



# VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)



## Service of Worship

January 1, 2023 • 10 a.m.

### About Today's Service

Each New Year brings the hope that life might be different, that we might be different. We know that New Year's resolutions are often short-lived—and we make them anyway (we are people of hope, after all). But there is a deeper longing underneath our resolutions. What if, like Bartimaeus, we claimed that deeper longing? What if, like the wise ones following the star to Jesus, we dared to truly follow God's lead?



## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

*Three Kings of Orient*  
arr. Janet Linker; Chris Leaver, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Melanie Hardison

Call To Worship

Rev. Sally S. Wright

We begin this new year in worship  
**releasing the old and embracing the new.**

We gather together  
**hopeful for the Spirit's movement,  
trusting in God's love,  
and confident of God's grace.**

Like the wise ones who followed the star so long ago,  
**let us lean together into all that is new  
that we might be transformed for the living of these days.**

\*Hymn No. 152 (v. 1-3)

*What Star is This, with Beams So Bright*

\*Prayer of Confession

**God of the years, we seek your guidance for this new day.  
Mindful of the resolutions of years past,  
we confess that we live in the tender place  
between hope in our best selves  
and the reality that we often fall short.  
Forgive us, O God, and shine the light of Christ in our lives,  
that we might tune our hearts to you.** (Silent prayer)

\*Assurance of God's Grace

\*Response

**O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face,  
let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.**

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time with the Children

Call to Prayer

**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.**

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.**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Mark 10:46-52 (pg. 922)  
Trauber Malloy

Sermon

*A Deeper Longing*

Rev. Melanie Hardison

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\*Hymn No. 150

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

Call for the Offering

Offertory Anthem

*The Infinite Shining Heavens*  
by Ralph Vaughan Williams; Dr. Josh Maize, tenor

\*Sung Response

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn No. 307 (v. 1-3)

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.  
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.**

\*Postlude

*As With Gladness Men of Old*  
arr. Wayne Wold; Chris Leaver, organ

*\*All who are able may stand*  
© A-705103 for all hymns

### **Today is Family Worship Sunday**

Children are always invited to worship here at Village, but we give an extra welcome to kids on "Family Worship Sundays" when we don't have our usual Lighthouse programming. We love kids in worship. We think Jesus does, too. Our only expectation is that they behave like...kids. Wiggling and giggling is normal and welcome. Kids and families, we're glad you're here!

## WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH

Whether this is your first time at Village, or you come so often you call it “home,” we are blessed that you are with us today. No matter where you are in your faith journey or life stage, no matter what questions or burdens you carry, Village takes seriously the call to be welcoming; we are glad you are here. Every Sunday we gather to read the old story, sing hymns (some of which our grandparents sang), while also engaging the world in which we live this minute through sermons and prayer. By connecting the story of our lives to the story of Christ’s life, we discover hope and even joy.

If you are new to us, stick around after the service. Introduce yourself to one of our pastors. We have tons of programs to expand your spirit and enrich your life. We would love to tell you more. Give us a try; soon you might also be calling this place “home.”



Rev. Tom Are, Jr.  
Senior Pastor

**The Gathering** – Our alternative worship service will resume at 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, in Friendship Hall. Learn more at [vpcthegathering.org](http://vpcthegathering.org).

**Get Village Church news & updates** – Sign up to receive the weekly eNews, Rev. Tom Are, Jr.'s weekly eNote and Daily Devotionals emails at [villagepres.org/subscribe](http://villagepres.org/subscribe).

**Follow us on Facebook** @villagepres – **Follow us on Instagram** @villagechurchpv

Subscribe to **Village Pres Sermon Podcasts** on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify & Stitcher.

### Get Your 2023 Star Word

Star Words for 2023 are available in worship today. Star Words have become a modern-day ritual related to Epiphany (Jan. 6), when the wise ones are believed to have reached the Christ child by following the star. Like the wise ones, we seek Jesus, too, trusting that God uses many paths to bring us closer to the Divine. Star Words are paper or wooden stars featuring one word related to our spiritual life in Christ. You are encouraged to simply draw a star out of the basket (rather than hunt through the basket for a word you like) and thus let the word choose you. The idea is to journey with your word through the coming year—to notice where it shows up, how it moves your heart and the ways it brings you closer to God.

Baskets of Star Words will also be available on Sunday, Jan. 8, in the Narthex, Welcome Center and Friendship Hall. After next Sunday, Star Words will be available at the south reception desk. Anyone unable to come to the church in person is welcome to email Rev. Melanie, and she will draw a Star Word for you: [melanie.hardison@villagepres.org](mailto:melanie.hardison@villagepres.org).

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**Spring Village U Class Registration** – All classes are listed on our website. Registration opens at 9 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 9, at [villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes](http://villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes).

**Understanding Christian Nationalism, Part 1** – Gus Breytspraak, Ph.D. and Rev. Diane Quaintance, 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, Rooms 126 & 127. We hear the phrase "Christian nationalism" with increasing frequency, yet few can define or describe it with any precision. Drawing from the work of Diana Butler Bass, American historian of Christianity, we will explore the Christian nationalism movement currently shaping American culture, politics and religion. All are welcome. Please register online at [villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes](http://villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes) starting on Jan. 9, or email [laura.hobbs@villagepres.org](mailto:laura.hobbs@villagepres.org).

## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

**No child care or Lighthouse today.** We invite children to worship with their families. Regular schedule for child care and Lighthouse resumes Jan. 8.

**Preschool Information Meeting: Village Church Preschool – Mission Campus** – Do you know a 3-, 4-, or 5-year-old who is ready for preschool? Join us for a Preschool Information Meeting in preparation for the 2023-2024 school year. 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, at Mission Campus in Room 232. Contact Sarah McKee, preschool director at [sarah.mckee@villagepres.org](mailto:sarah.mckee@villagepres.org) for more info. Child care available upon request. Contact [amy.turpin@villagepres.org](mailto:amy.turpin@villagepres.org) by Thursday, Jan. 5, for child care reservations.

**Enrollment at Village Church Preschool – Mission Campus** – It's enrollment time for the 2023-2024 school year! Village Church Preschool – Mission Campus will open enrollment for 3, 4, and 5-year-old students on the following dates: Current Village Preschool families: Tuesday, Jan. 17. Current Village KDO families and Village Church members: Thursday, Jan. 19. Former Village Church Preschool families: Friday, Jan. 20. Community members: Monday, Jan. 23.

## FOOD PANTRY

Happy New Year from the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet! The request this week is that your New Year's Resolution is to bring one food item to the church with each visit in 2023—that would really fill up the shelves of the Pantry. And as you put your new clothes in the closet, bring your cast-offs to the Clothes Closet. Many thanks for your donations.

## MISSION & ENGAGEMENT

**Wednesday Family Dinners** – Weekly dinners from Chef Andrea Bradley will resume on Jan. 11. Activities for kids. \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. Purchase online by noon Mondays at [villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners](http://villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners) or call Karen at 913-262-4200.

## MUSIC

**2nd Thursday Recital with Organist Rick Deasley** – 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, Mission Campus Sanctuary. The recitalist will present a concert entitled "Around the Church Year in 30 Minutes." Meet The Artist reception to follow. Free admission.

**Morning Stars Children's Music Program** - The spring season is kicking off for children in Kindergarten through 6th Grade. Choirs meet on Sunday mornings from 10-10:30 a.m. Children's Handbells meet on Sunday afternoons. For rehearsal times and more information, contact [jenny.hull@villagepres.org](mailto:jenny.hull@villagepres.org).

## PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

**First Faith & Grief Lunch of 2023 is Tuesday, Jan. 10** – The Rev. Rita Kendagor is our speaker at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 10, in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. Rita will share her loss of her husband after only eight years of marriage and having a six-year-old and a baby on the way. Village Church is one of six area churches who sponsor this national program. Reservations are helpful but not required; please register at [faithandgrief.org/gatherings](http://faithandgrief.org/gatherings).

**Growing Through Grief Class Begins Jan. 18** – The Pastoral Care Department is here to offer support and comfort when grief is hard to bear. Growing through Grief, a five-week series, is at 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday, Jan.18-Feb. 15 in Room 132-Mission Campus. The series is offered at no cost and is open to all. Registration is required; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or [linda.alley@villagepres.org](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org).

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Programs Resume Next Week** – Youth events are on winter break until Jan. 8. You can view a list of all our weekly programs at [villagepresyouth.org](http://villagepresyouth.org).

**Confirmation Registration** – You can now register for this year's Confirmation class. Confirmation is open to students who are in 9th grade or older, who have not yet taken the class. Join us for this year's class! Registration can be found at [villagepresyouth.org/confirmation](http://villagepresyouth.org/confirmation).

**Join us for Spring Break!** Registration is open for our Spring Break trip to the Dominican Republic, March 11-18. Join us for an amazing week of service, meaning, and time at the beach. For more info visit [villagepresyouth.org/dominican-republic](http://villagepresyouth.org/dominican-republic).

## I Have a Dream (Home) Action & Celebration Event Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

STAND Up for Black Lives+ Prairie Village, the city of Prairie Village Diversity Committee, the Johnson County NAACP, and Village Church are sponsoring the Second Annual Prairie Village "I Have a Dream (Home)" Action & Celebration event honoring the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It's from 4-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, in Mission Campus Sanctuary and Welcome Center. Admission is free. Learn more and register at [bit.ly/pvmlkcelebration](http://bit.ly/pvmlkcelebration). The program will also be livestreamed at [villagepres.org/online](http://villagepres.org/online).

## UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

### I Am... Bread. Light. Way. Life.

Jan. 8-Feb. 12

We make the bold claim that we are the “Church of Jesus Christ” and that “Jesus is the cornerstone upon which the Church is built.” But who is Jesus really? In the Gospel of John, there are seven times when Jesus tells us who he is; seven times Jesus says, “I am...” In this sermon series, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will explore each of these seven “I am” statements and together, we will discover what it says about Jesus Christ and what it says about us.

- Jan. 8 I am the Bread of Life.
- Jan. 15 I am the Light of the World.
- Jan. 22 I am the Gate. I am the Good Shepherd.
- Jan. 29 I am the Resurrection and the Life.
- Feb. 5 I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- Feb. 12 I am the True Vine. (Communion Sunday)

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## MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

## MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Tom Are, Jr., senior pastor • Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist

Rev. Dr. Dionne T. Boyce, director of mission & engagement • Will Breytspraak, director of music  
Brooke Brundige, director of children & family ministry • Laura Davis, director of marketing & communications

Rev. Melanie Hardison, pastor of pastoral care • Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry

Dr. Joshua Maize, associate director of music • Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor  
Robert Rumold, director of information technology • Bob Sperry, director of giving & endowment

Sandra Stephens, director of child care • Jim Tilden, senior director of business operations

Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries • Alice Whitson, director of media ministry

Rev. Sally S. Wright, pastor of pastoral care • Rev. Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, founding pastor, 1947-1994

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Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex. Ask an usher to bring you one.

Streaming video of Sunday services is available at [villagepres.org/online](http://villagepres.org/online).

You may call in to listen to a week-delayed broadcast of our Sanctuary service on our worship service phone line: 913-203-1301. You can opt-in to be called automatically at 9:30 a.m. Sundays.

We kindly request that cell phones be turned off during worship

*Printed on paper from sustainably managed forests.*