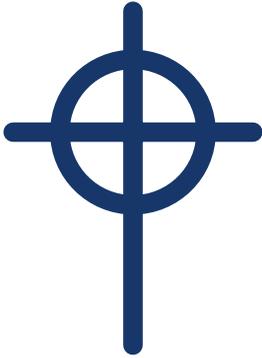




VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)



Service of Worship

December 26, 2021 | 10 a.m.

About Today's Service

All the gifts have been bought, wrapped and opened. What is there to do now? I wonder if we can take some time to settle in and delight in all that God has given us—a new baby who will change the world with his birth, life, death and resurrection.



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

O Come, All Ye Faithful
arr. Aaron Shows; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Sally S. Wright

Call To Worship

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

It was the Apostle who said it most clearly:
Jesus Christ, who though he was as God
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but instead emptied himself.

**He humbled himself
being born in human likeness;
he humbled himself
being found in human form.**

At the name of Jesus, we bow our knees
and lift our voice

for the one who humbled himself is still God.

*Hymn, No. 147 (v. 1,2,3,6)

The First Nowell

*Unison Morning Prayer

**Gracious God,
Where shepherds knelt and the wisest offered themselves,
we too have peered into the face of your love and found welcome.
We confess, we come in half-belief, yet stirred by the promise of the holy birth.
For in the Bethlehem babe we have found a love that calls us by name.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

*Sung Response

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The Sacrament of Baptism

Sung Response, Hymn, No. 128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture

Luke 2:1-7 (pg. 933)

Hymn, No. 120 (v. 1, 3,4)

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

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.

Scripture

Luke 2:8-20 (pg. 933)

*Hymn, No. 132 (v. 1, 3)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12 (pg. 877)

Sermon

Love has Come: Now What?

Rev. Sally S. Wright

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn, No. 129 (v. 1,3)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Call for the Offering

Offertory Anthem

Little Lamb

by Dale Ramsey; Gwen Coleman, soprano

Sung Response

**As they offered gifts most rare
at thy manger, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.**

Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn, No. 136 (v. 1,3)

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Benediction

*Postlude

Toccatina on "Angels We Have Heard on High"
by Richard Elliott; Dr. Elisa Bickers, organ

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

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

Raised and confirmed at Village Church, Dr. Gwendolyn Margaret Coleman is professor of voice at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She is also proud Auntie to little Margaret Josephine, and shares the honor of being her namesake with Anna Josie Lesh. Village Choir member Dale Ramsey composed "Little Lamb," which is a setting of William Blake's beloved poem, in celebration of today's baptism.



Get Your 2022 Star Word Next Sunday

Star Words for 2022 will be available in worship on Sunday, Jan. 2. 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, trusting that God uses many paths to bring us closer to the Divine.

Star Words are paper or wooden stars with one word on each related to our spiritual life in Christ. You are encouraged to simply draw a star out of the basket and thus let the word choose you (rather than hunting through the basket for a word you like). The idea is to journey with your word through the coming year—to watch where it shows up, how it moves your heart and the ways it brings you closer to God.

If you miss worship on Jan. 2, baskets of Star Words will be available on Sunday, Jan. 9, in the Narthex, Welcome Center and Friendship Hall. After Jan. 9, Star Words will be available at the south reception desk.

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.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism today – Please welcome the newest member into our faith community as we celebrate the baptism of Margaret Josephine Lesh, daughter of Katie Coleman and Joey Lesh.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Family Worship Sunday Today – No Lighthouse. Children are encouraged to worship with their families.

Preschool Parent Information Meeting: Village Church Preschool-Mission Campus – Do you know a 3-, 4- or 5-year-old who is ready for preschool? Join us for a Preschool Information Meeting in preparation for the 2022-2023 school year from 10-11:15 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, in Room 232, Mission Campus. Questions? Contact Sarah McKee (sarah.mckee@villagepres.org). Child care is available upon request. Email marjean@villagepres.org by Tuesday, Jan. 4, for child care reservations.

MUSIC

2nd Thursday Recital with the Stan Kessler Trio – 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Trumpeter Stan Kessler is one of Kansas City's most popular jazz musicians.

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.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

First Faith & Grief Lunch of 2022 is Jan. 4 – Join us on Tuesday, Jan. 4, when guest speaker Toni Wood shares “The Gift of Time.” This lunch gathering starts at noon in Friendship Hall. Lunch and discussion around tables follows Toni’s presentation.

Growing Through Grief Jan. 19 – The Pastoral Care Department is here to offer support and comfort when grief is hard to bear. Growing through Grief, a five-week series, is every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 19 through Feb. 16 in Room 132. The series is offered at no cost and is open to all. Registration is required; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Weekly Activities Resume Jan. 9 – Check out villagepresyouth.org for more information. Merry Christmas!

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

Follow us on Facebook [@villagepres](https://www.facebook.com/villagepres)

Follow us on Instagram [@villagechurchpv](https://www.instagram.com/villagechurchpv)

Subscribe to Village Pres Sermon Podcasts on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music, Spotify and Stitcher

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

Life in The Wilderness

Three decades after the ministry of Jesus, life was chaotic for Christians in the Roman empire. Christians became scapegoats for the disastrous fire that destroyed much of Rome, and as a result were rounded up and put to death by the most horrific means. A Jewish revolt was put down by the Roman Army, leaving the temple in Jerusalem destroyed again. During this tumultuous time, someone we call Mark wrote the first Gospel. He tells the story that changes the world. In this series we will travel with Mark from the beginning to the resurrection. Life 2,000 years after Jesus remains chaotic, but perhaps this story will change us. Mark bears witness that there can be abundant life even in the wilderness.

- Jan. 2 Let's Start At the Beginning
- Jan. 9 Baptism of the Son – Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaching
- Jan. 16 Will We Ever Get Out of Here?
- Jan. 23 Why Did He Choose These Guys?
- Jan. 30 Holy Friendship
- Feb. 6 Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

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.

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.