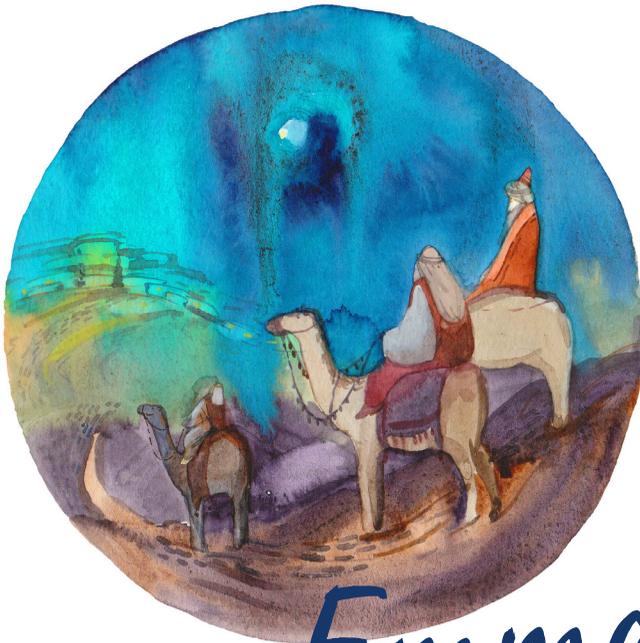




**VILLAGE  
CHURCH**

Presbyterian (USA)



*Emmanuel*

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

December 25, 2022 • 10 a.m.

## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

*Wexford Carol*  
arr. Aaron Shows; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Call To Worship

Rev. Zach Walker

The Word became flesh. It is a Word like no other word:

**It is a Word of grace. It is a Word of life.**

It is a Word that speaks the very heart of God.

**This Word full of grace and truth became flesh.**

This Word like no other word became flesh like all flesh and dwelt among us.

**And dwells among us.**

\*Hymn No. 134 (v. 1 & 4)

*Joy to the World*

\*Unison Prayer

**Most gracious God,**

**Surely the angels are singing,**

**for Christ is born.**

**He is born of woman, as is every child,**

**yet, born of your power as was no other child.**

**Surely the angels are singing,**

**for the light shines in the darkness,**

**joy is proclaimed to all people,**

**and there is good news for all your children.**

**Surely the angels are singing,**

**for the glory of heaven has pushed into time,**

**and the redemption of the whole creation can be seen.**

**Your redemption can be seen in a child who breathed in flesh**

**that we might breathe your Spirit.**

**In the name of the incarnate one we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn No. 113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

## TELLING THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

The Promise

Luke 1:26-38

Hymn No. 110: *Love Has Come* (v. 1 & 2)

The Birth

Luke 2:1-7, Noah Stevens

Hymn No. 114: *Away in a Manger* (v. 1 & 3)

Christmas Prayer

The Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20

Hymn No. 128: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

The Magi

Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn No. 147: *The First Nowell* (v. 1-3)

The Christmas Story

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

## RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Call for the Offering

Offertory Anthem

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*

arr. Edwin C. Johnson; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

\*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. 132

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*In Dulci Jubilo*  
by Norman Dello Joio; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

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

## 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](http://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](http://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 Year's Day Worship**

**Sunday, Jan. 1:** Rev. Melanie Hardison is preaching 10 a.m. at Mission Campus; Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka is preaching 9:30 a.m. at Antioch Campus. Please note that there will be no child care at Mission Campus on New Years' Day.

## **Get Your 2023 Star Word Next Sunday**

Star Words for 2023 will be available in worship on Sunday, Jan. 1. Star Words have become a modern-day ritual related to Epiphany (Jan. 6), when the wise ones are believed to have reached the Christ child by following the star. Like the wise ones, we seek Jesus, too, trusting that God uses many paths to bring us closer to the Divine. Star Words are paper or wooden stars featuring one word related to our spiritual life in Christ. You are encouraged to simply draw a star out of the basket (rather than hunt through the basket for a word you like) and thus let the word choose you. The idea is to journey with your word through the coming year—to notice where it shows up, how it moves your heart and the ways it brings you closer to God.

If you miss worship on Jan. 1, baskets of Star Words will be available on Sunday, Jan. 8, in the Narthex, Welcome Center and Friendship Hall. After Jan. 8, Star Words will be available at the south reception desk. Anyone unable to come to the church in person is welcome to email Rev. Melanie, and she will draw a Star Word for you: [melanie.hardison@villagepres.org](mailto:melanie.hardison@villagepres.org).

**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](mailto:kidsinfo@villagepres.org).

**Prepare for baptism** – For infants and children, contact [kate.ruecker@villagepres.org](mailto:kate.ruecker@villagepres.org). For adults, contact [dionne.boyice@villagepres.org](mailto:dionne.boyice@villagepres.org).

**Plan your wedding** – Contact [weddings@villagepres.org](mailto:weddings@villagepres.org).

**Add someone to the prayer list** – Contact [pastoral-care@villagepres.org](mailto:pastoral-care@villagepres.org).

**Join the church** – Contact [dionne.boyice@villagepres.org](mailto:dionne.boyice@villagepres.org).

**Giving** – Consider setting up a recurring gift online at [villagepres.org/giving](http://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. Please register online at [villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes](http://villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes) starting on Jan. 9, or email [laura.hobbs@villagepres.org](mailto:laura.hobbs@villagepres.org).

**Spring Village U Classes for Church & Community** – The spring 2023 course catalog is now posted at [villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes](http://villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes). Registration opens at 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9.

## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

**Today Is Family Worship Sunday – No Lighthouse or child care today.** Children are always invited to worship here at Village, but we give an extra welcome to kids on "Family Worship Sundays" when we don't have our usual Lighthouse programming. We love kids in worship. We think Jesus does, too. Our only expectation is that they behave like... kids. Wiggling and giggling is normal and welcome. Kids and families, we're glad you're here!

## FOOD PANTRY

**The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet** is closed for the Christmas and New Year holidays, and will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 3. Thank you for your generous donations in 2022.

## MUSIC

**2nd Thursday Recital with Organist Rick Deasley** – 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, Mission Campus Sanctuary. The recitalist will present a concert titled "Around the Church Year in 30 Minutes." Meet The Artist reception to follow. Free admission.

**Morning Stars Children's Music Program** - The spring season is kicking off for children in Kindergarten through 6th Grade. Choirs meet on Sunday mornings from 10-10:30 a.m. Children's Handbells meet on Sunday afternoons. For rehearsal times and more information, contact [jenny.hull@villagepres.org](mailto:jenny.hull@villagepres.org).

## PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

**First Faith & Grief Lunch of 2023 is Tuesday, Jan. 10** – The Rev. Rita Kendagor is our speaker at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 10, in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. Mother Rita will share her loss of her husband after only eight years of marriage and having a six-year-old and a baby on the way. Village Church is one of six area churches who sponsor this national program. Reservations are helpful but not required; please register at [faithandgrief.org/gatherings](http://faithandgrief.org/gatherings).

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

**Winter Program Break** – Youth events are on winter break until Jan. 8. You can view a list of all our weekly programs at [villagepresyouth.org](http://villagepresyouth.org).

**Confirmation Registration** – You can now register for this year's Confirmation class. Confirmation is open to students 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](http://villagepresyouth.org/confirmation).

**Join us for Spring Break!** – Registration is open for our Spring Break trip to the Dominican Republic, March 11-18. Join us for an amazing week of service, meaning, and time at the beach. [villagepresyouth.org/dominican-republic](http://villagepresyouth.org/dominican-republic).

### A Message from Village Giving

Thank you for all the ways you've supported the missions and ministries of Village this year with your time, talents and financial support. So that we can finish the year financially strong, we appreciate you completing your 2022 tax deductible gift. You may do that online at [villagepres.org/giving](http://villagepres.org/giving) or simply call Bob Sperry at 913-671-2325.

### I Have a Dream (Home) Action & Celebration Event Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

STAND Up for Black Lives+ Prairie Village, the city of Prairie Village Diversity Committee, the Johnson County NAACP and Village Church are sponsoring the Second Annual Prairie Village "I Have a Dream [Home]" Action & Celebration event honoring the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It's from 4-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, in Mission Campus Sanctuary and Welcome Center. Admission is free. Learn more and register at [bit.ly/pvmlkcelebration](http://bit.ly/pvmlkcelebration). The program will also be livestreamed at [villagepres.org/online](http://villagepres.org/online).

## UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

### I Am... Bread. Light. Way. Life.

Jan. 8-Feb. 12

We make the bold claim that we are the “Church of Jesus Christ” and that “Jesus is the cornerstone upon which the Church is built.” But who is Jesus really? In the Gospel of John, there are seven times when Jesus tells us who he is; seven times Jesus says, “I am...” In this sermon series, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will explore each of these seven “I am” statements and together, we will discover what it says about Jesus Christ and what it says about us.

- Jan. 8 I am the Bread of Life.
- Jan. 15 I am the Light of the World.
- Jan. 22 I am the Gate. I am the Good Shepherd.
- Jan. 29 I am the Resurrection and the Life.
- Feb. 5 I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- Feb. 12 I am the True Vine.

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## 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

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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).

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.*