



VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)



Service of Worship

Jan. 7, 2024 • 9 and 11 a.m.

About Today's Service

As we enter a new year together, what does it look like to watch for the star? To look for those signs of God's arrival in our lives and in our world? Epiphany season points to discovery, illumination, a new realization. We are still in a time of long nights and short days, and the concept of spiritual "dark" and "light" may hold more than first meets the eye. In Barbara Brown Taylor's "Learning to Walk in the Dark," she lifts up some of the unique gifts that only the darkness can bring. But here in Isaiah, the prophet speaks to a new dawn with brightness, rising, and radiance—people gathering together from near and far. This passage of Hebrew Scripture has been used by Christians to point toward Matthew 2:1-12, and the coming of the Magi to the newborn Messiah—even connecting the details of gold and frankincense. Tying into Matthew's Gospel, what does this story teach us afresh about the gifts we bring? The unexpected ways wisdom shows up? The scope of this good news that extends widely into nations and peoples beyond our own? As we celebrate this coming anniversary of God's mission through Village Church, what are some unique gifts of this congregation? How has Village been a light through many a troubled time, and into the future? How are we invited even now to "rise and shine" in this new day?

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

We Three Kings of Orient Are
arr. Janet Linker; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Melanie Hardison

Call To Worship (Isaiah 60)

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

For darkness shall cover the earth,

and thick darkness shall cover the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,

and God's glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

*Hymn No. 150 (v. 1,2,4)

As With Gladness Men of Old

*Prayer of Confession

God of glory,

you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,

to reveal your love for all people.

We confess that our sin and pride

hide the brightness of your light.

We turn away from those who are poor,

we ignore cries for justice,

we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us of all that separates us from you,

and pour out the gifts of your Spirit,

that, forgiven and renewed,

we may show forth your glory

shining in the face of Jesus Christ. (Silent Prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Sung Response

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Passing the Peace of Christ

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades. By the light of your Holy Spirit reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-6

Sermon

Arise and Shine

Rev. Cari Pattison

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn No. 138

Who Would Think that What was Needed

Call for Offering

Offertory Anthem

Creator of the Stars of Night

arr. John Scott; Lauren Stokke, soprano & Elijah Tang-Spigelman, tenor

*Sung Response

**As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasure bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.**

*Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

(At the indication of the pastor, we will all be invited to partake of the bread together, giving visible expression to the unity we share as Christ's body.

You are invited to partake of the cup as it is served to you.)

Prayer of Response

*Hymn No. 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

**O star of wonder, star of night; Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!**

*Postlude

As with Gladness Men of Old
arr. Wayne L. Wold; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

**All who are able may stand*

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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. Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Senior Pastor

Village Church Homecoming: Guest preacher Rev. Cari Pattison

Cari Pattison, daughter of Marilyn and Dave and sister of George and Joe Pattison, is grateful to be a child of Village Church. She was baptized and confirmed at Village. Both her maternal and paternal grandparents were charter members. With fond memories of Village Church Advent workshops, VBS, day camp, youth group trips, listening to Dr. Bob's sermons, teaching Sunday school and serving on youth ministry staff, Cari traces her call to ministry most centrally to this congregation and God's gift of faith formation here. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2007, she currently serves as pastor of the Woodstock Reformed Church in Woodstock, New York, where the Hudson Valley meets the Catskills. She loves walking her dog Ollie, teaching yoga at the studio down the street and hiking with friends—especially the Appalachian Trail!

Giving – You may give to Village Church at villagepres.org/giving or scan the QR code to the right.

Set up an automatic, recurring gift by contacting Bob Sperry at bob.sperry@villagepres.org or 913-671-2325.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Village U Classes for Church and Community – Village Church is a learning community with a long-standing commitment to providing opportunities for adults of all ages to grow in knowledge and faith together. Registration opens Jan. 8 at shop.villagepres.org/village-u.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Child Care is available on the first floor during the 9 a.m. service. Bring infants through 23 months to Room 114 and kids ages 2 and 3 to Room 109. Child care is also available during the 5 p.m. Gathering service. Bring infants through 4-year-olds to Room 109.

Lighthouse – Three-year-olds meet on the first floor in Room 107. Pre-K and 4-year-olds meet in Room 106. Registration and sign-ins are located outside Room 106. **Elementary Lighthouse** – K-6 Grade – All-Sing begins at 9 a.m. in Room 307. Registration and sign-ins are outside of Room 307. Pick up for kids grades K-6 will be on the third floor.

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry starts out 2024 requesting personal care items—bar soap, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, shaving products and feminine hygiene products. The Clothes Closet needs kids' winter clothing—all sizes. After Christmas presents have been opened, you may now have hand-me-downs (clean and gently used) to donate. All donations are appreciated.

MISSION & ENGAGEMENT

Wednesday Family Dinners – Self-serve, buffet-style dinners every Wednesday in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus from 5-6 p.m. resume Jan. 17. Dine in before your Village U class or take it home. Activities for kids. \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. Purchase online by noon on Mondays at villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners or call Karen at 913-262-4200.

Cross-Lines Volunteer Opportunity – Every other month, Village Church serves a meal to 150-250 people at the Cross-Lines Kitchen. Join us on Friday, Jan. 12, to serve lunch to our neighbors in need. Learn more and sign up at villagepres.org/cross-lines-kitchen or contact Jim Bolton at jcb3823@gmail.com.

Blood Drive – Donate between 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, in Rooms 132 & 133 at the Mission Campus. Sign up at donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/zip and enter the zip code 66208 and Jan. 23. Walk-ins are also welcome. Contact Ann Colston at 913-461-1791 for more information.

The Gathering – Join us for an alternative style of worship at Village Church offered 5 p.m. Sundays in Friendship Hall at our Mission Campus.

Get Village Church news & updates – Sign up to receive the weekly eNews, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka's weekly eNote and Daily Devotionals emails at 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.

MUSIC MINISTRY

2nd Thursday Recital featuring Gioia Wind Quintet & KC Wind Symphony Brass Quintet – 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission.

Morning Stars Children's Music Program – The spring season is kicking off Jan. 28 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.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Faith & Grief Support Gathering Meets This Tuesday – Join us at noon this Tuesday, Jan. 9, in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. Linda Alley will share some of her favorite memories about her grandmother who lived to almost 107. If you would like a boxed lunch, please make a reservation at faithandgrief.org/gatherings

Growing Through Grief Starts Jan. 17 – Grief is a hard journey. If you or someone you know is on this journey, come to Growing through Grief for support and comfort. This 5-week session starts Wednesday, Jan. 17, and is every Wednesday through Feb. 14. Class starts at 9:30 a.m. in Room 132 -Mission Campus. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org to register.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adult Ministry is specifically for people in their 20's and 30's. We want to connect, worship, serve and go places that will bring all of us more life, push us to do new and good things, and change our city for good. Learn more at villagepresya.org or on social media at [@villagepresYA](https://www.instagram.com/villagepresYA).

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Programs Return Today! Join us in the Youth Loft for any of our weekly events: Sunday Brunch (all youth, 9-10 a.m.), SNL (high school youth group, Sundays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.), Lofternoons (middle school afterschool program, Tuesdays, 4-5:30 p.m.), and GPS (middle school youth group, Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m.).

Confirmation Registration is Open – The class begins in January, focusing on the building blocks of faith and offering students the opportunity to become a member of the church. Students who are in 9th grade or older are eligible. Register and find more information at villagepresyouth.org/confirmation.

Epiphany Star Words are paper stars featuring one word related to our spiritual life in Christ. 2024 Star Words will be available in worship today. Simply draw a star out of the basket and journey with your word through the year, noticing where it shows up and how it brings you closer to God. Baskets of Star Words will also be available in the Narthex on Jan. 14 & 21.

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

75 Years of Faithfulness: The Stories We Carry with Us

Village Presbyterian Church was officially founded on Feb. 13, 1949. We give thanks to God for the faith and faithfulness of all those who have gone before us, those who are with us now, and those who will come after us. Our anniversary celebration will happen on Tuesday evening, Feb. 13, 2024. In the Sundays leading up to that day, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will share stories of how God has led this congregation from a beginning with 282 charter members to over 4,500 today.

Jan. 14	We've Come This Far by Faith
Jan. 21	All Are Welcome
Jan. 28	Sing Praise to God
Feb. 4	Go to the World!
Feb. 11	Great is Thy Faithfulness

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior pastor

Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist • Rev. Dr. Dionne T. Boyce, director of mission & engagement
Brooke Brundige, director of children & family ministry • Laura Davis, director of marketing & communications
Rev. Melanie Hardison, pastor of pastoral care • Rev. Chad Herring, interim senior associate pastor
Dr. Joshua Maize, associate director of music • Rev. Anna Owens, Antioch Campus site 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 • Rev. Alice Whitson, pastor of media ministry
Rev. Sally S. Wright, pastor of pastoral care • Rev. Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, founding pastor, 1947-1994

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.

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.