



VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)

Advent

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 11, 2022 · 9 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

When Gabriel departs, Mary does two things. She rushes to visit Elizabeth, and then she sings. She does both of these because she is filled with joy. Joy is not the same thing as happiness. Joy requires courage, and it gives us a job to do.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

"Pifa" from Messiah
by G.F. Handel; String Quartet

Words of Welcome

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Ray, Kate, Liv & Will Ruecker (9 a.m.)
Brian, Michelle, Ian, Erin & Sean O'Neal (11 a.m.)

Call to Worship

Come now to this place of rest and renewal;
let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

**We will sing of God's steadfast love for all people.
God strengthens those who are weak,
comforts those who are broken-hearted,
and God's light is life for all.**

Blessed are those who walk in God's light.

And blessed are all who find their way to the manger's side.

Sung Response

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

*Hymn, No. 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Melanie Hardison

**God of grace,
there is so much in this life that brings joy.
But we are easily distracted by serious as well as trivial concerns;
too often we live in the shadow of anxiety, regret or fear.
Remind us that you have come to us in love.
Remind us that your love casts out fear.
Restore in us a spirit of joy. (Silent prayer)**

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Response

Je - sus, Je - sus, O what a won - der - ful child
Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek and mild; new
life, new hope the child will bring. Lis - ten to the
an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry!" Let the heav - ens ring.

*Passing the Peace of Christ

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Anthem

A German Christmas

by Margaret Tucker; Morning Stars Children's Choirs,
Village Choir, Morning Bells, Village Ringers and String Quartet

Time with the Children (9 a.m.)

Call to Prayer

**Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

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

Sarah Dornbusch (9 a.m.); Rachel Priest (11 a.m.)

Scripture

Luke 1:39-55 (pg. 932)

Sermon

So Good I Could Just Sing?

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 100 (v. 1,4)

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Call for the Offering

Offertory Anthem

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski; Village Ringers

*Sung Response

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn, No. 119 (v. 1,2)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

*Postlude

Gloria!

arr. Wayne L. Wold; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

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

String Quartet

Dima Estanbuli, violin

Allison Ross, violin

Brendan Pearson, viola

Trilla Ray-Carter, cello

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.
Senior Pastor

The Gathering – Today at 6 p.m. (after worship), we’ll celebrate Joy Sunday with a pizza and Christmas cookie dinner! Bring some cookies to share. Pizza is on us. All are welcome! This will be the last Gathering service of the year, while we make space for Tidings of Joy concerts and the holidays. We’ll resume Jan. 8.

Get Village Church news & updates – Sign up to receive the weekly eNews, Rev. Tom Are Jr.'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.

Christmas Eve Services

Mission Campus – 3 & 5 p.m. Children & Families Worship Services; 7 & 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Services in the Mission Campus Sanctuary, 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion. Child care is available for the 5 & 7 p.m. services only. All Christmas Eve services will be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

Antioch Campus – 5 p.m. Family Worship Service; 7 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship Service with Communion

Christmas Day Services – 10 a.m. service in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Rev. Tom Are is preaching; 9:30 a.m. service at the Antioch Campus. Rev. Tim Soule is preaching.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Register for Village U classes at villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.

Who Was Jesus Really?: Keeping the Christ in Christmas – Taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 14 in Rooms 132 & 133. As we come upon the celebration of Christ's birth, we will explore who was Jesus really and exactly what can we know about Jesus as the historical figure and how that fits with our claims of the miracle of the incarnation.

Christmas in Bethlehem: The Palestinian Struggle for Justice – Taught by Margot Patterson, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, Room 126. We will examine what it is like for Palestinians, and especially Christian Palestinians, to live, work and worship in the city of Christ's birth.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Child Care is available on the first floor during 9 a.m. & 5 p.m. services. Infants to 2-year-olds can be dropped off in Room 114. **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 located outside of Room 307. Pick up for kids grades K-6 will be on the third floor.

Diapers in December - When you go to the store in December, think about our neighbors and pick up some diapers or baby wipes, which are not covered by WIC and other government assistance programs. For Preschool: size 2; K-1st Grade: size 3; Grades 2-3: size 4; Grades 4-5: 3T pull-ups; Grade 6: 4T pull-ups. We will take these items to the Village Church Food Pantry & Clothes Closet. The grade/s that brings in the most will get a prize in January! Thank you.

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is asking for main-dish items, the kinds that are easy to prepare by children and adults—just open the can to eat cold or warm—canned tuna, canned chicken, ravioli, beef stew, Spam, etc. The Clothes Closet is asking for gently used wallets, handbags and purses in all sizes.

MISSION & ENGAGEMENT

Reminder to Drop Off Your Star Family Gifts – If you adopted an Operation Breakthrough Star family for Christmas, please drop off your gifts to the Operation Breakthrough truck parked in the Mission Campus south parking lot between 9 a.m. and noon today. 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. 12.

Decorate The Village Trees with Diapers, Hats and Mittens – Now through Dec. 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 will be in the Welcome Center and at the south entrance. Contact Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyce at 913-671-2369 or dionne.boyce@villagepres.org for more info.

Wednesday Family Dinners – Join us this week for Christmas dinner in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus from 5-6 p.m. This is the last family dinner of the year with meals resuming on Jan. 11. Activities for kids. \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. Purchase online by noon Mondays at villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners or call Karen at 913-262-4200.

MUSIC

Community Messiah Sing-Along – 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, in the Antioch Campus Sanctuary. Join us for Handel's "Messiah." Audience participation welcome but not required. Admission is free.

Room For Christmas: A Christmas Musical – 10:10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, Mission Campus Sanctuary. It's the week before the church Christmas pageant, and the children are determined to bring new life to the story. Will the pageant be a flop, or will they discover the true joy of Christmas by making room for what really matters? As part of the production, we are inviting the audience to bring a book (2nd-3rd grade level) up to the manger during the nativity scene. Your donated books will be shared with students at Kansas City International Academy.

Tidings of Joy – 3 & 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Join the Village Choirs and the Kansas City Wind Symphony for this annual Christmas concert. A free will offering will be collected for the 2022-2023 Signature Mission: Reconciliation Services Therapy & Case Management Expansion. Admission is free. The concerts will also be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

"O Magnum Mysterium" with Te Deum Chamber Choir and conductor Matthew Christopher Shepard – 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19. Tickets at te-deum.org

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

The Remembrance Service is This Afternoon – Join us at 3 p.m. for the Remembrance Service, followed by a reception in the Welcome Center. 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. If you are unable to come and/or have family out-of-town, the service will be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

Poinsettia Donations Available Through Dec. 14 – If you'd like to honor a loved one through the purchase of a poinsettia, you may still do so through this Wednesday, Dec. 14. Your loved one(s)' name(s) will be printed in the January edition of the Good News. Your \$15 donation helps our poinsettia ministry. Visit shop.villagepres.org/poinsettia or send the printed name(s) with a check for \$15 per person to Janice Gill, Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS 66208.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adult Ministry is for all people in their 20's and 30's.

Family Dinner & Parent Connect Night – 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14. Family dinner in Friendship Hall, 6 (ish)-7:30 p.m. kiddos go to child care, and parents gather in the Young Adult Room for conversation and connection. Parents, life with littles is a lot. Let us make dinner and give you some space to breathe together. Sign up required: VillagePresYA.org/parents.

Young Adult Christmas Party – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Boulevard Brewhouse Bar. The world is weird, and while that continues to be true, we'll make our own merry, and be glimpses of bright for one another. RSVPs required. VillagePresYA.org/christmas.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Programs – You can view a list of all our weekly programs at villagepresyouth.org.

Confirmation Registration – You can now register for this year's Confirmation class! Confirmation is open to students 9th grade or older who have not yet taken the class. Registration can be found at villagepresyouth.org/confirmation.

Christmas at Village - We invite you to join us for any of our worship services, mission opportunities, concerts, classes and events at Village Church this Christmas season. Find a full list of offerings at villagepres.org/Christmas.

Advent Video Devotionals - As we wait together for Jesus Christ to be born, join us each day (Monday-Saturday now through Dec. 24) for a short video devotional offered by our pastors and church leaders. Sign up to receive these devotions in your email inbox each morning at villagepres.org/subscribe or subscribe to our YouTube channel where they will be added daily.

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

Hopes and Fears of All the Years

Christmas angels always tell us, "Do not be afraid!" We wish it were that easy. There is war in Ukraine. Gun violence is at a record pace. Truth is under assault and COVID lingers. Most of all, in so many ways we are living against each other, rather than for each other. The angel says "do not be afraid" but there is so much to fear.

Fear is always in the atmosphere. The angel is not ignorant of that reality, but the angel knows redemption has come, which means no hurt is so deep it cannot be healed. The angel is brimming with hope because the love of God took on skin and was born for you. No matter what has happened, the love of this season is for you. It will meet you wherever you are. It is a holy love that calls you by name. So, in a frightening world, do not be afraid.

- Nov. 27 Between Hopes and Fears - Rev. Zach Walker preaching
Dec. 4 Can We Go Over That First Part Again? – Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching
Dec. 11 So Good I Could Just Sing? – Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching
Dec. 18 The Importance of Blessing – Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching
Dec. 24 This Night is For You – Rev. Tom Are, Jr. preaching

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Tom Are, Jr., senior pastor • Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist

Rev. Dr. Dionne T. Boyice, director of mission & engagement • Will Breytspraak, director of music
Brooke Brundige, director of children & family ministry • Laura Davis, director of marketing & communications
Rev. Melanie Hardison, pastor of pastoral care • Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry
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 & endowment
Sandra Stephens, director of child care • Jim Tilden, senior director of business operations
Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries • Alice Whitson, director 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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