen.

Anthem

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt
music: Carl Schalk; words: Jaroslav J. Vajda; The Village Choir

*Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me.*

*In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet, new-born Babe, how frail, and in a manger bed:
A still small voice to cry one day for me.*

*How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare:
A Child, a Son, The Prince of Peace — for me.*

*Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned
Its way into my heart: Unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live; and not alone for me.*

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading (p. 877)

Matthew 1:18–25

Meditation

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

“It’s Only Silent in Here”

* Hymn, No. 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem
tune: ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Worship With Tithes and Offerings

Offertory-Anthem

On This Day Earth Shall Ring
music: H.C. Stewart; words: from an old Swedish carol; The Village Choir

* Hymn of Response, No. 53 (st. 1, 3)

What Child Is This
tune: GREENSLEEVES

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enfold Him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

* Prayer of Dedication

* In These Days

* Hymn, No. 60

Silent Night, Holy Night
tune: STILLE NACHT

(Words may be found on the back page of the bulletin.)

* Benediction

* Postlude

“Silence May Be Kept” from *Rubrics*
music: Dan Locklair; Elisa Bickers, organist

* All who are able may stand
