



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 23, 2015 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

They heard the Torah read aloud and they wept. We would do well not to reduce their reasons for tears. In some fashion they weep because they meet the hopes and fears of all the years reaching all the way back to that first night when God and Abraham looked at the stars together. It was together they began to name them, perhaps names like Mattithiah, and Shema, and Uriah and Hilkiah. Maybe their tear-stained faces expressed the hope that their meager efforts at faithfulness in the shadow of exile meant there would be names to follow: like Simon and Mary and Thomas the doubting one. By grace the names would be as numerous as the stars of heaven. Generation by generation the stars bear new names. They may shine only for a night, but there has never been a night when the world could do without them.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Gathering Music

Sarah Are and Nathan Are (8, 9:30 a.m.)
The Kansas City Men's Ensemble (11 a.m.)

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Scripture teaches us the stories of our faith.

**With Amos we examined justice,
and with Joseph we found hope.**

Eve called us to live with grace and humility,
while Naaman asked us to remember what matters.

**James reminded us of the power of language,
and Mary taught us that we belong to one another.**

Jeremiah made space for our grief,
and the eunuch asked us to make space for everyone.

**These are the lessons of our ancestors that instruct us still today.
With eager hearts and open minds, let us worship God.**

*Hymn

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
MADRID

**Come, Christians, join to sing:
Alleluia! Amen!**

**Loud praise to Christ our King:
Alleluia! Amen!**

**Let all, with heart and voice,
before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice:
Alleluia! Amen!**

**Praise yet our Christ again:
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain:
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore:
Alleluia! Amen!**

* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
Some burdens are too heavy to carry,
and some stories are too painful to speak.
In those moments,
it is easy for us to believe the lies:
 that we are alone
 that there is no hope
 that darkness will win.
When we are at a loss, fill us with your love.
Whisper resurrection into the cracks of our hearts
and remind us:
 that you are with us always
 that joy comes in the morning
 that new life is right around the corner.
Tell us this story time and time again
until we believe it with our every breath. (Silent prayer)**

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Psalms 1

Prayer for Illumination

Jim Borthwick (8 a.m.)

Fred Logan (9:30 a.m.)

Janice Gill (11 a.m.)

Call to Prayer

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Two systems of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first system contains the lyrics: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." The second system contains the lyrics: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!" Each system consists of a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a harmonic accompaniment.

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.

Musical Offering

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-12

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn

For All the Saints
SINE NOMINE

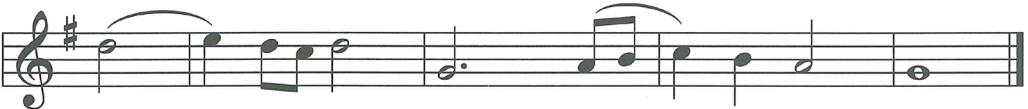
1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
 3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers (9:30 a.m.)

Offertory

*Response

Doxology with Alleluias
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
I'M GONNA LIVE

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time! (an - y - time!) I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
pray so (pray so)
sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, Lord, an - y - time!
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

*Benediction

*Response

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

*Postlude

**All who are able may stand*

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of August 24, 2015)

The following are daily Bible readings offered 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.

Monday, Aug. 24

John 8:12-20

In John's gospel, Jesus is the light of the world. But here, Jesus refers to himself as the light of the world. The Pharisees question his claim with hostility, because for them, Hebrew scripture refers to God as Light. They hear him saying "I am the Messiah." Jesus responds to say they have lost sight of who God is, because God's judgment is not of human ways; rather God is the one who judges no one.

Tuesday, Aug. 25

Psalms 145

The last five chapters of the psalms are songs of praise to God. This psalm of praise reminds us of the goodness of God's wondrous works and the greatness of God's compassionate love for us. It encourages us to meditate, and to set our eyes on seeing, and to use our mouth for singing and speaking of God's glorious splendor.

Wednesday, Aug. 26

Matthew 6:25-34

This passage sounds as if Jesus never experienced worry or anxiety. But to say so, means his full humanity would have been limited. I do not think this passage is about Jesus telling us not to live our lives without some concern of forethought. Rather, it is about trusting that today is enough to live fully into what today has to offer. Free from being gripped by worrisome fear and the anxiety of what is unknown to us. For who hopes for things that are seen?

Thursday, Aug. 27

Colossians 4:2-6

The ending verses of Paul's letter to the Colossians are what I call a final "button," the last image we walk away with. And the reminder is to pray in thanksgiving and to keep others in our prayers, to be open to the mysteries of God in Jesus Christ, and to let our speech be gracious and life-giving, to be seasoned with salt, as we are called to be the salt of the earth.

Friday, Aug. 28

Luke 6:6-11

Jesus healed a man with a withered hand. This story is told in all three synoptic gospels. But only Luke says it was his right hand, perhaps his more prominent hand, the one he worked with. The Pharisees are trying to catch Jesus doing work on the Sabbath, but to do so would prohibit this man from being made better to work another day. Jesus asks them, "Is it better to do good, or to do harm on this day?" And he asks the man to stretch out his hand on his own. Does Jesus really do anything wrong?

Saturday, Aug. 29

Genesis 28:10-17

This is the story of Jacob's ladder, where he dreams of a structure reaching up to God in heaven. And on it there are angels descending and ascending. But the Lord is standing beside him saying, "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go." Isn't that so much like us? We have big dreams of someday reaching up to know God better, only to find out that God is right here standing beside us. "Surely, the Lord is in this place – and I did not know it!"

TODAY AT VILLAGE

WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH! Please join us every week. Coffee and lemonade are available in Rooms 232 and 233 following worship services.

THE FLOWERS IN THE FRIENDSHIP HALL TODAY are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Patrick Baker, brother of Judie Thomas.

COMMISSIONING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS - We are approaching a new season of Christian Education. We honor and celebrate those who have been called to teach children and nurture their faith as learners, seekers and servants. Today at 9:30 a.m. we will be commissioning the men and women into the teaching ministry to which they have been called.

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 located in the narthex or outside of Friendship Hall.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

BROADLY GRADED SUNDAY SCHOOL - K-5th grade meets from 9:30-10:30 in Room 203 (Creation Station) for a totally fun way to look at favorite Old Testament stories.

NO CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY, SEPT. 6, in observance of Labor Day.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

SUMMER SUNDAY CLASS winds up today with the last of our **Most Fascinating People class** at 11 a.m. in Rooms 126-127. Seminarian Sarah Are will be teaching on Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiyah and Maaseiah (Nehemiah 8).

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL VILLAGE U CLASSES online at villagepres.org, by email at marianne@villagepres.org, by calling Marianne at 913-671-2333 or in person in Room 119. Child care will be available for most classes for a one-time \$40 fee for the fall term, and reservations will be required in advance. Village U catalogs are now available throughout the church.

HERE ARE SOME VILLAGE U HIGHLIGHTS:

Hymnology 101: From the Psalms to Amazing Grace and Beyond - You don't need to read music or even be able to carry a tune to enjoy learning about and singing hymns with Mark Ball, music director. 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 9-Oct. 14, in the Chapel.

Sermon Conversations - There are no right answers, you don't need to come every week, the conversation will be good. 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 9-30, in Room 232, Michael and Diana Bay will lead a discussion of Tom Are's sermon series, "Free to Be Me."

Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables by a Controversial Rabbi - The renowned biblical scholar, Amy-Jill Levine, interweaves history and spiritual analysis to explore Jesus's most popular teaching parables, exposing their misinterpretations and making them lively and relevant for modern readers. Teacher: Gus Breyspraak. 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 16-30, in Room 132.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS CHURCH: CONVERSATION WITH TOM ARE - "Tell Me More About This Church" is a special opportunity for those newer to Village Church to spend time with Senior Pastor Tom Are and learn more about Village Church. This class will be offered in two parts from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15 (part 1), and Tuesday, Sept. 22, in Room 230 (south end of the building/2nd floor). Dinner will be provided. Contact Stacy Fischer at 913-671-2334 or stacy.fischer@villagepres.org or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org to register. Child care is available for this event with seven days advance notice. Make child care reservations by contacting Marjean Lindquist at 913-671-2322 or marjean.lindquist@villagepres.org.

CORE CONNECTIONS CONVERSATION GROUPS - Core Connections is a way to strengthen faith through conversations, while making and deepening friendships. Village Church provides trained leaders and a DVD video study developed by Pastor Tom Are for these small groups. Our curriculum serves as a springboard for conversations, while relationship building remains a priority. Groups will launch in the fall (October), and subsequent groups will form as needed. Types of groups may include: couples, men, women and mixed (men & women). Each individual group will decide frequency, location and time for meetings. Core Connections is open to both the congregation and community, so invite your friends and family. Contact Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org to join a Core group.

COMPUTER MINISTRY

COMPUTER CLASSES - Beginner Classes: 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 15-Oct. 6; 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 16-Oct. 7. Intermediate Classes: 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 27-Nov. 17; 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 28-Nov. 18. **Computer classes are free of charge.** Call or email Stacy at 913-671-2334 or stacy.fischer@villagepres.org to sign up for classes.

MISSION

FOOD PANTRY – With children back in school, the Food Pantry is concentrating on its lack of variety of canned fruit (think mandarin oranges, pears, mixed fruit, etc.). You can help by putting several cans into plastic grocery shopping bags (that are also very much needed). The condiment shelves are also low – jelly, mustard, mayo, etc. – NO glass containers, please. The Clothes Closet is asking for small kitchen appliances and large sized clothing for all seasons.

BACKSNACK PROGRAM - More than 100,000 children in the Harvesters' service area receive free and reduced-price school meals during the week, but are at risk of hunger on weekends. To help address that risk, Harvesters created the BackSnack program, which provides bags of assorted food items to low-income children for the weekends. Village Church has been involved as a BackSnack partner and during the school year, our volunteers pack and deliver food weekly to 105 children at Overland Park Elementary and Nieman Elementary. If you are interested in during the 2015-16 school year, please call Amy Turpin at 913-908-1138 (amyjturpin@gmail.com) or Jane Emley at 913-302-7544.

VILLAGE COOKS A MEAL AT CROSS LINES - On Friday, Sept. 11, Village Church will cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines Kitchen in Kansas City, Kansas. We need four to five volunteers to help cook from 9:30-11:30 a.m., and three to four more volunteers to help serve from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. If you can't cook or serve, we also need cookies. Please drop them off at the church reception desk at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10, If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or at marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

MUSIC

MORNING STARS children's music ministry program will start up soon. Morning Stars is a music and worship program for children in kindergarten through 6th grade. We meet each Sunday morning immediately following Kids' Kingdom at 10:30 a.m. for choir and music, break for snacks and fellowship, then move on to our very own child-led worship service in the chapel from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We learn the hymns and responses that are sung in worship, while instilling in our youngest members their value as part of the Village Church family. Contact Jenny Hull at jenny.hull@villagepres.org for more information.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

"CARING FOR THOSE INCARCERATED AND FOR THOSE WHOSE LOVED ONES ARE INCARCERATED" On Thursday, Aug. 27, Ernest Jones from Prison Ministries/Salvation Army will talk about caring for those who are incarcerated or for those who have a loved one incarcerated. This presentation is sponsored by Stephen Ministry and is open to the congregation and the public. It will be from 5-6 p.m. in Room 228.

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF NEW SERIES STARTS SEPT. 9 - The loss of a loved one brings a myriad of emotions and thoughts. Growing Through Grief, a five-week class, is designed to help people discover God's healing presence during some of the darkest and most difficult times of life. There is no cost but registration is required. This series will be every Wednesday from 6:30-7:45 p.m. Sept. 9-Oct. 7, in Room 124. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS? Quick – what's your blood pressure? If you don't know, the Village nurses are happy to take your blood pressure reading in the Heritage Dining Room (also Small Dining Room or Room 230) every Sunday from 9-9:30 a.m. and from 10:30-11 a.m.

YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL - meet in the Youth Loft at 9:30 a.m. Room 333.

CHEER AND GPS KICKOFF – We will be having both our CHEER and GPS kickoffs starting in September! CHEER kickoff is Sept. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m. GPS kickoff is Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6-8 p.m. in Room 333.

YOUTH SUNDAY

is next Sunday, Aug. 30. Youth will lead worship at all services.

THOUGHTS FROM VILLAGE COMMITMENT

"To change the world, we must be good to those who cannot repay us."

–Pope Francis

REMINDER

There will be No Church School on Sunday, Sept. 6 (Labor Day Weekend).
New Church School classes begin Sunday, Sept. 13.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

The Most Fascinating People

The Bible is filled with stories of ordinary people. Some of them are good. Many of them are surprisingly selfish. Most are afraid, yet some show courage in the face of fear. Some accomplish big things, but most we know only for a moment. Some have strange names, like Onesimus and Rizpah, and others bear names we give to our children, like Mary and James. And yet, the most fascinating thing about these people is that we know their names because they, at least for a moment, were part of God's story. This list is long of those who have been part of God's work of redemption in this world. As we consider these fascinating people from the Bible, we may discover how our name is on the list of God's good work as well.

May 31	Eve	July 19	Mary
June 7	Onesimus	July 26	Naaman
June 14	Amos	Aug. 2	Barabbas
June 21	Joseph of Arimathea	Aug. 9	The Widow at Zarephath
June 28	James	Aug. 16	Jeremiah
July 5	Samson	Aug. 23	Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah,
July 12	The Ethiopian Eunuch		Uriah and Hilkiah

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Thomas L. Are, Jr., senior pastor ❖ Mark Ball, director of music

Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist ❖ Len Carrell, pastor of pastoral care

Cheryl Couch-Thomas, director of children and family ministry ❖ Marjean Lindquist, director of child care

Kathy Lueckert, director of finance and administration ❖ Rev. Jenny McDevitt, pastor of pastoral care

Elizabeth Nolen, interim coordinator for young adult ministry ❖ Matthew C. Shepard, associate director of music

Rev. Diane Quaintance, interim director of adult educational ministry

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

The 9:30 a.m. service is broadcast live on 1660 AM KMBZ, The Business Channel.

*Streaming video of all the Sunday morning Sanctuary services
is available at villagepres.org. Click the Quick Link "Live Service Broadcasts."*

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.