



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

November 22, 2015 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

God is the giver that keeps on giving. Creation is a gift. God's calling in our lives is a gift. The words of God that show us how to find our way in a confusing and complex world are a gift. The Word becoming flesh and Jesus living on earth is a supreme gift. The church—the gift of each other—is a gift. God's generosity not only comes to us, but it also lives through us. Today, as we express our desire to commit ourselves to the work of the church, we are partnering with God in God's work of love in this world.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

It is because we care that we have come to this place,
and it is because you care, O God, that we are welcome in your presence.

It is because we are grateful that we lift our hymns of praise,
and it is because you are gracious that you choose to listen with joy.

It is because we are hopeful that we come with our offerings,
**and it is because you are the source of all hope
 that these acts can become instruments of gospel work.**

*Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God
 NUN DANKET

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice - es,
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in high-est heav-en,

who won-drous things hath done, in whom this world re-joic-es;
 with ev-er joy-ful hearts and bless-ed peace to cheer us;
 to Fa-ther and to Son and Spir-it now be giv-en:

who, from our moth-ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when per-plexed,
 the one e-ter-nal God, whom heaven and earth a-dore,

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day,
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be ev-er-more.

*Prayer of Confession and Assurance of God's Grace

Merciful God, draw me close.
Because you are good, I want to be good.
Because you are gracious, I want to be gracious.
Because you are generous, I want to be generous.
I don't always know how to do this;
sometimes I know how, but lack the courage.
Make me wholly yours, that I might do your holy work.

**The good news of the gospel is clear:
God loves you. God forgives you. God needs you.
Listen to the voices of the angels when they say, "Do not be afraid."
These words are trustworthy and true.**

Thanks be to God.

**Merciful God, draw us close.
Because you are good, we want to be good.
Because you are gracious, we want to be gracious.
Because you are generous, we want to be generous.
We don't always know how to do this;
sometimes we know how, but lack the courage.
Make us wholly yours, that we might do your holy work.**

The good news of the gospel is clear:
God loves you. God forgives you. God needs you.
Listen to the voices of the angels when they say, "Do not be afraid."
These words are trustworthy and true.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Response

Raise a Song of Gladness
JUBILATE DEO

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/2 time. The melody is simple and joyful. The lyrics are: "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

Call to Prayer

Come and Fill Our Hearts
CONFITEMINI DOMINO

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia.**

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

The Promise of Living (from the opera 'The Tender Land')
music: Aaron Copland; words: Horace Everett; The Village Choir

*The promise of living with hope and thanksgiving
is born of our loving our friends and our labor.
The promise of growing with faith and with knowing
is born of our sharing our love with our neighbor.*

*For many a year we've known these fields and known all the work that makes them yield.
Are you ready to lend a hand? We'll bring in the harvest, the blessings of harvest.
We plant each row with seeds of grain, and Providence sends us the sun and the rain.
By lending a hand, by lending an arm, bring out from the farm,
bring out the blessings of harvest.*

*Give thanks there was sunshine, give thanks there was rain.
Give thanks we have hands to deliver the grain.
Come join us in thanking the Lord for his blessing.
O let us be joyful. O let us be grateful to the Lord for his blessing.*

*The promise of ending in right understanding
is peace in our own hearts and peace with our neighbor.
O let us sing our song, and let our song be heard.
Let's sing our song with our hearts, and find a promise in that song.
The promise of living.
The promise of growing.
The promise of ending is labor and sharing our loving.*

Prayer for Illumination

Laura Hewitt (8 a.m.), Fred Logan (9:30 a.m.), Janice Gill (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading

Mark 6:6b-13

Meditations Offered by

Kim Higgins, Tedrick Housh, Laura Strongman, Patty Zender, Tom Are

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
BEACH SPRING



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Offertory

The Eternal Gates (8, 9:30 a.m.)
musical setting: Howard Helvey; Alegría

Hymn of Promise (11 a.m.)
words and music: Natalie Sleeth; Village Voices

*Response

For the Life That You Have Given
HYFRYDOL

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation

- 1. For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**
- 2. In the just reward of labor,
God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will be done.**

- In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.**
- 3. For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

*Benediction

AR HYD Y NOS

*Response

AR HYD Y NOS

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

*Postlude

**All who are able may stand*

© A-705103 for all hymns

THE CHURCH'S BOOK (Week of November 23, 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. 23

Genesis 32:22-32

We are told that God knows us by name. In Scripture, God does the naming, or renaming, of many whom God calls. But God does not truly name us, but someone has. Some of our names come from a long line of family names, or perhaps, from parents who spend endless hours searching through books to find the right fit. Names are thoughtfully chosen and sometimes have meaning. Jacob's name means "holder of the heel" or "supplanter," and then renamed Israel meaning he who "wrestles with God".

Tuesday, Nov. 24

Genesis 33:1-17

This is the reunion of two brothers, Esau and Jacob. The wily Jacob appears frightened of his brother, who may have come seeking retribution for the ways Jacob has outsmarted him in life. Esau, on the other hand, upon seeing his brother runs toward him. His reaction is one of joy and compassion, falling on his brother's neck, weeping and embracing him. Jacob offers his brother everything in exchange for his forgiveness. But Esau says, "I have enough," all I want now is to "journey alongside you." Jacob tells his brother "seeing your face is like seeing the face of God." Do we experience forgiveness as seeing the face of God?

Wednesday, Nov. 25

Psalms 138

Do we ever really think of our practice of gratitude as an act of praise to God? To give praise to God is to give back to God that which pleases God. It is to turn towards God and give God all that God requires of us, our very selves. To give thanks to God means to turn our hearts over to God, and to have our souls strengthened by the One whose love is steadfast and faithful. To praise God is to know that when we walk in the midst of trouble, God's hand stretches out and leads us. Our thanksgiving to God, is giving praise to God.

Thursday, Nov. 26

Matthew 26:17-30

We call our Lord's Supper the Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving." But do we sit at our own Thanksgiving table and think of the Eucharist? It's easy to think of them as two different tables, and maybe they are, but all that separates them is an invitation from Christ. The Lord's Supper took place around an ordinary meal table like ours, and after giving thanks to God; Jesus broke ordinary bread, as we often do, and said, "Whenever you do this, remember me." It sounds familiar more than it sounds foreign. We share memories around our own meal tables, some good and some difficult. Around the dinner table we bring our whole selves, that which conflicts us and that which unites us. Perhaps we do this remembering all that God has done for us, and is doing.

Friday, Nov. 27

Romans 12:3-8

Another thing to be grateful for is that we are each called to be the Body of Christ, and not called to be Christ. What does it mean for us to think of ourselves "according to the measure of faith that God has assigned" us? Perhaps it is to live life as authentically as Christ lived his. We have all received gifts of the Spirit to do the work of ministry, which God has called each of us to do. What ministry do you believe God has assigned your gifts to?

Saturday, Nov. 28

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Paul talks a lot about living as a new creation in Christ. To live in Christ is the work God is doing to reconcile the entire world back into God's loving embrace. Paul's appeal for us to be "ambassadors of Christ," is to live knowing that God has claimed us through Christ. What does it mean to be doing a "ministry of reconciliation?" Maybe it means we live our life as one "reconciled to God."

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.

DRMP GIFT CARDS, COFFEE & CHOCOLATE: GIFTS THAT GIVE TWICE! Today the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village is offering honor gift cards, Santo Domingo Coffee and Equal Exchange dark chocolate bars outside 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.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 91 HOLIDAY WREATHS & GARLAND PICKUP TODAY - The Boy Scouts of Troop 91 will be at the south entrance from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. distributing holiday wreaths and garland that were previously ordered. We will also have limited quantities of extra wreaths, swags and garland for sale. Stop by and pick up your order, or purchase an item to complete your last minute holiday decorating. Cash, check and major credit cards accepted.

PW ADVENT CANDLELIGHT DINNER RESERVATIONS - There are still a few seats left to the Dec. 1 Advent Candlelight Dinner. Reservations will be taken outside Friendship Hall between services today from 9-9:30 a.m. and 10:30-11 a.m. Cost is \$16 a person. Payment is required at the time of your reservation.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

VILLAGE CHURCH WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL - Terri Gaeddert, preschool director, will host a "Preschool Information Coffee" for those considering enrollment for 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.southerland@villagepres.org by Nov. 23. Call the Preschool Office at 913-671-2338 for more info.

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

REJOICE! REFLECTIONS ON FOUR SEASONAL HYMNS NOV. 29 & DEC. 13 - The Village Forum class, taught by Rev. Brian Ellison, will take up two well-known hymns to help us prepare for the celebration of Christmas in its fullness, using the carols' music, words and histories to focus on the meaning of the incarnation. *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* and *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, will be up for the Nov. 29 conversation as we think on (and, yes, sing) about the glory of the newborn King. On Dec. 13, Rev. Ellison will focus on two more classic hymns: *Silent Night*, *Holy Night* and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. 9:30 a.m. in Room 126. Also in the Village Forum, Dr. Gus Breyspraak will continue to lead a discussion of the video series, *People of Faith: Christianity in America*, today, Dec. 6 & 20. 9:30 a.m. in Room 126.

THE SPRING 2016 VILLAGE U CATALOG IS HERE - The curriculum is a wide umbrella encompassing all our adult learning opportunities in one, easy-to-find location. Check out the courses under Village U at villagepres.org. A handful of printed catalogs are placed throughout the church. Some classes have a small fee for materials and resources. Child care will be available for most classes for a one-time \$40 fee for the spring term; reservations will be required in advance. Registration for Village members begins on Monday, Dec. 7. Registration for the general public begins on Monday, Dec. 14.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

There will be no Wednesday Night Dinner Nov. 25.

CHRISTMAS DINNER - 5:15 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9, IN FRIENDSHIP HALL - Chef Emily and her culinary team will create a scrumptious country club style buffet, including carved round of beef. Cost is \$7 a person, \$3 for age 10 & under. RSVP by calling 913-671-2334 or email stacy.fischer@villagepres.org.

MISSION

FOOD PANTRY - Thanksgiving is Thursday, and the Food Pantry thanks you for your generous donations to fill the Thanksgiving Baskets for 450 families! May your Thanksgiving be as blessed as you made the Thanksgiving of these 450 families. Winter is coming, and the Pantry is asking for HEARTY soups to warm clients. There have been wonderful sales at the grocery stores—fill a bag for the hungry.

MUSIC MINISTRY

THE CHRISTMAS CAROL SING – 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, in Friendship Hall. Come enjoy this program that includes holiday favorites, and some Christmas “Swing”, along with traditional Christmas Carols for everyone to sing. Invite your friends and family. Admission is free. Call 913-671-2334 for more info.

SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL WITH SOPRANO JAYNE SIEMENS - 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, in the Chapel. Soprano Jayne Siemens will perform “Christmas Laments & Celebrations” accompanied by Mark Ball on piano. Admission is free.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

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, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org by noon Monday, Nov. 30.

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 - Will not meet this week due to Thanksgiving break.

GPS M.S. YOUTH GROUP - Will not meet this week due to Thanksgiving break.

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. today
in Friendship Hall

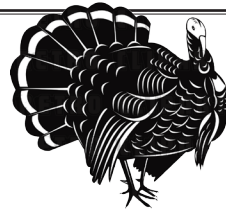
when Rev. Len Carrell will be installed as a pastor of
Village Church. The ceremony will be followed
by a reception with refreshments.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, DEC. 6, TO VOTE ON THE NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR IN YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

We have more great news! The APNC (Associate Pastor Nominating Committee) has been very hard at work, and they have identified a candidate to serve as our associate pastor for Young Adult Ministry. The session has called a congregational meeting to act on the recommendation of the APNC on Sunday, Dec. 6, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service in Friendship Hall. The candidate will be present in other worship services.

TRANSFORMATIVE STORIES DEC. 10 - Jill Bolte Taylor (*My Stroke of Insight*) and Grammy-winning Carrie Newcomer (7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, Unity Temple on the Plaza). Two powerful and entertaining voices explore the intersection of science and spirituality, body and spirit. Presented by the Kansas City Festival of Faiths. Tickets: \$20 in advance/\$25 at door. www.festivaloffaithskc.org.

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. Send to the church, Attn: Janice Gill, by Tuesday, Dec. 15. Call 913-671-2362 for more information.



**We wish you a very
Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Village Church will be
closed Nov. 26 & 27 for the
Thanksgiving holiday.**

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 (individual 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, 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.



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

The Giver that Keeps on Giving

Commitment Sunday - Thank you to everyone who has completed their pledge for 2016. Your commitment to continue and grow the ministries and mission of Village Church is heartwarming.

If you have not yet returned your commitment card, take a moment and complete your card or go online to www.villagepres.org/Giving to submit your pledge electronically.



VILLAGE
COMMITMENT

THOUGHTS FROM VILLAGE COMMITMENT

"Generosity is realizing that you are so blessed that you can't help but allow it to overflow into the lives of those around you..."

—Ashley Mallwain

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

This Little Light of Mine

John begins the Gospel this way, The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. It is an honest confession of the hope we witness in the one who rested in manger straw. He is light; but there is darkness as well. His light shines not only before us, but through us. Given the pervasiveness of what John would call darkness in the world, our light can seem pretty small. But this little light is enough. That is our honest confession of hope. This Advent series will offer reflections on the power of God's light in our lives. If you are needing a little hope these days, you will want to be with us in worship.

Nov. 29	The Story Goes On (This service will include the Sacrament of Communion.)
Dec. 6	Before the Angels Appear
Dec. 13	This Baby Needs a Place
Dec. 20	God in the Ordinary
Christmas Eve	This Little Light of Thine

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.