

**VILLAGE  
CHURCH**

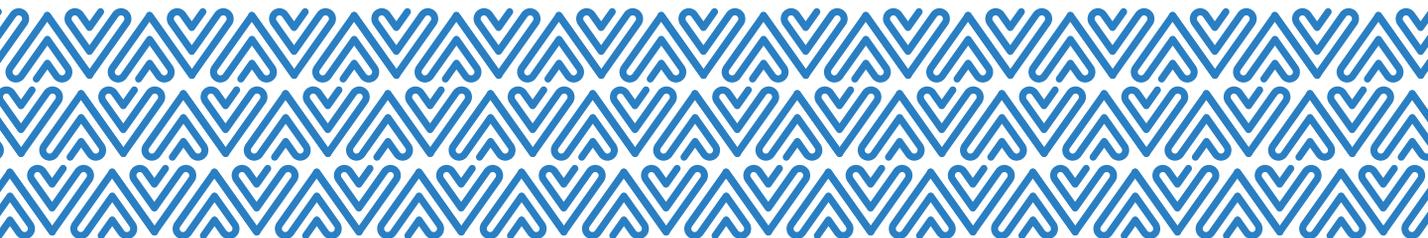
Presbyterian (USA)

## **Service of Worship**

November 28, 2021 | 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

### **About Today's Service**

Sometimes joy finds us; sometimes joy feels far away. The Apostle Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord always." Always? What about when times are hard? Paul believes that faith gives us reason to touch joy, even when we aren't feeling it. Joy is something we can choose, and its presence can make all the difference.



## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

### PRELUDE

*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (8 a.m.)  
HYFRYDOL; arr. Ben Spalding

*Intrada* (9:30 a.m.)  
by Christopher Graupner; Victoria Easton, piano

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (11 a.m.)  
arr. Stan Pethel; Dr. Bob Coleman, alto saxophone

### WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Melanie Hardison

### LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Guilherme Vaz, Julia Scammahorn,  
Isabella & Julianna Scammahorn Vaz (8 a.m.)

Laura Ann, Brian, Caitlin & William Bowen (9:30 a.m.)

David, Rebecca, Shannon, Adam & Isaac Enslow (11 a.m.)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

There is a story to tell in this place.

**It is a story of hope,  
a story of wonder,  
a story of abundant life.**

It is the story of God's love:

**a love that has come to us,  
for God cannot bear to stay away.**

This is God's story;

**This is our story.**

### SUNG RESPONSE

**Come thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

### \*HYMN, NO. 87

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*  
arr. Ben Spalding

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Zach Walker

**Gracious God,  
Your promises continue to call us in hope.**

**Strengthen us by your grace,  
that we may stand tall in faith,  
greeting each day with confidence in your love. (Silent Prayer)**

\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Brooke Brundige

ANTHEM

*Gesu Bambino*

by Pietro Yon; Village Choir; Jee Yeun Kim, soprano; Evan Nelson, baritone

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:4-7 (pg. 1071)

SERMON

*Rejoice in the Lord...Always?*  
Rev. Melanie Hardison

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

\*HYMN, NO. 106

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*  
arr. Ben Spalding

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (8 a.m.)  
arr. Stan Pethel; Benny Lee, clarinet

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (9:30 a.m.)  
arr. Ruth Elaine Schram; Erica Wheeler, flute; Bob Abbott, oboe;  
Amy Jantz, clarinet; Ruth Abbott, piano

*What Child is This* (11 a.m.)  
Reagan Solenberger & Destiny Ann Mermagen, violin

\*SUNG RESPONSE

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The king of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**Raise, raise the song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.**

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 OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

\*HYMN, NO. 105

*People, Look East*

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

**O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*POSTLUDE

Improvisation on VENI EMMANUEL

*\*All who are able may stand*

*© A-705103 for all hymns*

## ABOUT TODAY'S GUEST ORGANIST

Ben A. Spalding is one of the most exciting professional choral conductors of his generation and has established himself as an exemplary conductor, creative programmer, composer, arranger, keyboard artist and arts entrepreneur whose skills are increasingly in demand. Spalding is the founder and artistic director of Kansas City's Spire Chamber Ensemble and Baroque Orchestra. He has also served as guest organist and pianist at our Antioch Campus.

## ABOUT TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Evan Nelson, baritone, is a first-year doctoral voice student at the University of Missouri Kansas City Conservatory of Music & Dance. Evan is a Village Music intern.

Today we welcome back Jee-Yeun Kim, soprano, who is a professional singer and beloved former Village Music Intern. Jee-Yeun lives with her family in Atlanta.

Today we welcome instrumentalists of all ages from our Village Players chamber music program. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, please contact Destiny Ann Mermagen at [destiny.mermagen@villagepres.org](mailto:destiny.mermagen@villagepres.org).

**Advent Daily Devotional Videos** - As we wait together for Jesus Christ to be born, join us Mondays through Saturdays for a 2-3 minute video devotional offered by our pastors and other ministry leaders. Each devotional features a scripture passage and brief reflection offering a word of inspiration and hope for us all. Sign up for emails at [villagepres.org/subscribe](http://villagepres.org/subscribe).

### Christmas Eve Services

**Mission Campus** - 3 & 5 p.m. Family Worship with the Gathering Band; 7 & 9 p.m. Candlelight Services; 11 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

**Antioch Campus** - 5 p.m. Family Service; 7 p.m. Candlelight Service

*Child care is available during the 5 & 7 p.m. Christmas Eve services at both campuses. All Mission Campus services will be livestreamed at [villagepres.org/online](http://villagepres.org/online).*

## WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH

We're so happy to have you worshiping with us today! Visit [villagepres.org](http://villagepres.org) to learn more about Village Church, including upcoming events, ways to connect and serve, how to give and more.

**New to Us?** Village Presbyterian Church is a Presbyterian Church (USA) family of faith that is inclusive and welcoming of all people. We are one church worshiping at two campuses. Our Mission Campus is located at 6641 Mission Road in Prairie Village, and our Antioch Campus is located at 14895 Antioch Road in Overland Park.

**The Gathering** – Join us for The Gathering, an alternative style of worship at Village Church, 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's weekly eNote and Daily Devotional emails at [villagepres.org/subscribe](http://villagepres.org/subscribe).

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**Village Forum Sunday Morning Class** – Join us at 9:30 a.m. in Rooms 126-127 or via Zoom. For the four Sundays of Advent, we will study Amy Jill Levine’s “Light of the World,” her beginner’s guide to Advent. Email [gus.breytspraak@ottawa.edu](mailto:gus.breytspraak@ottawa.edu) for more information or for the Zoom link.

**The Joy of Christmas!? What Christmas Trees, Wrapped Presents and Santa Claus Have To Do with the Birth of Jesus** – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, Rooms 132 & 133, and via Zoom. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will explore how many Christmas traditions came to be and whether they help or hinder the real “reason for the season” – the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Code Red for Humanity** - The Environmental Action Committee is co-sponsoring the class “The IPCC 6th Assessment Report: Code Red for Humanity” with Brigadier General Dr. Chris King at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, via Zoom. Dr. King is an authority on the impact that climate change, water scarcity and other environmental issues have on national security and international stability. His presentation will assess the 2021 UN report. Register by emailing [reesveenstra@aol.com](mailto:reesveenstra@aol.com).

## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

**First-Floor Child Care Available** - Child care is available for infants to 4-year-olds during the 9:30 a.m. & 5 p.m. services in Rooms 114, 111 and/or 106.

**No Lighthouse Today** - We encourage children to worship with their families.

**Advent Family Workshop Dec. 4** - Pick your preferred COVID-friendly option for parents & kids on Saturday, Dec. 4: Option 1 - Grab-n-Go Crafts to Complete at Home or Option 2 - Friendship Hall Workshops at 1 and 2 p.m. Reservations required for in-person workshops. Sign up online at [villagepres.org/children-families](http://villagepres.org/children-families). Call Kate Ruecker at 913-671-2350 with questions.

## CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

**Farewell Gathering for Cindy Wilcox Dec. 2** - Please join us as we celebrate Cindy Wilcox who has served the Village Family for 16 years as director of Connectional Ministries. Cindy is retiring on Jan. 2. We’ll come together as a church to express our gratitude to Cindy at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, in Friendship Hall.

**Curbside Pickup Wednesday Family Meals** - Order \$5 meals by noon Mondays at [villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners](http://villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners). Curbside pickup is at the Mission Campus north entrance between 4:30 & 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Contact Cindy Wilcox at [cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org](mailto:cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org) or call 913-671-2331 with questions.

## MISSION

**Food Pantry** - Thanksgiving has passed and the Food Pantry is looking for Christmas baking items—cookie mixes, chocolate chips, flour, granulated and powdered sugar, etc. The Clothes Closet is asking for Christmas decorations, children’s books, ornaments, wreaths, Christmas clothing, etc. Your donations are so appreciated.

**Help a Family Resettle** – Village is sponsoring a family from Afghanistan as they move to Kansas City. Through the “House to Home” program at Jewish Vocational Services, we will collect furniture and supplies, set up the home, cook a meal, and welcome them at the airport. While we don’t have a date of arrival, let us know your interest at [villagepresya.org/refugees](http://villagepresya.org/refugees) or speak with Pastors Hallie or Melanie. We’ll be in touch with details.

**Reminder to Drop Off Your Star Family Gifts** - If you adopted an Operation Breakthrough Star family for Christmas or purchased a gift for the holiday store, please drop off your gifts to the Operation Breakthrough truck parked in the Mission Campus south parking lot between 9 a.m. and noon Sunday, Dec. 5. If you miss the truck, deliver your gifts to Operation Breakthrough at 31st and Troost. Gifts are distributed to families during the week of Dec. 6.

## MUSIC

**Second Thursday Recital with Sarah Tannehill Anderson & Mark Hayes** – 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, in the Sanctuary. Soprano Sarah Tannehill Anderson and pianist Mark Hayes will present a program that celebrates the publication of Mark's new Christmas music.

**Christmas Favorites with the Village Players** - 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, in the Sanctuary. The Village Players Youth Strings play a concert of Christmas Favorites alongside Destiny and Mike Mermagen.

## PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

**You Can Still Help Deliver Some Christmas Cheer** - Help us deliver a poinsettia to a homebound member. It's easy—choose a zip code you prefer and we will assign you specific recipients. Let Linda Alley know your preferences by tomorrow, Nov. 29, at 913-671-2327 or [linda.alley@villagepres.org](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org). Then come by the north entrance for curbside pick-up between 9 and 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4. You have up to one week to deliver your poinsettia(s).

**All Are Welcome at the Remembrance Service** - Join us at 4 p.m. next Sunday, Dec. 5, in the Sanctuary to remember those we deeply miss. Parking in the north lot is encouraged. A reception follows. The service will also be livestreamed at [villagepres.org/online](http://villagepres.org/online). This service includes time for quiet reflection, candle lighting and the proclamation of God's Christmas promise that there's a light in this world the darkness will never overcome.

**Grief During the Holidays** - Join us at noon Tuesday, Dec. 7, for a conversation about remembering and grieving our loved ones during the holidays. Rev. Melissa Potts-Bowers and Rev. Joe Walker are our speakers. Facilitated conversation in small groups follows their presentation. A box lunch is available; we appreciate free-will donations. Masks are required except when eating. Pre-registration is helpful but not required. Register at [faithandgrief.org/gatherings](http://faithandgrief.org/gatherings). For more information, visit [facebook.com/faithandgriefkc](https://facebook.com/faithandgriefkc) or call 816-381-9249.

**Honor Your Loved Ones This Holiday Season** - Honor your loved one(s) by making a donation toward a poinsettia. Your \$15 donation honors that person and supports our poinsettia ministry. Your loved one(s)' name(s) will be printed in a future publication. If you'd like to participate, go to [shop.villagepres.org/poinsettia](http://shop.villagepres.org/poinsettia) OR send the printed name(s) with a check for \$15 per person/name to the Janice Gill, Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS 66208.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Join Us for Any of Our Weekly Activities** – No sign-up is required; masks required while in the building. All weekly activities below meet in the Youth Loft (Room 333).

**Sunday Series** – 9:30-10:30 a.m. for middle & high school. **SNL** (HS youth group) – Sundays 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join us tonight for our annual Progressive Dinner! **Lofternoons** (MS after school program) – Tuesdays 4-5:30 p.m. **GPS** (MS youth group) – Wednesdays 6:30-8 p.m. **Early Table** (HS morning devotional) – 7:30-8:15 a.m.

**Rev. Tom Are Talks About His New Book Followed by Book Signing** – Join us at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, in Friendship Hall when Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka interviews Rev. Tom Are about his new book "Joy Even on Your Worst Days: Wisdom from Philipppians." A book signing follows. Books are available for a suggested donation of \$15. Fifty percent of net proceeds benefit the Village Church Endowment Trust. Copies are available at bookstore. [villagepres.org](http://villagepres.org) or at the event.

## CURRENT SERMON SERIES

### JOY WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

This is the season when we light the candles of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. This year, perhaps more than most, we need a little joy. When spirits are battered and the heart is bruised, when life is wearying and hope is fragile, joy can seem hard to come by. But joy is a strong disposition. Joy is both a gift and a spirit that is pursued. It is an experience of grace and also the fruit of discipline. This Advent we will rehearse once again the story that is the source of joy to the world, as well as joy to us when we need it most.

- Nov. 28** *Rejoice in the Lord... Always?* – Rev. Melanie Hardison preaching  
Dec. 5 *"I'm coming to your house"* – Rev. Tom Are preaching  
Dec. 12 *Tidings of Happiness Joy* – Rev. Tom Are preaching  
Dec. 19 *Joy to the World* – Rev. Tom Are preaching  
Dec. 24 *Joy to Carry You Through* – Rev. Tom Are preaching  
Dec. 26 Rev. Sally S. Wright preaching (one Sanctuary service at 10 a.m.)

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## MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

## MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Tom Are, senior pastor • Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist  
Will Breytspraak, director of music • Brooke Brundige, director of children and family ministry  
Laura Davis, director of marketing and communications • Rev. Melanie Hardison, pastor of pastoral care  
Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry • Marjean Lindquist, director of child care  
Dr. Joshua Maize, associate director of music • Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor  
Robert Rumold, director of information technology • Bob Sperry, director of giving and endowment  
Jim Tilden, senior director of business operations • Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries  
Deborah White, director of mission • Cindy A. Wilcox, director of connectional ministries  
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).  
The Sanctuary worship service is broadcast the following week at 8 a.m. on 1660 AM KMBZ,  
The Business Channel and on our worship service phone line 913-203-1301.  
We kindly request that cell phones be turned off during worship.*

*Printed on paper from sustainably managed forests.*