



VILLAGE CHURCH

Presbyterian (USA)



Service of Worship

Dec. 31, 2023 • 10 a.m.



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude *Prelude from "Suite for Viola and Orchestra"*
by Ralph Vaughan Williams; Bruce Williams, viola and Chris Leaver, piano

Words of Welcome Rev. Sally S. Wright

Call To Worship (adapted from Psalm 148 - The Message) Rev. Chad Herring

Praise from the heavens,
Praise from the mountaintops;
Sun and moon, praise God.
Morning stars, praise God.
Praise from all who love God!
Let us praise God.

*Hymn No. 110

Love Has Come

*Prayer of the Day

**Great God, we praise you for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ,
whom you sent to transform this world.
With all of the singing angels, let us praise your name.
Show us again how to tell the earth his story,
that all may believe, rejoice and bow down,
accepting your transformative love.**

*Assurance of God's Grace

*Sung Response

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun 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!"**

*Passing the Peace of Christ

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time with the Children

Call to Prayer

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

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.**

Anthem

Carol from "Suite for Viola and Orchestra"
by Ralph Vaughan Williams; Bruce Williams, viola and Chris Leaver, piano

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Luke 2:22-40

Sermon

Seeing the Miracle

Rev. Sally S. Wright

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn No. 100

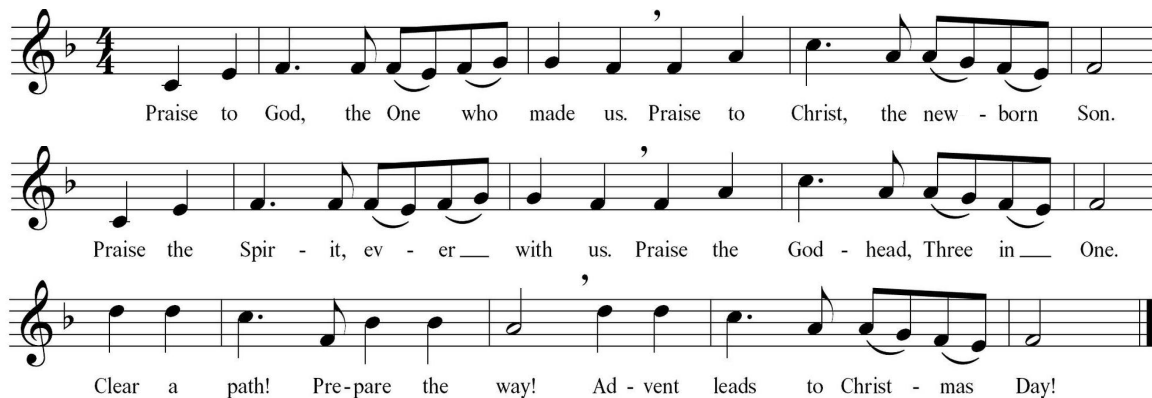
Canticle of the Turning

Call for Offering

Offertory Anthem

Ballade from "Suite for Viola and Orchestra"
by Ralph Vaughan Williams; Bruce Williams, viola and Chris Leaver, piano

*Sung Response



Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the new - born Son.
Praise the Spir - it, ev - er ___ with us. Praise the God - head, Three in ___ One.
Clear a path! Pre-pare the way! Ad - vent leads to Christ - mas Day!

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn No.147 (v. 1-4)

The First Nowell

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

**This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

*Postlude

Christmas Dance from "Suite for Viola and Orchestra"
by Ralph Vaughan Williams; Bruce Williams, viola and Chris Leaver, piano

**All who are able may stand*

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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. Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Senior Pastor

The Gathering – (alternative worship) is on hiatus until Sunday, Jan. 7.
Worship with us in the new year!

Get Village Church news & updates – Sign up to receive the weekly eNews, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka’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.

Giving – You may give to Village Church at villagepres.org/giving or scan the QR code to the right.

Set up an automatic, recurring gift by contacting Bob Sperry at bob.sperry@villagepres.org or 913-671-2325.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Village U Classes for Church and Community – Village Church is a learning community with a long-standing commitment to providing opportunities for adults of all ages to grow in knowledge and faith together. Registration opens Jan. 8 at shop.villagepres.org/village-u.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Child Care is available on the first floor during the 9 a.m. service. Bring infants through 23 months to Room 114 and kids ages 2 and 3 to Room 109. Bring infants through 4-year-olds to Room 109.

FOOD PANTRY & THE CLOTHES CLOSET

As we end the year, the staff and volunteers at the pantry and clothes closet want to say “Thank You” for your support as we seek to lend assistance to our neighbors in need. The Pantry has entered its 26th year of ministry and the need to address issues of food insecurity and income disparity in the community has never been greater. With your continued donations and financial gifts, we are committed to doing the good that is ours to do.

MISSION & ENGAGEMENT

Wednesday Family Dinners – Buffet-style dinners start again on Jan. 17 in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus from 5-6 p.m. Dine in before your Village U class or take it home. Activities for kids. \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. Purchase online at villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners or call Karen at 913-262-4200. .

Cross-Lines Volunteer Opportunity – Every other month, Village Church serves a meal to 150-250 people at the Cross-Lines Kitchen. Join us on Friday, Jan. 12, to serve lunch to our neighbors in need. Learn more and sign up at villagepres.org/cross-lines-kitchen or contact Jim Bolton at jcb3823@gmail.com.

MUSIC MINISTRY

2nd Thursday Recital featuring Gioia Wind Quintet & KC Wind Symphony Brass Quintet – 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission.

Morning Stars Children’s Music Program – The spring season is kicking off Jan. 28 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.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Linda Alley is Our Guest Speaker on Jan. 9 – The first Faith and Grief of 2024 will meet at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 9, in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. Linda Alley will share some of her favorite memories about her grandmother who lived to almost 107. If you would like a boxed lunch, please make a reservation at faithandgrief.org/gatherings

Grief Knows No Season – If you are grieving, consider coming to Growing through Grief for support and comfort. Our first session starts at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17, and is every Wednesday through Feb. 14, in Room 132-Mission Campus. Each participant receives a copy of "Understanding Your Grief – Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart." The class is free and open to all. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org to register.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

New Year, True You: Mindfulness, Intentions, and Gratitude – The energy of a new year is irresistible. What if, instead of making resolutions focused on changing yourself, you embraced who you are? Join Prairie Sky Counseling Center staff from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at the Antioch Campus to explore mindfulness, set intentions and practice gratitude. Reserve your spot for this free workshop at tinyurl.com/yusy48k4. Questions? Contact stephaniemorrison132@gmail.com.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adult Ministry is specifically for people in their 20's and 30's. We want to connect, worship, serve and go places that will bring all of us more life, push us to do new and good things, and change our city for good. Learn more at villagepresya.org or on social media at [@villagepresYA](https://www.instagram.com/villagepresYA).

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Programs Resume Jan. 7 – All our programs are on break while school is out for the Christmas and winter holidays. For more details visit villagepresyouth.org.

Confirmation Registration is Open – The class begins in January, focusing on the building blocks of faith and offering students the opportunity to become a member of the church. Students who are in 9th grade or older are eligible. Register and find more information at villagepresyouth.org/confirmation.

Epiphany Star Words are paper stars featuring one word related to our spiritual life in Christ. 2024 Star Words will be available in worship on Sunday, Jan. 7. Simply draw a star out of the basket and journey with your word through the year, noticing where it shows up and how it brings you closer to God. Baskets of Star Words will also be available in the Narthex on Jan. 14 & 21.

UPCOMING SERMONS

Jan. 7 Guest Preacher: Rev. Cari Pattison

75 Years of Faithfulness: The Stories We Carry with Us • Jan. 14-Feb. 11

Village Presbyterian Church was officially founded on Feb. 13, 1949. We give thanks to God for the faith and faithfulness of all those who have gone before us, those who are with us now, and those who will come after us. Our anniversary celebration will happen on Tuesday evening, Feb. 13, 2024. In the Sundays leading up to that day, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will share stories of how God has led this congregation from a beginning with 282 charter members to over 4,500 today.

Jan. 14	We've Come This Far by Faith
Jan. 21	All Are Welcome
Jan. 28	Sing Praise to God
Feb. 4	Go to the World!
Feb. 11	Great is Thy Faithfulness

MINISTERS

All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior pastor

Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist • Rev. Dr. Dionne T. Boyce, director of mission & engagement
Brooke Brundige, director of children & family ministry • Laura Davis, director of marketing & communications
Rev. Melanie Hardison, pastor of pastoral care • Rev. Chad Herring, interim senior associate pastor
Dr. Joshua Maize, associate director of music • Rev. Anna Owens, Antioch Campus site 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 • Rev. Alice Whitson, pastor 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.