



VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)



Service of Worship

December 19, 2021 | 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

About Today's Service

The angel said, "I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people." What's the nature of this world encompassing joy? It's complicated. For it is both at the same time a gift and a discipline, an experience of grace and an act of courage.



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
arr. Aaron Shows; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Lighting the Candle of Love

Mariann, Autumn, Sophie & Sienna Sun (8 a.m.)
Allison, Allen, Eleanor & Landon Jones (9:30 a.m.)
Tom, Cheryl & Madi Moormann (11 a.m.)

Call To Worship

We gather in this place to remember God's promises:

**that the broken will be mended,
and the grieving will know joy again,
and the sinful will be turned around and made right.**

We lean into these promises,
sometimes with strong faith,
sometimes with big questions,
but always with hope.

**God will be faithful,
so, our hope will not disappoint us.**

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. 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Zach Walker

**God of light and life,
our prayer this week is anything but simple:
to see the good in one another,
to live as if peace is possible,
to choose joy even in the dark of night,
and to trust love in every circumstance.**

This is our hope, a hope that we receive from you. (Silent Prayer)

*Assurance of God's Grace

**All creation, join in praising God Creator, 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

Call to Prayer (first time soloist; second time congregation)

**Jesus, draw me close,
closer, Lord, to you.
Let the world around me fade away.**

**Jesus, draw me close,
closer, Lord to you,
for I desire to worship and obey.**

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

Luke 2:8-20 (pg. 933)

Sermon

Joy to the World

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 151 (v. 1,2,5)

We Three Kings

Call for the Offering

Offertory Anthem

A Waiting Prayer
by Lee Dengler; Village Voices

*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

*Hymn, No. 134

Joy to the World

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Postlude

The Heart of Christmas
Village Youth Band

MUSIC NOTE

Today's service music is led by the Village Youth Band and Village Voices youth choir. Both of these ensembles are open to all interested students in grades 7 through 12. Contact Dr. Joshua Maize (choir), josh.maize@villagepres.org, or Kevin Dolan (band), kevin.dolan@villagepres.org, for more information or to join.

Need a Pledge Card? They are available in the narthex or you can pledge online at villagepres.org/commitment-form.html. Fill one out and join the team.

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.

Journey to the Star

2-6 p.m. Christmas Eve – Come journey to the star at the Mission Campus or make a point to stop before or after worship. Help us make the star SHINE with your hopes and prayers for another new year. Take a little light with you to share with friends and family who need to remember the light still shines. The Antioch Campus star will be on display starting Christmas Eve.

A Word About Dec. 26 Worship

We will have one worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 26. Rev. Sally Wright is preaching. The Antioch Campus will have Lessons & Carols at 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH

We're so happy to have you worshipping with us today! Visit 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 worshipping 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. Worship resumes Jan. 2. Learn more at 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.

Joy Offering & Christmas Project Offering (TODAY) supports and retired church workers in need (50%) and to students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color as well as leadership development efforts of the Racial Equity Office of the Presbyterian Mission Agency (50%). The Christmas Project offering helps local social-service agencies who help others with holiday and emergency-assistance needs. Place donations in the green envelopes provided in the hymnal slots.

Tidings Of Joy: Lessons and Carols – 3 & 6 p.m. today in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Don't miss this joyful Kansas City tradition featuring the Tidings of Joy Chorus, Orchestra and soloists. No reservation necessary. A love offering will benefit our Signature Mission, Artists Helping the Homeless – Johnson County Respite House. It will be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

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. **Preschool Lighthouse**–Ages 2-4 –Preschool and Pre-K ages meet on the first floor. Registration and sign-ins are located outside Room 106.

Elementary Lighthouse–K-6th Grade–Elementary ages meet on the third floor. Registration and sign-ins are located outside Room 307. Upcoming Family Worship Sundays: Enjoy being with your family in big church on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Curbside Pickup Wednesday Family Meals – Curbside meals are on Christmas Break and resume on Jan. 12. Contact Nancy at nancy.gatewood@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2331 with questions.

MISSION

Food Pantry wishes to increase the varieties of canned vegetables. Donate your favorites, they're probably favorites of some of our clients, but think of - spinach, collard greens, beets, sauerkraut, etc. The Clothes Closet would like small kitchen appliances and utensils, baking sheets and small pans. Bring donations to church or drop off at the Pantry.

Decorate The Village Trees With Diapers And Hats & Mittens – Through Dec. 26, put hats and mittens on our trees and diapers (all sizes welcome including adult large and XL) under our trees to give to families served by the Village Clothes Closet/Food Pantry. Trees are located at the south entrance and in the Welcome Center. Contact Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org for more information.

MUSIC

Celebrate Christmas Joy With Te Deum Chamber Choir – 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Led by Matthew Christopher Shepard, the ensemble will share music for choir and harp, including pieces by Betinis, Paulus and Heitzig. For tickets, visit te-deum.org. Village Church members are invited to enter the discount code VPC2021 for 20% off the ticket price.

The Snow Globes + Barnaby Bright – Local KC bands Barnaby Bright & The Snow Globes will join forces for a magical Christmas concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. For the past decade, The Snow Globes have been entertaining audiences around the Kansas City Metro area with holiday classics. Barnaby Bright released their first Christmas album last year. The New York Times named it one of the top 20 Christmas Albums of 2020. It will be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

You Still Have Time To Make Poinsettia Donations – Now through Christmas Eve, honor a loved one when you make a \$15 donation towards a poinsettia. Go online at 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. Your donation also supports our poinsettia ministry.

YOUTH MINISTRY

HS Study Break – Join us tonight in the youth loft (Room 333) from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for pizza and a break from studying for finals!

Regular Weekly Activities Resume Jan. 9 – Happy Holidays!

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS – We are seeking volunteers to help answer the phones at the Mission Campus south reception desk occasionally for 2-4 hours during the 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. workday Monday through Friday. The phone system is very easy to learn and it's a great place to meet lots of people. If you are interested in a job that doesn't require a regular commitment, call Karen at the south reception desk at 913-262-4200.

LAST WORSHIP SERVICE RADIO BROADCAST DEC. 26 – Please note will no longer be broadcasting the Village Church worship service on 1660 AM Radio after Sunday, Dec. 26. We thank all of you who have listened over the years to this weekly broadcast. We do offer an alternative for those of you without internet access or a computer. You may call in to hear the previous week's worship service at 913-203-1301. When you call this phone number, you can opt in to be called automatically each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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"

Dec. 12 Tidings of Happiness Joy

Dec. 19 Joy to the World

Dec. 24 Joy to Carry You Through

Dec. 26 Love has Come: Now What? - Rev. Sally S. Wright preaching

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Tom Are, Jr., 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

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.

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.