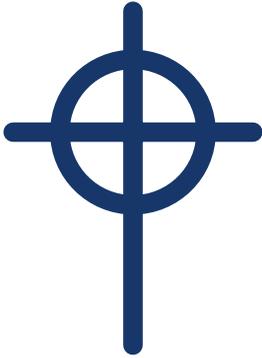




VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)



Service of Worship

May 22, 2022 • 9 and 11 a.m.

About Today's Service

One of the most moving moments in Paul's letters is recorded in the opening verses of Philippians. Paul is in prison. The Philippian Christians have sent word to encourage Paul, to let him know that they are praying for him. What they hear back from Paul is his own words of encouragement to them: God is at work even in this dismal situation of prison. Therefore, do not be afraid. We will journey with Paul, today, who has left us these words of encouragement.



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

A Festival of Hymns
arr. Robert J. Powell

Words of Welcome

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Why Village Matters: Stephen Ministry

Andy Harris

Call to Worship

Rev. Sally S. Wright

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are those who from their darkest hour
see the presence of Christ.

**For he has borne our grief and carried our sorrows,
and redeems us from all sin and brokenness.**

*Hymn, No. 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God,
You laid the foundation of the earth,
placed the morning stars in the sky,
and shut the doors to the sea.
But sometimes our foundations shake,
sometimes the sea rumbles,
and sometimes the stars fall from the sky.
Do not leave us when the world turns upside down,
and our lives return to chaos.
Renew your work of redemption in us. (Silent prayer)**

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

**Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah! Hallelujah! Hal-le-lu-jah!**

*Passing the Peace of Christ

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time with the Children

Brooke Brundige

Call to Prayer

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

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

Philippians 1:12-14 (pg. 1064)

Sermon

Innocent Suffering: We Have No Answers, but We Do Have Responses
Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Call for the Offering

Offertory Anthem

Praise for God's Work
by Eugene Butler

*Sung Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication

Commissioning of Stephen Ministers (11 a.m.)

*Hymn, No. 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

The Lord Bless You and Keep You
by Peter Lutkin

*Postlude

Joyful Praise
by Eugene Butler; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

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

Thanks to today's instrumentalists

Dr. Carol Dale (flute), Andrew Stadler (trumpet I), Laura Saylor (trumpet II), Joe Chen (trombone I), Eric Brennan (trombone II), Dr. Elisa Bickers (organ), Bryan Busby (percussion).

About Today's Newly Commissioned Anthem

Today we give thanks for a new piece of music in the life of Village Church and the wider community. Longtime Village Choir member Pat Woodward and his wife, Louise, commissioned composer Eugene Butler to write a work for the Village Church, and in appreciation of the music staff. After conversations between Pat, Eugene and the music staff, the result was a new work scored for SSAATTBB Choir with organ, flute, brass quartet and timpani. Pat and Louise chose Psalm III as the text for this magnificent new song of praise, "Praise for God's Work." Pat and Eugene specifically wanted flute written for and played by Dr. Carol Dale, music coordinator, and a tremendous organ part to be played by Dr. Elisa Bickers on Opus 22, the Village pipe organ. May this new song of praise reach our maker this day, and echo through the heavens for many generations here on earth.

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 through sermons and prayer we engage the world in which we live this minute. 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 also might also be calling this place “home.”



Rev. Tom Are, Jr.
Senior Pastor

Welcome Our New Stephen Ministers – Today we celebrate the commissioning of our new Stephen Ministers. These faithful individuals have received more than 50 hours of training so that they may walk alongside those who are grieving and facing life’s transitions. We are truly grateful for the spirit of grace and truth in these new Stephen Ministers: Andy Alcock, Mary Chris Blickhan, Susan Johnson, Brad King and Hannah King.

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. Learn more at vpcthegathering.org.

Get Village Church news & updates – Sign up to receive the weekly eNews, Rev. Tom Are'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 your favorite podcast platform

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Fall Village U Class Ideas Wanted – We will soon be planning our fall 2022 Village U course catalog. Do you have an interesting idea for a class? Or do you know of someone who would like to teach a class? Contact laura.hobbs@villagepres.org with any course suggestions by June 30.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Child care is available on the first floor during 9 a.m. & 5 p.m. services. Infants to 4-year-olds in Rooms 114, 111 and/or 106. **Preschool Lighthouse** – Ages 2-4 – Preschool and Pre-K ages meet on the first floor. Registration and sign-ins are located outside Room 106. **Elementary Lighthouse** – K-6th Grade – Elementary ages meet on the third floor. Registration and sign-ins are located outside Room 307.

Today is the last day of Lighthouse Kids for the spring semester. Be sure to join us at 9 a.m. for broadly-graded Sunday Fundays in June and July!

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Village Church Night at the Royals – Join us at 7:10 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, as the Royals take on the Toronto Blue Jays. We're going "old school" and catching a yellow bus from the south parking lot to Kauffman Stadium and back. The cost is \$36 for a ticket and transportation. To reserve your seat in Section 110, contact Nancy at nancy.gatewood@villagepres.org or 913-671-2331 by May 27.

MISSION

The Food Pantry is not asking for food this week but is more interested in dental care items. The Pantry is requesting toothbrushes (adult and child sizes), toothpaste (all kinds) and floss—items we take for granted but are needed by our clients. The Clothes Closet clients have asked for baking dishes and mixing bowls. Thank you.

MUSIC

Village Arts Alliance Presents: Concert Pianist Jihyun Oh - 1 p.m. Saturday, June 4, Ms. Jihyun Oh will play keyboard masterpieces of J.S. Bach in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. This free recital is a special chance to support and enjoy Jihyun, a UMKC student, before she heads abroad to compete in several European piano competitions this summer.

Concert with Piano Virtuoso Frederick Hodges - Join us for "Syncopated Piano Masterpieces of the Jazz Age: The Kansas City Connection" at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 5, Mission Campus Sanctuary. The concert is sponsored by Kansas City Ragtime and Beyond, Westport Historical Society and Village Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$20 at the door; Children under 16 free.

PASTORAL CARE

Learn More About Stephen Ministry – Did you know Stephen Ministry is worldwide? Or that Village has 78 Stephen Ministers? There's so much more to know about this wonderful ministry. Visit a table in the Welcome Center, or at The Gathering, or at the Antioch Campus after services today.

"Sudden and Unexpected" – Steve Moore is our guest speaker at the June "Faith and Grief" Lunch gathering. He will share his experience about losing his close friend and mentor due to a pulmonary embolism. We'll gather from noon-1 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7, in Friendship Hall at the Mission Campus. A boxed lunch will be provided. Reservations are helpful but not necessary; go to faithandgrief.org/gatherings.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Nursery Playdate & Orientation – 9:30-11 a.m. May 24. These pandemic years have made it feel a little weird to leave your baby in someone else's care. We get it! And while keeping your baby with you at all times is totally cool with us, we know there comes a time when you just need a little break. So, we're gathering this morning in the nursery, to play all together in the space that can care for your kiddos during worship and other church events. Meet child care staff, ask all your questions, check out the paperwork, and we'll talk together about parenthood in this particular season. Your babies will stay with you for this event. All parents of kids 3 and under welcome! RSVP online: VillagePresYA.org/parents.

Parents Night – 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 25, in the Young Adult Activity Room. Young adults with kiddos—come for dinner all together, then kids will go to childcare as we gather to connect and discuss faith and parenthood. Sign up at villagepresya.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Week – June 5-9 we're kicking off the summer with fun activities every day open to all 7-12th graders! Sign up at villagepresyouth.org/summer.

Sign Up for Summer Trips at villagepresyouth.org/trips.

Summer Programs – Weekly summer programs for middle and high schoolers begin June 12. Find out the details at villagepresyouth.org/summer.

New baby births - We want to meet your little one and give them a gift. Come by the Children & Family Ministry office or email kidsinfo@villagepres.org.

Prepare for baptism – For infants and children: kate.ruecker@villagepres.org.
For adults: nancy.gatewood@villagepres.org.

Plan your wedding – weddings@villagepres.org

Add someone to the prayer list – pastoral-care@villagepres.org

Join the church – nancy.gatewood@villagepres.org

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

I Have a Question...

Life raises questions. Sometimes it raises questions that require a response from our faith. The teaching of the faith raises questions as well. Sometimes it requires that we ponder how the faith relates to the demands of ordinary life. Each Sunday, we bring such questions to worship. Each Sunday from May 8-July 10, the sermons will speak to many of the questions you have raised. Does prayer work? Can we love our enemies? Why do bad things happen to good people? How do we deal with all the divisions in our world? It is hoped that these messages will spur your own thinking about how you respond to questions such as these.

May 8	What are the Four Things? (What Do We Tell Our Children?)
May 15	Should We Be Talking About This In Church? (The Politics of Jesus)
May 22	Innocent Suffering: We Have No Answers, but We Do Have Responses
May 29	Love Will Win
June 5	Teach Us To Pray
June 12	Can Prayer Change God's Mind?

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

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

Will Breytspraak, director of music • Brooke Brundige, director of children and family ministry

Laura Davis, director of marketing and communications

Nancy Gatewood, interim director of connectional ministries

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 and endowment

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

Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries • Deborah White, director of mission

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.