



VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)



Service of Worship

June 11, 2023 • 9 and 11 a.m.



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
arr. Robert Hobby; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Call To Worship

Friends of God, know this:
God loved the world and
God loves the world. We are the beloved!

**May the truth of this great love story
shine bright through our worship today,
and renew our sense of calling.**

Come with your tiredness,
your frustrations and your discouragements.
Come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings.

**Come, to discover yet again,
how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy throughout the world.**

For God did not send God's only son to condemn the world,
but that this world, this entire world, might be saved.

**Therefore, come in friendship with God,
friendship with each other, and in friendship to the world.**

Listen for God's Word through us,
as we offer our prayers and seek God to renew our calling.

Friends of God, let us worship!

*Hymn, No. 53

O God, Who Gives Us Life

*Prayer of Confession

**God of love and mercy, please make us whole. Heal the wounds we carry in
and around us, while healing the wounds we have created in others. Make us
strong in the broken places, that we will know of what we speak when we offer
kindness and hope. Forgive us and help us to forgive in the same way. God of
love and mercy, Lord please make us whole, through the sacrifice and love of
your only son, Jesus Christ. (Silent Prayer)**

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Sung Response

**This is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

*Passing the Peace of Christ

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time with the Children

Call to Prayer

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!

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 Sarah Dornbusch (9 a.m.); Kim Higgins (11 a.m.)

Scripture John 3:16-17 (pg. 968)

Sermon *Why Church? Because Love Is God's Gift.* Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyice

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 188 *Jesus Love Me!*

Offertory Anthem *The Greatest Love of All*
by Linda Creed and Michael Masser; Connor Locke, mezzo-soprano

*Sung Response

**Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn, No. 749 *Come! Live in the Light!*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

**We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

Postlude *Canzonetta in G Major*
by Dieterich Buxtehude; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

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

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

Whitney Houston's epic ballad "The Greatest Love of All" states that "learning to love yourself, it is the greatest love of all." That is a nice sentiment, but it doesn't tell the whole story. The greatest love, in fact, comes from our Creator God, the one who sent God's only son to die for the salvation of every bit of humankind. God sends God's powerful love to all people, and we the Church are called to be vessels of that amazing gift.

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.
Co-Pastor



Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Co-Pastor

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, Jr. & 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.

Church Entry Will be Impacted by Mission Road Construction – Prairie Village is raising the height of Mission Road between Tomahawk Road and 67th Terrace to protect the houses on the west side of Mission Road from occasional flooding. The church will be impacted by this construction. In the next week and running until Sept. 1, Mission Road will be closed from Tomahawk to the entrance into our south parking lot just north of the 67th Terrace intersection. That means no access to the church from the south on Mission Road. Access will only be from the north.

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

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



The flowers in the Chancel today are given to the Glory of God celebrating the wedding of Nickki Ost and Jamie McDonald.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Gospel According to Ted Lasso – Join Rev. Melanie Hardison for informal conversation about the storyline, characters and life lessons learned in this Apple TV series. Although “Ted Lasso” may not be an explicitly Christian show, do you detect Christian themes? Join the discussion from 10:15-10:45 a.m. in Friendship Hall today. Or 10:30 a.m. Aug. 20 at the Antioch Campus. Look for the “BELIEVE” sign!

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Sunday Funday (Summer Lighthouse) – All elementary schoolers (ages 5-incoming 6th graders) meet in our big room (307/9/11.) Ages 2-4 meet in Room 107. Babies and toddlers combine in the nursery (Room 114). Feel free to wear meet summer play clothes because we might get dirty and messy with paints, etc.

FOOD PANTRY

Summer is here and the Food Pantry is asking for main-dish items—the kinds that are easy to prepare by children and adults alike—just open the can to eat cold or warm: canned tuna, canned chicken, ravioli, beef stew, etc. The Clothes Closet hopes that you will look through your closet for jeans and summer clothes in all sizes: shorts, T-shirts, light sweaters, sandals, sunglasses, caps and visors.

MISSION & ENGAGEMENT

Community Garden Volunteers Needed – The Village Church Garden offers opportunities for people of all ages and experience levels to serve. All produce collected supports the Village Food Pantry. Learn more and sign up at villagepres.org/community-garden or contact Jim Porter: 913-634-5880.

Ice Cream Social – You’re invited to our 48th annual Ice Cream Social celebration at the Mission Campus from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, June 30, featuring Kaleidoscoops ice cream, hot dogs and activities for families. Come for the free fun and to learn more about our Mission Partner organizations.

MUSIC

Kansas City Baroque Consortium Presents "The Italians in Vienna" – 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 23, in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Join KC Baroque as we lead audiences through one of Europe's most beautiful and musically significant cities. Get tickets at kcbaroque.org.

Violin Favorites – 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Join Village Players leader and violinist Destiny Ann Mermagen for a Duo Recital with world-renowned pianist Hyunsoon Whang. Music of Brahms, Kreisler & Vieuxtemps. Featuring the Village Players Youth String Quartet debut. Free admission.

Summer Choir starts July 9, 16, 23 and 30! Arrive to the Mission Campus Chapel at 10:10 a.m. to get your music and enjoy a short rehearsal of the day’s anthem. Sit with the congregation in the pews and come to the front steps when invited to share a choral anthem for the 11 a.m. service. All are welcome!

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Flower Ministry Needs Vases – Each Sunday, small arrangements are made from the Chancel flowers and taken to Village Church members. We are requesting vase donations of any size, preferably 6-8 inches with 3–4-inch openings. Drop them at the south entrance reception desk. Email Hillary.Mackowski@villagepres.org with questions/suggestions.

Summer Session of Growing through Grief Starts July 12 – If you have lost a loved one, we encourage you to attend Growing through Grief, a five-week class facilitated by one of our pastoral care pastors. The next session starts at 6 p.m. every Wednesday from July 12-Aug. 9 in Room 124. Both members and the community are welcome. There is no cost to attend but registration is required; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Weekly Summer Programs Start Today – Each week we have **Post-Gathering Gathering** (Sundays, 6-7:30 p.m., finished 6th-12th grade, discussion and dinner at the Village shops), **MS Evenings** (Mondays, 7-9 p.m., youth group for finished 6th-8th grade), **HS Late Nite** (Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m., youth group for finished 9th-12th grade), **Service Days** (Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., finished 6th-12th grade). Sundays meet by the south entrance; all others meet in the Youth Loft.

Middle School Float Trip – Our first trip of the summer is coming up on June 27-29. We invite all completed 6th-8th graders to join us as we take a fun float adventure down in Noel, Missouri. It's a great way to have fun on the water with friends and enjoy the summer sun! More information and registration can be found at villagepresyouth.org/float-trip.β

Come and Hear About Haiti – Join church member Dr. Ted Higgins from 10:10-10:50 a.m. on Sunday, June 18, in Friendship Hall for an update the Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope in Haiti. Dr. Higgins built and opened this pay-what-you-can surgicenter in 2016. It has grown to include maternity, dental and staff housing. Hear how the dire situation in Haiti is impacting the surgicenter and innovative ways that they continue to serve the world's most underserved people.

Scripture Readers Needed – We are signing up volunteers to read Scripture in the services during the summer and fall. If interested, email theo.musick@villagepres.org.

Summer Games @ Village – Come to the Welcome Center & Cup Courtyard to play summer games like cornhole, ladder golf, Jenga Giant, Connect 4 and sidewalk chalk. Games will be available every Sunday morning through Aug. 27.

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, contact kate.ruecker@villagepres.org. For adults, contact dionne.boyice@villagepres.org.

Plan your wedding – Contact weddings@villagepres.org

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

Join the church – Contact dionne.boyice@villagepres.org

SERMON SERIES

Why Church?

The Pew Forum on Religion in Public Life reports that nearly a quarter of American adults say that they have no religious affiliation, an all-time high. The majority of these persons say they are “spiritual, but not religious.” American young adults, persons in their 20s and 30s, share common critiques of “organized religion.” A majority of them say the church is full of people who are judgmental and hypocritical. Further, they say the church is anti-gay, anti-women, and anti-science. In this preaching series, we will explore these criticisms as we seek to answer the question: Why Church?

June 4 Because we’re trying to be real. - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaching

June 11 Because love is God’s gift. - Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyice preaching

June 18 Because women are called. - Rev. Anna Owens preaching

June 25 Because we see God in science. - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaching

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Tom Are, Jr., co-pastor • Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, co-pastor

Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist • Rev. Dr. Dionne T. Boyice, 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

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.