



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 15, 2015 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

God is the giver that keeps on giving and today we recognize God's generosity in the gift of the church. No doubt the church has messed things up at times. In every generation there have been those who carry the injuries that resulted from the church failing to live up to the grace and care that the gospel proclaims. And yet, that is never the whole story. The reality is that God believes the world benefits from the church. The creation of the church may be the craziest, most surprising, most beautiful gift of all.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Call to Worship

Owen Gray

We tend to be wanderers, trying to make our own way in this world.

God gathers us in, from all places and times, to experience grace.

So come and discover this love like no other:

We are called.

We are claimed.

We are community.

The Word of God and the waters of baptism remind us:

we are in this together.

*Hymn

How Lovely, Lord
MERLE'S TUNE



1 How love - ly, Lord, how love - ly is your a - bid - ing place;
2 In your blest courts to wor - ship, O God, a sin - gle day
3 A sun and shield for - ev - er are you, O Lord Most High;



my soul is long - ing, faint - ing, to feast up - on your grace.
is bet - ter than a thou - sand if I from you should stray.
you show - er us with bless - ings; no good will you de - ny.



The spar - row finds a shel - ter, a place to build her nest;
I'd rath - er keep the en - trance and claim you as my Lord
The saints, your grace re - ceiv - ing, from strength to strength shall go,



and so your tem - ple calls us with - in its walls to rest.
than rev - el in the rich - es the ways of sin af - ford.
and from their life shall riv - ers of bless - ing o - ver - flow.

*Prayer of Confession and Assurance of God's Grace

Gracious God,
Sometimes I forget how much I am loved,
because I focus too much on my mistakes.
Sometimes I fail to see your fingerprints on others' lives,
because I focus too much on their mistakes.
Sometimes I cannot believe your goodness
is patient enough to put up with all of these shortcomings.

**The love of God is always offered to us all,
freely, joyfully, and for all eternity.**

This is the extraordinary promise of the gospel.

Thanks be to God.

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Sometimes we forget how much we are loved,
because we focus too much on our mistakes.
Sometimes we fail to see your fingerprints on others' lives,
because we focus too much on their mistakes.
Sometimes we cannot believe your goodness
is patient enough to put up with all of these shortcomings.**

The love of God is always offered to us all,
freely, joyfully, and for all eternity.

This is the extraordinary promise of the gospel.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Response

Raise a Song of Gladness
JUBILATE DEO



Raise a song of glad-ness, peo-ples of the earth.



Christ has come, bring-ing peace, joy to ev - ery heart.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - ery heart!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - ery heart!

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (8 a.m.)

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

Ubi Caritas (9:30, 11 a.m.)

words: ancient Latin hymn; music: Maurice Duruflé; Te Deum Chamber Choir

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.

Christ's love has gathered us into one.

Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.

Let us rejoice and be pleased in God.

Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.

Let us fear, and let us love the living God.

Tiameamus, et amemus Deum vivum.

And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

The Sacrament of Baptism (9:30, 11 a.m.)

Hymn, No. 482

Baptized in Water

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ, our King;

Born of the Spirit, we are God's children, joyfully now God's praises we sing.

Prayer for Illumination

Jim Borthwick (8 a.m.), Hoyl Lockett (9:30 a.m.), Scott Stanley (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:1-13

Sermon

Perhaps the Craziest, Most Surprising, Most Beautiful Gift of All

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn

The Church's One Foundation
AURELIA

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.**

**3 Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,**

**yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.**

**4 Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore:
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

**5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
may live eternally.**

Offertory

Salvation is Created (9:30, 11 a.m.)
music: Pavel Chesnokov, Te Deum Chamber Choir

*Response

Doxology
OLD HUNDREDTH

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn

Let Us Build a House
TWO OAKS



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
bring an end to fear and dan - ger: all are wel - come;
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

*Benediction

*Response

**Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.**

*Postlude

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of November 16, 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, Nov. 16

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus encounters ten lepers "who stood far off." People with leprosy were considered unclean and were marginalized by society. Jesus tells them to go and show themselves to the priests, the ones who would have nothing to do with them because of their unclean nature. We are told, as they went, they were made clean. Only one went back, falling at the feet of Jesus giving him thanks. All ten voices were lifted to say they needed help. But one's voice was lifted to be "great" as he went back to offer his gratitude. A practice of gratitude has the ability to lift our weak voices to speak a "great" gratitude.

Tuesday, Nov. 17

1 Samuel 2:1-10

This prayer is Hannah's song of praise to a God who brings forth life out of nothingness — a melody of words sung from the voice of a woman delivered from barrenness to motherhood. She joins her song with Israel who God also brings from oppression to deliverance. It is a song of praise to a God who has the transformative power and the willingness to intercede.

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Luke 9:57-62

In this moment we hear Jesus speak honestly about the true costliness of following him. That is what he describes when he tells them "the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." There is something striking about the three different types of followers he addresses. The first one is ready to follow him immediately. The next two make excuses, one says "I must wait until my father's death," and the other says "I must go back before going forward." There are moments that will be missed if we are looking back while trying to plough forward.

Thursday, Nov. 19

Hebrews 10:11-18

In worship we confess to God and each other. It's a confession that through Jesus Christ, God has done for us what we cannot do for ourselves. This is the heart of Paul's sermon here. A minister stands week after week and invites us to offer our sacrifices to God. We say we have done wrong, or done nothing. We say we have turned away from the pain of others, or have failed to care. Or perhaps we even say, "I wasn't so bad this week." But our assurance tells us that Christ has already made the single sacrifice for each of us. Where there is forgiveness, sin is no more.

Friday, Nov. 20

Ephesians 4:20-24

What does it mean to "learn Christ." Certainly Paul must have been referring to a catechetical process, a time of instruction, in the early church. To learn the virtues of the Christian life means there are things that we need to learn and be taught. The moral ethics of our faith practices are not just an added-on bonus; we must learn what it means to be the body of Christ. Thus the old life, life alienated from God, must be put away, and the new life clothed in Christ must be put on.

Saturday, Nov. 21

Psalms 90:1-6

Like some of the above reflections, what is old is done and gone; the new life is as fresh as "renewed grass in the morning." Moving forward in one's life means knowing that what is behind us is behind us. How often we find the ease of dwelling in our past. The less we carry, the farther we will travel.

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 CHANCEL TODAY are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Brenda Dillon Davis by her parents Jim and Betty Dillon, her brother John and her sister Debbie.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM TODAY - Welcome these newest members into our faith community as we celebrate the baptisms of the following children: 9:30 a.m.: Kit Liesel Dicus (Michelle and Scott Dicus, parents); James Fuller Ediger (Rebecca and Joshua Ediger, parents); Emmett Orlan Schepmann (Erin and Chris Schepmann, parents); Zoey Olivia Welsh (Susan and Austin Welsh, parents) and at 11 a.m.: Broderick Davis Dercher (Jessica and Thomas Dercher, parents).

TE DEUM CHAMBER CHOIR (performing today) is a highly skilled ensemble of 35 members, whose mission is to perform sacred choral music in uniquely relevant context, to create a musically inspiring, spiritually stirring experience. Founded eight seasons ago by Village associate director of music, Matthew Shepard, Te Deum has become an important part of the arts culture in Kansas City. Te Deum is a part of the Village Arts Alliance.

TE DEUM CHAMBER CHOIR CONCERT TODAY & TOMORROW - Take a journey through life featuring works from Hassler, Elgar, Brahms and Chesnokov, and some of today's most exciting composers. A centerpiece to this concert, *Privilege*, composed by Ted Hearne, poses profound questions about inequality and struggle will be performed at 3 p.m. today at St. Ann Catholic Church in Prairie Village; and 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Mo. \$10 suggested donation. Learn more at te-deum.org.

A FEW STAR FAMILIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION - Village Christmas "Star Families" are available for adoption near the south entrance today from 9 a.m.-noon. Each child receives three new unwrapped gifts, and the parent receives a \$25 gift card to Target or Walmart. Monetary donations to Village will be accepted for Star Family holiday meals from Nov. 15 -Dec. 14. Contact Marilyn Borel at rmborel@sbcglobal.com or 913-708-1917 for more information.

RSVP BY TODAY FOR THANKSGIVING POTLUCK at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, in Friendship Hall. Turkey, mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, sweet potatoes, green beans & rolls will be provided. Please bring a side dish – salad, vegetable or dessert – enough to share with eight people. RSVP at stacy.fischer@villagepres.org or 913-671-2334.

PW ADVENT CANDLELIGHT DINNER RESERVATIONS OPEN TODAY - All women are invited to an inspiring, intergenerational evening as we begin the Advent season at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, in Friendship Hall. Guest speaker is Rev. Diane Quaintance. Cost is \$16 a person. Reservations will be taken in Room 232, from 9-9:30 a.m. & 10:30-11 a.m. today. Payment is required at the time of your reservation.

VISITING SCHOLAR TICKETS GO ON SALE TODAY - Order your tickets online for 2016 Visiting Scholar Amy-Jill Levine starting today. Dr. Levine will be at Village Church March 4 and 5, 2016. The New Testament professor, scholar and author will speak on "Jesus the Jewish Storyteller: Hearing the Parables Anew." Go to <http://www.villagepres.org/ministries-programs/visiting-scholar/> for more info.

KC WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT TODAY - The Kansas City Wind Symphony will present a free concert at 7 p.m. today at Faith Lutheran Church located at 67th and Roe in Prairie Village. This concert's guest soloist is Jacob Sentgeorge, a member of the voice faculty at Central Methodist University in Warrensburg, Mo. He will be performing *Nessun Dorma* from Puccini's opera *Turandot*. For more information, go to kcwindsymphony.org or call 913-671-2344.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

VILLAGE CHURCH WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL – Terri Gaeddert, preschool director, will host a “Preschool Information Coffee” for those considering enrollment in the 2016-17 school year, at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, in Room 126. Join in to learn more about our program and the High Scope Curriculum. For child care reservations contact Pam@villagepres.org by Nov. 23. Call the Preschool Office at 913-671-2338 for more information.

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

K-1ST GRADE - Kindergarten meets in Room 311. 1st 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) - Fun and relevant discussions for today’s ‘tweens. 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Room 302.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

SERIES ON AGEISM - This three-part class will explore ageism—its meanings, manifestations and origins within our culture and throughout history, including different sectors of our lives such as health care, the arts and media, family and intergenerational relations, politics, and religion. We will explore ways to reframe the issue of aging in our society so as to eliminate some of the causes of ageism and allow people to better fulfill the potential of extended years. Child care is not available. Taught by Linda Breyspraak. 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 18, Dec. 2 & 16. Room 127.

VILLAGE U - WATCH FOR THE SPRING 2016 VILLAGE U CATALOG ... COMING SOON - The spring 2016 Village U curriculum is a wide umbrella encompassing all our adult learning opportunities in one, easy-to-find location. Village Church is a learning community with a long commitment to providing opportunities for adults – young and older – to grow in knowledge and faith together. We hope you will spend some time discovering all that is available. **All classes are free of charge.** However, child care will be available for most classes for a one-time \$40 fee for the spring term; reservations will be required in advance. Some classes will have a small fee for materials and resources; the fees are noted in the class listing. You will be able to register online, by telephone, by fax or by email. Registration for Village U 2016 spring term opens Dec. 7 for Village members and Dec. 14 for the general public.

MISSION

FOOD PANTRY - Today is the last day that the Food Pantry is collecting items for the THANKSGIVING BASKETS here at church. Distribution started yesterday at the Meneilly Outreach Center. However, if you forgot to bring canned goods, you can still make a cash or check donation! A \$30 donation will cover the cost of a turkey and Thanksgiving Basket for a family of two and the Pantry will do the shopping for you!

DRMP GIFT CARDS, COFFEE & CHOCOLATE: GIFTS THAT GIVE TWICE! On Sundays—Nov. 22, Dec. 13 & 20—the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village is offering honor gift cards, Santo Domingo Coffee and Equal Exchange dark chocolate bars in Friendship Hall. For a \$10 donation, you may receive two dark chocolate bars in flavors of your choice, a 1 lb. bag of Dominican coffee or an “honor gift” card which you may share with someone in whose honor you make the donation. Proceeds benefit DRMP Child Health Promotion.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

FAMILIES FOR MENTAL HEALTH – Families for Mental Health will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, in Rooms 126/127. The program will be “Update – Johnson County Mental Health” presented by Executive Director Tim DeWeese. After the meeting, there will be time for support for families and participants. Families for Mental Health meets the third Thursday of every month.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE, DEC. 6 - Join us on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 5 p.m. in Friendship Hall to thank God for those loved ones we deeply miss. This special service includes prayers, music, reflection, candle lighting and the proclamation of God's holy Christmas promise: there's a light in this world that the darkness will never overcome. If your loved one passed away during 2015 and Village Church was informed, his or her name will be included in the program. If you would like to include any other names, please contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2367 or linda.alley@villagepres.org by noon Monday, Nov. 30.

IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO LISTEN - This time of year and the approaching holidays can be a challenge. If you would like to talk with someone, have someone there who will listen, pray with you, and support you, please consider receiving support from a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one, confidential care to individuals who need help navigating some of life's harder moments. Contact Rev. Jenny McDevitt at 913-671-2367 or jenny.mcdevitt@villagepres.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOMEN WITH SPIRIT - Women with Spirit get set to fill up your coffee cups and souls alike from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 20, in Room 232. As we sit, share & enjoy our tea/coffee & scones, we will at the same time be working to make a difference for the young women of DeLaSalle Academy. The task at hand? Knot & tie blankets! Our simple gesture has the potential to make a big difference for the young mothers whose little ones are in child care while they work to complete their high school education.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

CHEER H.S. YOUTH GROUP - Meets tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft.

TWOSDAYS - Middle schoolers join us Tuesdays after school from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft, Room 333.

GPS M.S. YOUTH GROUP - meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Youth Loft, Room 333.

WINTER SKI TRIP FORMS - are available online at villagepresyouth.org/forms. All 7-12 graders are welcome for a great weekend of skiing!

Rev. Len Carrell

Installation Ceremony & Reception

Join us at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22,
in Friendship Hall

when Rev. Len Carrell will be installed as a pastor of Village Church. The ceremony will be followed by a reception with refreshments.

MONTREAT COLLEGE CONFERENCE - Join Rev. Jenny McDevitt and Matthew Shepard as they lead a group of college students to Montreat, Jan. 2-5, 2016 for worship, small group, and meaningful fellowship. We will be flying there as a group and staying in beautiful homes in the mountains. \$300 covers the full trip: flights, ground transportation, room, board and registration. To register, fill out three forms from Montreat.org/college (Registration, Medical and Covenant), and turn those forms and your \$300 in to Jenny or Matthew by Nov. 29! Questions or Scholarship needs? Email Jenny.McDevitt@villagepres.org or matthew.shepard@villagepres.org.

Upcoming Advent Activities for Children & Families

Advent Family Workshop – 3:30-5:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, in Friendship Hall

Don't miss our traditional family activity. Make your own Advent Wreaths and gifts for Christmas. There will be crafts for all age levels and, of course, cookie decorating, popcorn and festive music. Free and open to the public.

Christmas Night Out – 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, Village Church Child Care

Send your kids to this fun-filled night from 5:30-8:30 p.m. while you enjoy a night out. Children ages 2-10 will enjoy activities and games and cookies to decorate. Cost is \$15 per child with a \$30 maximum per family. Sign up by Monday, Nov. 23, by calling Pam at 913-671-2352 or emailing pam@villagepres.org.

Mesner Puppet Theater - 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, in Friendship Hall

Mesner Puppet Theater presents "Anansi the Spider," a lively telling of four classic folk tales from Africa and the Caribbean. All these humorous stories feature a trickster spider that sometimes gets tricked himself. In "How the Stories Came to the World," "Tiger Becomes a Riding Horse," "The Magic of Five," and "Dinner for Two," Anansi the Spider offers universal lessons of wit and cleverness. Call 913-671-2355 for more information. Admission to the puppet show is free.

VCCFDC Christmas Sing & Pancake Dinner with Santa - 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, in Friendship Hall

Come see our little ones from the Village Church Child & Family Development Center present their version of the Nativity at 5 p.m. in Friendship Hall. VCCFDC will host its first "Pancake Dinner with Santa" immediately following the performance. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat pancake supper prepared by Chris Cakes. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for children age 2 and up. Children under 2 eat free. Get your child's picture taken with Santa. Contact Peggy Tingle at 913-671-2311 or email peggy.tingle@villagepres.org for tickets. Proceeds from the pancake dinner with Santa will help pay for new playground equipment for the VCCFDC.



Go to villagepres.org for a complete listing of Advent activities.

THOUGHTS FROM VILLAGE COMMITMENT

"When gratitude is the source of our actions, our giving becomes receiving and those to whom we minister become our ministers."

—Anonymous

NEW SERMON SERIES

The Giver That Keeps On Giving

One way to speak of God's relationship with the world is to note that every interaction God has is an act of generosity. The Apostle Paul writes, "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus." He writes this to the Corinthians, but he could have written it to us. But Jesus is not the only gift of God's grace. So is God's work of creation itself. Even the law as well as the prophets are expressions of God's generosity. This sermon series will focus on God as *The Giver That Keeps on Giving*.

Oct. 11	Creation-The First Act of Grace
Oct. 18	This Call is for You
Oct. 25	Where There is a Way, There is a Life
Nov. 1	It Looks Like This is Never Going to Stop
Nov. 8	"Truly This Man is God's Son"
Nov. 15	Perhaps the Craziest, Most Surprising, Most Beautiful Gift of All
Nov. 22	This is Our Time

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 ❖ Rev. 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

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.