



VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)

Advent

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 18, 2022 · 9 and 11 a.m.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Zechariah didn't speak for months. The entire time Elizabeth was pregnant with their son John, Zechariah said nothing. But after a long season of silence, Zechariah spoke, and when he does he offered a blessing upon his son. We could use more blessing in our lives.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Noel

by Louis-Claude Daquin; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Justen, Sarah, Harper & Campbell McKee (9 a.m.)
Steve, Stephanie & Caroline Morrison (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 a Holy story,
for it is the story of God's love.

**And it is a story of good news,
for the love of God calls us by name.**

This is God's story;

This is our story.

Sung Response

**Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; Hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!
Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

*Hymn, No. 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Sally S. Wright

**God of love,
You have taught us that loving you and one another is the purpose of every day.
When we have offered love, it has pleased you; it has pleased us also.
Inspire us, we pray, to be reckless with love, generous with care,
exuberant in compassion. (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

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

Carol Tucker (9 a.m.); Robert Coleman (11 a.m.)

Scripture

Luke 1:57-80 (pg. 932)

Sermon

The Importance of Blessing

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Call for the Offering

Offertory Anthem

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

by Michael Praetorius & Charles J. Torian, Jr.; Village Brass

*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. 134 (v. 1,2,3)

Joy to the World!

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

*Postlude

Three Ancient Carols
Village Brass

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

Room For Christmas: A Christmas Musical – 10:10 a.m. today. 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?

Tidings of Joy – 3 & 6 p.m. today, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Join the Village Choirs and the Kansas City Wind Symphony present the 22nd annual Christmas concert. A free will offering will be collected for our Signature Mission: Reconciliation Services Therapy & Case Management Expansion. Admission is free. The concerts will also be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

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 – Our alternative worship service will resume at 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, in Friendship Hall. Learn more at vpcthegathering.org.

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.

New baby births – We want to meet your little one and give them a gift. Come by the Children & Family Ministry office or email kidsinfo@villagepres.org.

Prepare for baptism – For infants and children, contact kate.ruecker@villagepres.org. For adults, contact dionne.boyce@villagepres.org.

Plan your wedding – Contact weddings@villagepres.org.

Add someone to the prayer list – Contact pastoral-care@villagepres.org.

Join the church – Contact dionne.boyce@villagepres.org.

Giving – Please consider setting up a recurring gift online at villagepres.org/giving.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Understanding Christian Nationalism, Part 1 – Gus Breytspraak, Ph.D. and Rev. Diane Quaintance, 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, Rooms 126 & 127. We hear the phrase "Christian nationalism" with increasing frequency, yet few can define or describe it with any precision. Drawing from the work of Diana Butler Bass, American historian of Christianity, we will explore the Christian nationalism movement currently shaping American culture, politics and religion. All are welcome. Registration not required.

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.

Please note: There will be no child care, Lighthouse or Morning Stars on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. We encourage children to worship with their families.

FOOD PANTRY

Breakfast cereal is the request from the Food Pantry for this week. What's your favorite? The clients would love it—hot or cold, sweet or whole grains—variety is welcome. The Clothes Closet is asking for new or gently used bed linens: sheets (all sizes), pillowcases, pillows and warm winter blankets for cold winter nights. Check those linen closets for some you are not using, please.

MISSION & ENGAGEMENT

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 Boyice at 913-671-2369 or dionne.boyice@villagepres.org for more info.

MUSIC

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

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

Wednesday Advent Bible Study – 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21. We've been spending this season in worship meditating on "hopes and fears." We will examine these themes in our own life more closely. Where are we holding hope for the new year ahead? Are we aware of our own fears? This will be our last gathering of 2022, and we'll spend some time in reflection and prayer for the year ahead.

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 who are in 9th grade, or older, who have not yet taken the class. Join us for this year's class! Registration can be found at villagepresyouth.org/confirmation.

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.

New Year's Day Services – 10 a.m. service in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Rev. Melanie Hardison is preaching; 9:30 a.m. service at the Antioch Campus. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka is preaching.

Christmas at Village – We invite you to join us for any of our worship services, mission opportunities and concerts 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 through Saturday from Nov. 28 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.

Printed on paper from sustainably managed forests.