SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 20, 2015 • 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY’S SERVICE

It’s all but impossible to tell the story of Christmas without talking about the angels. An angel came to Zechariah. An angel appeared to Mary. A whole choir of angels pushed through the night sky into a shepherd’s field. And Joseph was visited by an angel. With all these angels showing up, it gives the impression that the way of God shows up in the most dramatic fashion. But the truth is, the angels just point to what God is already doing, and God has already been at work in ordinary ways. As ordinary as a baby.
Prelude

Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella
arr. Bob McNally Jr.; Village Brass

Choral Introit (11 a.m.)

Bells are Ringing
music: Joanne LeDoux; Morning Stars Choir (grades K-2)

Call to Worship

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

We await the birth of Christ,
the one who reveals God to us.

He comes as a sparkling light,
twinkling with joy and playfulness.

He comes to us as softened light,
creating a healing space in the shadows.

He comes to us as a focused spotlight,
bringing truth and justice into stark relief.

He comes to us as everyday light,
brightening the ordinary world around us.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
He is coming to shine among us.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Judie Thomas and Dee Couch (8 a.m.)
Matt, Angie, Max, Molly, Grace and Lily Tucker (9:30 a.m.)
Jon, Kim, Nick and Hannah Ratliff (11 a.m.)

*Hymn, No. 143

Angels From the Realms of Glory
REGENT SQUARE

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
Be patient with us,
for we are slow of sight.
You promise that swords will be beaten into plowshares,
but we see little peace.
You promise that even the trees will clap their hands,
but we see little joy.
You promise that the lion will lie down with the lamb,
but we see little hope.
In a world filled with big, complex problems,
we look for big, complex answers.
We forget that you are the one who comes as a baby,
laid in a manger,
salvation wrapped up in swaddling cloth,
nothing special,
and yet everything we need. (Silent prayer)

*Assurance of God’s Grace

*Response

Angels We Have Heard on High
GLORIA

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Anthem

How Far Is It to Bethlehem? (11 a.m.)
music: Ken Berg; Morning Stars (grades 3-6)

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.

Anthem

A Tidings of Joy Christmas Medley
carol arrangements: Geoffrey Wilcken; The Village Choir

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay;
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

choir alone – stanza 2

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.
The Holly and the Ivy

Prayer for Illumination
Jim Borthwick (8 a.m.)
Larry Sneegas (9:30 a.m.)
Katherine Caputo (11 a.m.)

Scripture Reading
Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon
God in the Ordinary
Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 144
In the Bleak Midwinter
CRANHAM

Offertory
Ceremonial Christmas
arr. Bill Holcombe; Village Brass

*Response
Of the Father’s Love Begotten
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost,
to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.
Honour, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
ever-more and ever-more! Amen.
*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn, No. 134

*Response

*Postlude

* All who are able may stand

© A-705103 for all hymns
15th Annual
TIDINGS OF
JOY
Performed by the Village Church Choirs & Orchestra with special guest artists Barnaby Bright
3 & 6 P.M. SUNDAY, DEC. 20
FREE ADMISSION
Offering to Benefit Thwake Village Partnership
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, Dec. 21**

*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 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, Dec. 22**

*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, Dec. 23**

*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, Dec. 24**

*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, Dec. 25**

*Luke 2:1-25*

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, Dec. 26**

*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.
TODAY AT VILLAGE

WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH! Please join us every week. Coffee and lemonade are available on the east side of Friendship Hall following worship services.

15TH ANNUAL TIDINGS OF JOY CONCERT TODAY AT 3 & 6 P.M. – Please join us in the Sanctuary for this beloved tradition in our community. “Tidings of Joy, A Celebration of the Season’s Most Beautiful Music,” is presented by the Village Choir, Alegría and the Village Chamber Choir, with guest artists Barnaby Bright. Admission is free. A retiring offering will go to the Thwake Village Partnership, a ministry of partnership with Village Church, the Heartland Presbytery and the people of Thwake, Kenya.

JOY OFFERING - The proceeds from the Joy Offering support retired church workers and eight Presbyterian schools and colleges, while the Christmas Project provides assistance to local social service agencies who help others with holiday and emergency assistance needs. Envelopes for this offering have been placed in the Friendship folders on each aisle.

ROSES ON THE COMMUNION TABLE HONOR THE BIRTH OF THE FOLLOWING - John Richardson Fisher (Taryn and Craig, parents); Owen Alexander Nazar (Kelsey and Andrew, parents), Annabelle Rose Stephens (Sandra and Kyle, parents) and Evelyn Ann Van Bockern (Kate and Jeff, parents). If you are a member of Village Church and have a new baby, call the Children and Family Ministry office at 671-2359 or 671-2355.

DIAPERS IN DECEMBER - Children and Family Ministry is collecting diapers for the Food Pantry. Donations can be left in the crib by the Children's Library or at either donation box.

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

THE CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PLAY IS BACK ON CHRISTMAS EVE! - Look for information to be emailed to you or in children's Sunday School classrooms. There are speaking, singing and non-speaking parts available. Email either jenny.hull@villagepres.org or cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org for more information.

NO CHURCH SCHOOL for Preschool through 6th grade today. Nursery and toddler care are still provided.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR SPRING 2016 VILLAGE U CLASSES - You may enroll for all courses online at the villagepres.org, by email (marianne.weber@villagepres.org), by calling Marianne at 913-671-2333 or in person in Room 119 at Village Church. There is a one-time only child care fee of $40. You can pay this fee with cash, check or credit card (Discover, Visa or Master Card). If you have questions, please contact the Adult Ministry Office at 913-671-2333.

UPCOMING VILLAGE U CLASSES:

Sing Before Supper - “The only thing better than singing is MORE singing!” So said the great Ella Fitzgerald. Come to the Chapel for a fun and lively time of singing – old favorites and new treasures. 5-5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, in the Chapel. Led by Mark Ball.

Date Nights - Join us for a fun evening once a month with your spouse. We begin with a 30-minute discussion on a topic to help strengthen your marriage; then couples are free to leave on their own for some time away for dinner and discussion. Child care is available with an advance reservation to be made two weeks prior. A limited number of child care spaces are available. 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, in Room 232. Led by Clint and Kim Carter.
They Were Just People: Lessons from the Holocaust - Our instructors will present stories of Jews in Poland who were rescued by non-Jews as described in their book, They Were Just People: Stories of Rescue in Poland during the Holocaust, and they will draw out lessons for all of us today. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 3, in Room 126 & 127. Taught by Bill Tammeus and Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn.

MISSION

FOOD PANTRY - The staff, volunteers and clients of the Food Pantry/Clothes Closet want to thank all of you for your support, donations and joy that you brought to all of us in 2015. The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet will be closed starting Dec. 24 and will re-open on Monday, Jan. 4. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

DECK THE VILLAGE TREES WITH HATS AND MITTENS - This Village tradition has returned for the holiday season. From now through Dec. 25, come decorate our Christmas trees with hats and mittens to give to families served by the Village Clothes Closet/ Food Pantry. The trees are located outside the Children's Library on the second floor and at the south entrance to the church. The Pantry serves 500 households a month and your contribution will literally help spread the warmth of the season to many of these families. Contact Deborah White, director of mission, at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org with any questions.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

VILLAGE NURSES ARE TAKING A SHORT WINTER’S NAP – Blood pressure readings will resume on Sunday, Jan. 3, in the Bride's Room.

STEPHEN MINISTRY CAN HELP - If the holidays are especially difficult this year, 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.

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF – If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, please know that you are not alone. Growing Through Grief, a five-week class, is designed to help discover God’s healing presence during a difficult time of life. There is no cost but registration is required. This series will be every Wednesday from 4:30-5:45 p.m. Jan. 13-Feb. 10, in Room 124. Please contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org to register.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN AGES 22-30 - Presbyterian Women will host two gatherings in early January as the beginning of a new Stage Group. PW Stage Groups provide a caring, supportive group of women, approximately the same age, and at the same stage of life, to simply enjoy, have coffee with, meet after work, or plan a philanthropic or social event. We invite young women to either a coffee from 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, or a wine & cheese event from 5-6 p.m., both at the home of Jennifer Burns at 6457 Verona in Mission Hills. Child care will be available at the church with advance reservation by contacting Pam Southerland at 913-671-2352 or pam.southerland@villagepres.org. Please share this invitation with daughters, granddaughters and other young women you know.

Dec. 27 Worship Schedule

There will be one service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 27.
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 TONIGHT - 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. - Middle school youth group meets this Wednesday evening.

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

TIME CHANGE FOR RADIO BROADCAST OF VILLAGE WORSHIP SERVICE

The 1660 AM radio broadcast time of our Sunday morning worship service will switch from 9:30 a.m. to the 8 a.m. starting Jan. 3, 2016. The time change is a result of the radio station’s format change making the 9:30 a.m. time slot no longer available.

Upcoming Advent Activities for Children & Families

Family Christmas Pageant - 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, in the Sanctuary
See the most beloved Nativity story through the eyes of a child. The Christmas play is produced by Children and Family Ministry. The Family Christmas Pageant will be incorporated into the 5 p.m. Family Worship Service on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve Services, Thursday, Dec. 24, in the Sanctuary
5 p.m. Family Worship
7 & 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Services
11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Communion Service

Shuttle Service
We will have two shuttle buses running from 4:30-10:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve for the 5, 7 & 9 p.m. services. Buses will pick up at the Blue Moose/Missouri Bank parking lot and drop off at the west entrance of the church.

THOUGHTS FROM VILLAGE COMMITMENT
“Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first.”
—Anonymous
Missouri State University Chorale
Cameron F. LaBarr, conductor

with guest choir
Rockhurst High School Concert Choir
Sam Anderson, conductor

Wednesday
6 January 2016
Village Presbyterian Church
Prairie Village, KS
7:00pm
**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
- **Dec. 6** Before the Angel Appears
- **Dec. 13** This Baby Needs a Place
- **Dec. 20** God in the Ordinary
- **Christmas Eve** This Little Light of Thine

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**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

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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.