



# VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)



## Service of Worship

Oct. 1, 2023 • 9 and 11 a.m.

### About Today's Service

"We believe; help our unbelief." This prayer has become part of our liturgy at Village. It is an unavoidable prayer, not because our faith is weak, but because the Gospel is so big. The call of this Gospel is so demanding it is never something we embrace with certainty, but with hope. This is why we pray, "We believe; help our unbelief."



## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

*The Feast is Ready*  
by Aaron David Miller; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Call To Worship

Rev. Zach Walker

We come because our lives are blessed beyond measure,  
**and it is you, O Lord, we long to thank.**

We come because we are weary and disappointed and afraid,  
**and it is you, O Christ, we need to save us.**

We come because you will send us out, to live toward your promised day,  
**and we need strength for the journey.**

We have come to you, O God;  
**meet us here.**

\*Hymn No. 503

*Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*

\*Prayer of Confession

**God of all faithfulness,  
What a confusing mess we are:  
    beauty and brokenness,  
    blessing and burden,  
    trust and doubt,  
    love and fear.**

**As you have before, from our fragmented lives,  
    shape us into moments of devotion, service and love. (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

Anthem *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* (9 a.m.)  
by Alan Smith; Village Voices

Prayer for Illumination Zac Russell (9 a.m.); Elizabeth McKell (11 a.m.)

Scripture Mark 9:14-29 (pg. 919)

Sermon *We Believe. Help Our Unbelief.* Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\*Hymn No. 529 *Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether*

Call for Offering

Offertory Anthem *The Call of Wisdom*  
by Will Todd; Village Choir

\*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

## 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.)

Communion Motet

*Let Us Break Bread Together*  
by William Lawrence; Village Choir

Prayer of Response

\*Hymn No. 450 (v. 1-3)

*Be Thou My Vision*

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

**High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joy, O bright heav'n's Sun?  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

\*Postlude

*Tuba Tune*  
by Craig Seller Lang; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

*\*All who are able may stand*  
© one.license.net A-705103 for all hymns

## ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

Today's Village Choir anthem, "The Call of Wisdom," was composed by Will Todd with text based on Proverbs 8 by Michael Hampel. The piece was commissioned by the Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

## 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](http://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](http://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.

**Giving** – You may give to Village Church at [villagepres.org/giving](http://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](mailto:bob.sperry@villagepres.org) or 913-671-2325.



### **Congregational Celebration & Thanksgiving for Rev. Tom and Carol Are 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17, Friendship Hall – Mission Campus**

We will gather to celebrate and give thanks for Carol and Rev. Tom Are before they move to Chicago. Tom has been called to serve as interim pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church after serving nearly 20 years at Village Church. Enjoy hors d’oeuvres and dessert. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will lead a program at 5:30 p.m. which will also be livestreamed at [villagepres.org/online](http://villagepres.org/online). You may contribute to a farewell gift for Carol and Tom at [bookstore.villagepres.org/ares-gift](http://bookstore.villagepres.org/ares-gift).

**The flowers in the chancel today** are given to the Glory of God in honor of the wedding of Michelle Donley and Andrew North on Saturday, Sept. 30.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**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, now-Oct. 25, in Rooms 132/133, Mission Campus. In these six sessions, we will explore the 12 creeds and confessions of the PC(USA).

**Climate Change Update: Big Changes Coming** – Taught by Chick Keller, 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, 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

**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.

**“What Kind of Christianity” Book Study Groups** – Group 1: Elizabeth Doyle 10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays, Oct. 5, 19, 26, Room 127, Mission Campus. Group 2: Jim Marshall 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 10-24 Room 127, Mission Campus.

## 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

A \$40 donation will provide a Food Pantry family of four with a traditional Thanksgiving dinner of a turkey with all the trimmings. Sponsor a family's Thanksgiving meal at [villagepres.org/thanksgiving](http://villagepres.org/thanksgiving). The Clothes Closet is transitioning to fall & winter clothing.

## MISSION & ENGAGEMENT

**Wednesday Family Dinners** – Self-serve, buffet-style dinners in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus from 5-6 p.m. The cost is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. Purchase online by noon Mondays at [villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners](http://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](mailto:dionne.boyce@villagepres.org) or 913-671-2369.

**Hit for Haiti** – Tennis, pickleball and platform tennis tournament to benefit the Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope in Haiti. Starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7, at Homestead Country Club in Prairie Village. 100% of all contributions will benefit the Higgins Brothers Surgicenter. Learn more at [hitforhaiti.com](http://hitforhaiti.com).

**Free Kenyan Dinner Fundraiser** – Join us for Thwake Village Partnership's Kenyan Dinner 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, in Friendship Hall. Learn about the important work that Village Church and other Heartland Presbytery churches are doing in Thwake, Kenya. While the dinner is free, there will be plenty of opportunities to support our mission at the event. RSVP by Oct. 5 by emailing: [thwake.village.partnership@gmail.com](mailto:thwake.village.partnership@gmail.com).

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**The Kansas City Wind Symphony presents Myths and Legends** – 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission.

**2nd Thursday Recital featuring harpist Tabitha Reist-Steiner and soprano Alyssa Toepfer** – 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, Mission Campus Sanctuary. This dynamic duo will perform pieces by Strauss, Debussy, Tosti and Puccini. Free admission.

**VOCES8** – 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Join Friends of Chamber Music and acclaimed British vocal ensemble VOCES8 for a magical concert featuring music from the renaissance through modern day. Tickets are available at [chambermusic.org](http://chambermusic.org).

## PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

**Rev. Dr. Jared Witt Here Tuesday** – Join us at noon on Tuesday, Oct. 3, in Friendship Hall to hear Rev. Dr. Witt address the many forms that grief takes. Faith & Grief Support Gatherings are open to all at no charge. Lunch is provided for those who pre-register at [faithandgrief.org/gatherings](http://faithandgrief.org/gatherings).

**Growing Through Grief Starts Wednesday** – If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, consider attending Growing through Grief. This free, five-week series, facilitated by one of our pastors, is every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 4 through Nov. 1 in Room 124. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or [linda.alley@villagepres.org](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org) to register.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Amazing Graces Fall Event** – 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, at the home of Jan Bleakley, 8621 Delmar in Prairie Village. Come hear Rev. Alice Whitson, pastor for Media Ministry, and enjoy appetizers and drinks. The cost is \$15 a person. RSVP to [Becky.anderson418@gmail.com](mailto:Becky.anderson418@gmail.com). Payment by cash, Venmo @Becky-Anderson-65, or check (payable to Village Church/PW).

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

**Y.A.M. (Young Adult Ministry) Night** – Join us at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, now through 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 in Full Swing** – 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** – Let's watch KC Current take on the Chicago Red Stars. Meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7; buy tickets at [shop.villagepres.org/youth-ministries](http://shop.villagepres.org/youth-ministries).

**End-of-Quarter Fun** – Come celebrate with two events: Middle School at Emerald City (Oct. 12, 9-11 p.m., meet at Emerald City on Bond St., cost \$20) and High School Top Golf (Oct. 13, 10 a.m.-noon, meet at Top Golf on Nall Ave., no cost to attend). No RSVP necessary for either event.

**Village Golf** – We play the final round of the Village Golf season Tuesday, Oct. 10, at Falcon Lakes Golf Course. Email Brad Steil at [bradsteil@everestkc.net](mailto:bradsteil@everestkc.net) by Oct. 5 to reserve your spot on a four-player team. Cost is \$47 for seniors and tee times begin at 9:30 a.m.

## 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

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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](http://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.*