



VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)



Service of Worship

Sept. 17, 2023 • 9 and 11 a.m.

About Today's Service

When you have all the time in the world, you can talk about anything and nothing. But when time is short, you want to say what matters. Over the next few weeks, Rev. Tom Are, Jr. will lift up some language we have shared together. They are phrases that he wishes to leave with you as a type of blessing, and to express his gratitude for you. Next Sunday, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will join the series and offer a phrase that is central to his faith, and will be important words going forward.



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

As Rain from the Clouds
setting by Aaron David Miller; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Call To Worship

An ancient saint said, "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God."
So, come and find rest for your weary soul.

For God, our help and our hope, welcomes us home.

*Hymn No. 403

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

*Prayer of Confession

God of unending mercy,

we know what you want from us:

to love as we have been loved.

When we love well, it delights you.

When we fail to love well, it disappoints you.

Yet, even in those moments,

you remain steadfast.

May the week to come bring you nothing but delight. (Silent Prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Sung Response

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
God. — Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*Passing the Peace of Christ

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time with the Children

The Sacrament of Baptism

*Sung Response

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
Joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

Anthem

O Word of God
by Craig Courtney; Stan Chappell, trumpet and Village Choir

Prayer for Illumination

Dee Couch (9 a.m.); Janice Gill (11 a.m.)

Scripture

Mark 16:1-8 (pg. 929)
Nehemiah 7:73b-8:10 (pg. 430)

Sermon

If I Understand the Text

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn No. 159

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

Call for Offering

Offertory Anthem

by Civilla D. Martin & Charles H. Gabriel; Sandy "Wilkin" Yan Meristal, soloist

His Eye is On the Sparrow

*Sung Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn No. 547 (v. 1,3)

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Congregational Meeting (9 a.m.)

*Benediction

*Benediction Response (11 a.m.)

Spirit of the Living God
by Daniel Iverson; Village Choir

*Postlude (11 a.m.)

Prelude in Classic Style
by Gordon Young; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

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

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow," written by Civilla D. Martin, composed by Charles H. Gabriel, is sung today by Sandy (Wilkin) Yan Meristal, director of Fundación Enciende Una Luz (Light A Candle Foundation), Village Church's Dominican health care partner organization. Through Light A Candle, the Village Church provides free health care & health education services to 3,500 Haitian men, women and children each year who live in impoverished and remote batey communities in the Dominican Republic. Village Church also supports free surgical care to approximately 140 people annually through our partnership with Hospital El Buen Samaritano in La Romana, D.R.

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 Today

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for today. 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

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 aljrev@icloud.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, in Rooms 132/133, Mission Campus. We will explore the 12 creeds and confessions of the PC(USA).

Divine in the Details: Poetry as Contemplation - Dr. Ruth Williams, associate professor of English, William Jewell College, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 4-25, Room 127, Mission Campus. We'll examine how poetry can serve as a vehicle that puts us in touch with the wonder of our daily lives, focusing specifically on how poets writing now, in an era defined by distraction, create space for readers' reflection and renewal.

Climate Change Update: Big Changes Coming – Taught by Chick Keller, 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, Room 232, Mission Campus. Climate change is driving change faster than expected. While we have a global plan to solve climate change, we are behind schedule on implementation. We will need an all-out effort to implement change and to develop and introduce new technologies.

Locating & Organizing Files, Folders & Pictures on an Apple Computer – Taught by Dee Couch, 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26 and 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, Tillotson Building Conference Room, 9960 Mission Road. We'll explore how to manage your documents & pictures on an Apple computer. Topics include using proper naming conventions, Finder and Tags to easily find information. Registration is required.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Lighthouse is back! Preschool 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-6th 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.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism Today – Welcome these newest members into our faith community as we celebrate the baptisms of the following children: **9 a.m.:** Vivian Iris and Alistair Patrick Davidson (Nancy and Jim Davidson, parents), Barnds Michael McLaughlin (Brittany and Seamus McLaughlin, parents); **11 a.m.:** Noah Daniel Broksieck (Catherine and Derek Broksieck, parents), Harper Joan Lewis (Susan and Hunter Lewis, parents), Emma Paige Kresser (Michelle and Reece Kresser, parents) and August Allan Nelson (Jordan and Mark Nelson, parents).

FOOD PANTRY

Peanut Butter Month continues, and your donations are so appreciated. Peanut butter is an excellent source of protein and Vitamin E. Cooler weather is arriving soon and the Clothes Closet asks you to gather sweaters, coats and warm clothes that have been taking up permanent residence in the back of your closet. We will find a home for them.

MISSION & ENGAGEMENT

Wednesday Family Dinners – Weekly dinners from Chef Andrea Bradley resume from 5-6 p.m. on Sept. 20 in Friendship Hall, Mission Campus. 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.

Dinner Volunteers – Seeking volunteers to help serve Wednesday Family Dinners in Friendship Hall. Volunteers serve 1-2 hours in a fun and lively setting and eat for free. Contact Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyce if you are interested: dionne.boyce@villagepres.org or 913-671-2369.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Te Deum Chamber Choir – 3 p.m. today in the 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.

Organist Doug O'Neill presents a benefit recital – 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission with donations accepted to support the ministry of the choir school at Christ the King Catholic Church in Wyandotte County.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Celebrate the '50s This Thursday – Come and rock out to everything 1950s at the Classic Citizens Celebration from 1:30-3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 21. Everyone 75 and better is welcome. Come for fellowship, fun, food, entertainment and more. Can't be here? Join the online program at 2 p.m. at villagepres.org/online. RSVP to Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

Growing Through Grief Starts in October – If you have lost a loved one, consider attending Growing through Grief. This five-week long series, facilitated by one of our pastors, is at 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday, Oct. 4-Nov. 1, in Room 124, Mission Campus. The class is free and open to all; registration is required. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org to register.

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

Y.A.M. (Young Adult Ministry) Night – 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 led by Revs. Alice and Julianna Whitson.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Weekly Programs Are Back! Join us in the Youth Loft for 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.).

KC Current on Oct. 7 – We are heading out to see the KC Current as they take on the Chicago Red Stars! We will meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 7; tickets can be found online at shop.villagepres.org/youth-ministries.

Trip Signups Are Open – Registration is now open for the High School Ski Trip (Jan. 12-16), Middle School Ski Trip (Feb. 17-21) and High School Spring Break in the Dominican Republic (March 8-16). Signups are online and can be found at shop.villagepres.org/youth-ministries.

UPCOMING SERMONS

- Sept. 17** **If I Understand the Text - Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching**
Sept. 24 Breathe In God's Mercies - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaching
Oct. 1 We Believe. Help Our Unbelief. - Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching
Oct. 8 Do the Good that is Yours To Do. - Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching
Oct. 15 Living Toward God's Promised Day - Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching
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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. 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
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.

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