



VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)



Service of Worship

Nov. 26, 2023 • 9 and 11 a.m.

About Today's Service

Everywhere we turn, human beings seek to define who is and who isn't part of the community of God. But the promises that Christ embodies often go one step past what feels comfortable for us. Even the very human Jesus sometimes encounters this discomfort, as he did when he rejected the Canaanite woman. Fortunately, she believes so deeply in the promises of God that she refuses to allow human categories to keep her daughter from a miracle. There is an extended metaphor here, if we have eyes to see it, about God's love being a spiral with no end, rather than a tightly drawn circle of who belongs and who does not.



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God
arr. Egil Hovland; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Chad Herring

Call to Worship (Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the LORD is God. It is God who made us. We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise.

Give thanks to God, and bless God's name.

For the LORD is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

*Hymn No. 401

Here In This Place

*Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God,
we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm.
You guide us toward right paths,
but we refuse to follow where you lead.
You love and feed and care for us,
but we fail to love and serve others.
We are content to quarrel over crumbs
even as you challenge us
to expand our hearts and our faithfulness.
Lord help us, we pray.
Forgive us, and grant us your grace,
so that we may return to your fold
and rejoice in your presence. (Silent Prayer)**

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Sung Response

Join in singing when invited:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Passing the Peace of Christ

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time with the Children

Call to Prayer

**Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.**

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

Matthew 15:10-28

Sermon

Spiraling Out

Rev. Caroline Barnett

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn No. 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Call for Offering

Offertory Anthem

Pilgrims' Hymn
by Stephen Paulus; Village Choir

*Sung Response

All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove; then
thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord for all God's love.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn No. 372 (v. 1-4)

O For a World

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

**O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

*Postlude

Fantasy on "Azmon"
by David M. Cherwein; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

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

Guest Preacher Homecoming: Rev. Caroline Barnett — Rev. Caroline Barnett is a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA) and most recently served as the associate pastor/campus minister for First Presbyterian Church of Auburn, Alabama. She received her Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas and has a Bachelor of Arts in religion and anthropology from Kalamazoo College in Michigan. Before being ordained as a teaching elder, Caroline was ordained as a youth ruling elder by Village Church, an experience that informed her call to ministry. Caroline currently lives in Kansas City.

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. Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Co-Pastor

This Year’s Star Words – Join Rev. Melanie Hardison for conversation about your Epiphany Star Word this year. What was your word? How has it shown up in your life? What has it meant to you? Or perhaps you just want to learn what Star Words are all about. (We’ll do them again in January.) Join this informal conversation of reflecting and learning together between the morning worship services (10:10-10:50 a.m.) on Sunday, Dec. 10, in Friendship Hall, Mission Campus.

Sign Up to Receive Advent Video Devotional Emails – As we wait together for Jesus Christ to be born, join us each day (Monday through Saturday, Dec. 4-23) for a short video devotional offered by our pastors. Subscribe at villagepres.org/subscribe.

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 – Sign up to receive the weekly eNews, 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.

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.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Emmanuel: God with us...from the manger to the temple - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 6 & 13, Rooms 132/133, Mission Campus. We will explore how the story of the incarnation is made complete by Simeon and Anna seeing Jesus in the temple and further, how Jesus' being "lost" in the temple as a 12-year-old is part of the incarnation story, too.

Saint John's Bible Viewing – Drop by between 9 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Dec. 2, and see a work of art that unites ancient text with contemporary images. All seven volumes of The Saint John's Bible will be on display in the Welcome Center at the Mission Campus. A thrill in both sight and substance, it will be an extraordinary opportunity to see a contemporary illuminated manuscript of the whole Bible.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Child Care is on Thanksgiving Break this week.

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 outside Room 106. Elementary Lighthouse (Grades K-6) – 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.

Christmas Night Out – 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, Mission Campus. For children ages 2-8. Parents may enjoy shopping, dinner out, or just some peace and quiet before the holidays enter full swing! Kids will enjoy a variety of fun activities and crafts. The cost is \$25 per child with a \$50 family maximum. Register online by Dec. 1 at bit.ly/VillageCNO. Questions? Contact Sandra at 913-671-2322.

FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to your generous donations, the Food Pantry gave out 500 turkeys and 675 bags of the rest of the items needed for a Thanksgiving feast. In return, there were so many smiles and "thank yous." This week the Pantry is asking for hearty soups, the ones that can make a meal. The Clothes Closet needs clean, gently used or new kitchen towels, dishcloths, bath towels and washcloths.

MISSION & ENGAGEMENT

Wednesday Family Dinners – Self-serve, buffet-style dinners in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus from 5-6 p.m. Dine in before your Village U class or take it home. Activities for kids. \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. Purchase online by noon Mondays at villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners or call 913-262-4200.

Star Family Christmas Donation – Support our Mission Partner, Operation Breakthrough, by donating to their Christmas program for low-income families. \$50 offers a family of four a full holiday meal. Write checks to Village Church with "Star Family" in the memo.

Decorate The Village Trees with Diapers, Hats and Mittens – Dec. 1 through 24, bring hats, mittens and diapers (all sizes including adult large and XL) to put on and under our Mission Campus Christmas trees. Donations serve our Food Pantry families. Trees are located in the Welcome Center and at the south entrance. Contact Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyice at 913-671-2369 or dionne.boyice@villagepres.org for more info.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Community "Messiah" Singalong at the Antioch Campus – Join us at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, in the Antioch Campus Sanctuary, as Cameron Rolling leads the audience in singing Handel's "Messiah." Free admission.

2nd Thursday Recital featuring Theodore Musick, marimba – 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Come hear our beloved Village music coordinator play classical and holiday marimba literature. Free admission.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

A Poinsettia Remembers Your Loved One and Brings a Smile Too – For every \$15 purchase, your loved one is honored, and their name will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You also help pay for the poinsettias going out to each homebound. The deadline is Dec. 5. Visit shop.villagepres.org/poinsettia or send the printed name(s) with a check for \$15 per person to Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS 66208.

Marcia Tammeus is Our Guest Speaker at Faith & Grief Support Gathering – Join us at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 5, when Marcia Tammeus will share sweet memories about her mother. Faith & Grief will meet this time in Rooms 232 & 233, Mission Campus. If you would like a boxed lunch, please make a reservation at faithandgrief.org/gatherings.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Giving Hope and Help – Please join Presbyterian Women in supporting our sisters by donating feminine hygiene products through Dec. 1. All donations will benefit domestic violence survivors, shelters, the houseless, etc., through Giving Hope & Help, a Village Church Mission Partner. The list of recommended items may be found at the drop-off locations at the north, south and children's area entrances.

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

Y.A.M. (Young Adult Ministry) Night – Join us for an advent study at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 29-Dec. 20, in the Young Adult Room. Food provided!

YA Christmas Party – Come celebrate the holidays 8-10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Miracle on Main Street, 1924 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64108. The cost is \$20 per person. RSVP required at bit.ly/YAChristmas23.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Programs Return Tonight – Join us in the Youth Loft for any of 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.).

Confirmation Registration is Open – The class begins in January, focusing on the building blocks of faith and offering students the opportunity to become a member of the church. Students who are in 9th grade or older are eligible. Register and find more information at villagepresyouth.org/confirmation.

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

Advent Sermon Series: For Unto Us a Child is Born

The prophet Isaiah tells of the birth of a child born for us; a son given to us. Authority will rest on his shoulder, and he will have four names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. These names resound in the magnificent chorus of Handel's Messiah. Through the Sundays of Advent, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will explore each of these four names and how Jesus embodied them in his birth and life among us.

Dec. 3	Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:1-7)
Dec. 10	Mighty God (Psalm 96)
Dec. 17	Everlasting Father (Revelation 21:1-8)
Dec. 24 (10 a.m.)	Prince of Peace (Isaiah 11:1-9)
Dec. 24 (7, 9, 11 p.m.)	Emmanuel, God with Us (Matthew 1:18-25)

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

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 • Rev. Chad Herring, interim senior associate pastor
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.