



VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)



Service of Worship

Sept. 3, 2023 • 9 and 11 a.m.

About Today's Service

Have you ever found yourself in a difficult situation of your own making? Moses did. He led the Israelites out of slavery only to find himself surrounded by desert with no clear map of where to go. They were lost. They had run low on food, and now they were without water. In times like that, it is natural to ask, "Just what are we doing here? And why does it have to be so difficult?" Does God have anything to say in reply?



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Tierce en Taille
by François Couperin; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Zach Walker

Call To Worship

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Remember all that God has done and continues to do for us.

We remember the works God has done, God's miracles, and God's mercy.

We remember, too, that God partners with us in God's mighty deeds.

God chooses to work through those whom God calls.

God called Abraham and Mary, Moses and Ruth, Aaron and Esther.

**God called the apostles and Paul, Barnabas and Phoebe,
Priscilla and Timothy.**

God is still working with us and for us.

God calls us, each of us, even in these days.

*Hymn No. 336

We Gather Together

*Prayer of Confession

God who labors on our behalf,

There is so much we want to do for you:

to work tirelessly,

to keep a good attitude,

to make choices that please you,

to avoid taking shortcuts in our work for your kingdom,

to follow your teachings with our entire hearts.

But we fall short.

We grow weary, our attitudes sour, our choices fail, we take shortcuts, we stray.

Forgive us.

**Help us recognize our shortcomings and find our way back to you, and to the
work we are called to in our lives. (Silent Prayer)**

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Sung Response

**God is so good; God is so good;
God is so good; God's so good to me.
God loves me so; God loves me so;
God loves me so; God's so good to me.**

*Passing the Peace of Christ

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time with the Children

Call to Prayer

**Quietly, peacefully let me rest in you.
Quietly, peacefully lead me back to you.**

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

Bruce Williams (9 a.m.); Terri Piazza (11 a.m.)

Scripture

Exodus 17:1-7 (pg. 63)

Sermon

80/81

Rev. Zach Walker

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn No. 470

There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

Call for Offering

Offertory Anthem

It Is Well With My Soul
by Horatio G. Spafford and Philip P. Bliss; Dr. Langston Hemenway, tenor

*Sung Response



Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho - ly One; give



thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je - sus Christ, the Son. And now let the



weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has



done for us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn No. 719 (v. 1,2,3)

Come, Labor On

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

**Come, labor on. No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun, "Well done, well done!"**

*Postlude

Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux
by François Couperin; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

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

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.



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.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, Sept. 17

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, Sept. 17. This meeting will take place in the Sanctuaries at both campuses immediately following the 9 a.m. worship service at the Mission Campus and the 9:30 a.m. worship service at the Antioch Campus. The meeting's purpose is to elect new church officers for the positions of elder, elder/trustee and deacon. At-large members of the Nominating Committee will also be elected. Ordination of new church officers will take place in early January 2024.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Fall Village U Class Registration Opens Tuesday, Sept. 5 – Find the course listings and register starting at 9 a.m. on Sept. 5 at villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.

Fall Kick-off Ministry Fair – 10-11 a.m. & noon-12:30 p.m. next Sunday, Sept. 10, Friendship Hall & Welcome Center, Mission Campus. Chat with Village Church staff and volunteers about our ministries, programs and events—and learn where you can plug in and use your own unique gifts!

Village Forum Adult Sunday Morning Class – 9:30-10:30 a.m. Room 126/127 starting Sept. 17. We begin the 2023-2024 year with a lively four-week discussion on Popular Culture/Religion with Dr. Leslie Smith, associate professor of religious studies at Avila University.

Electric Car Show – Facilitated by Al Pugsley, 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, south parking lot, Mission Campus. Local electric car enthusiasts will display their all-electric and plug-in hybrid/electric vehicles. Email apphs58@yahoo.com for more information.

What Do We Believe? Creeds and Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) – Join Rev. Tom Are, Jr. & Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 20-Oct. 25, Rooms 132/133, Mission Campus. In these six sessions, we will explore the 12 creeds and confessions of the PC(USA).

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

No child care today. Children are encouraged to worship with their families. Fall Lighthouse will kick off on Sept. 17.

Awesome Opportunity to share your faith and the characteristics of Jesus with the next generation. Join our Sunday morning Lighthouse teaching team. All ages and stages welcome! Curious about what that entails? Email brooke.brundige@villagepres.org.

FOOD PANTRY

September is Peanut Butter Month! Please bring a jar (16-18 oz.) each Sunday this month to replace the over 120 jars of peanut butter distributed to the shoppers each week. The Clothes Closet is asking for new or gently used bed linens (sheets, pillowcases) and pillows.

MISSION & ENGAGEMENT

Food Truck Festival – Join us for our 9th annual Food Truck Festival from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10, in the Mission Campus north parking lot. Food, ice cream and live music. Bring a jar of peanut butter to donate to the Village Food Pantry. Email dionne.boyice@villagepres.org for more information.

Fall Festival at the Antioch Campus – 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, in the Antioch Campus parking lot. Join us for food trucks, pickleball, inflatables, horseback rides and live music!

DRMP Carnaval Dominicano – Join the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village Church (DRMP) for a festive evening of music, dancing & Dominican cuisine at our annual fundraiser, Carnaval Dominicano, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Lodge at Ironwoods. Funds raised allows the DRMP & our Dominican health care partners to provide free surgical, health care & health education services to approximately 3,500 low-resource sugarcane cutters. Visit villagepres.org/cd for tickets.

Wednesday Family Dinners – Weekly dinners from Chef Andrea Bradley resume from 5-6 p.m. on Sept. 20. The cost is \$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.

Village Connect Groups – Connect Groups begin for the 2023-2024 season in October. If you are interested in joining a small group to build community and study scripture, contact Sarah Dunne Pickrell: sarah.pickrell@villagepres.org.

MUSIC MINISTRY

2nd Thursday Recital featuring violinist Elizabeth Suh Lane – 12:15 p.m. Sept. 14, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Accompanied by Dr. Elisa Bickers, this violin virtuoso will perform works by Bach, Kreisler and Mozart. Free admission.

Te Deum Chamber Choir – 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Te Deum presents Truer Words: a concert that explores the works of great poets, thinkers and faith leaders whose words offer comfort, grace, inspiration, understanding and joy. Tickets are available at te-deum.org.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Celebrate the '50s at This Year's Classic Citizens Event – Come and rock out to everything 1950s from 1:30-3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 21. Everyone 75 years old and better is welcome! Come for fellowship, fun, food, entertainment and more. Can't be here? Join online at villagepres.org/online. RSVP to Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Fall Kickoff – 9-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. A community leaders panel will discuss faith when we face difficult and uncertain circumstances in our lives and in our world. Register at villagepres.org/pw by Sept. 11. Continental breakfast is included. This event is supported by free will contributions. Child care is available. Email stephaniemorrison132@gmail.com with questions.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY for people in their 20s & 30s

Parks & Picnics – Young adults and their children, come and join us for food and fellowship at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13, at Porter Park, 7301 Roe Ave, in Prairie Village. You bring the family; we'll bring the food! RSVP required at VillagePresYA.org/parents.

Y.A.M. (Young Adult Ministry) Night – Come and join us at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 20-Oct. 11, in the Young Adult Room. In this series, we'll look together at stories from across the Bible and invite ourselves to see them with a new perspective. Come and join the conversation.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Program Kickoff Sept. 5 – Regular programs return next week! Lofternoons (middle school afterschool program, 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays), GPS (middle school youth group, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays), Sunday Mornings (all youth, 9-10 a.m.) and SNL (high school youth group, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sundays).

Trip Signups Begin Sept. 6 – Open registration for HS Ski Trip (Jan. 12-16), MS Ski Trip (Feb. 17-21), and HS Spring Break in the Dominican Republic (March 9-16) begins at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 6. Find online registration at shop.villagepres.org/youth-ministries.

Village Golf – On Tuesday, Sept. 12, we will play at Eagles' Landing in Belton, Missouri. Tee times begin at 8 a.m. The cost will be \$35 for seniors. Email bradsteil@everestkc.net by Sept. 7 to join in this fellowship event.

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

That's Asking a Lot!

When anyone is ordained as a pastor, elder or deacon; they are asked to make a series of promises. They are big promises. It would be hard to utter these promises in the quiet of one's prayers, much less in the presence of the gathered worshipping community; except, these promises say less about us than they do about God. In this sermon series, we will use the promises as springboards into exploring what these statements tell us about God.

- Sept. 10 Do you trust in Jesus Christ? - Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching
- Sept. 17 Do you accept the Scriptures? - Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching
- Sept. 24 Will you seek to serve? - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaching
- Oct. 1 Will you promise? - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaching
- Oct. 8 Will you be instructed and led by the confessions? - Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching
- Oct. 15 Will you be a friend? - Rev. Tom Are, Jr. 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
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.